



Third Sunday of Advent (A) 15th. December 2019. Vol.17 No. 16.
www.stbernadettesparish.org e-mail: info@stbernadettesparish.org



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Fr. Michael Spence C.C., 28 Willowbank Park. Tel. 9079 3023 Option 1.

Mass Times

Sunday

10a.m. with the Adult Choir.
12p.m. Children's Liturgy for P2 - P5.

Monday 9.30a.m.

Tuesday 7.30p.m. (with Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help)

Wednesday 9.30a.m.

Thursday 9.30a.m.

Friday - No Mass.

Drumbo 9.30a.m.
Good Shepherd Church 10a.m.

Saturday 6.00p.m. Vigil Mass with the Folk Choir every second Week.

Holy Days of Obligation 10a.m.

Confessions Saturday 6.45p.m. after the Vigil Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration Tuesday from 9a.m. to 7.15p.m.

Baptisms
 On the first Sunday of each month. By appointment only four weeks in advance.

All Masses are streamed live online via the Parish website: www.stbernadettesparish.org

First Reading (Isaiah 1-6.10) 'Let the wasteland rejoice!' The prophet invites even nature to join in the joyful anticipation of God's presence. As Christians, we know more even than the prophet knew: we know that the promise referred to Christ. May our preparations for his coming truly anticipate a time when 'joy and gladness will go with us and sorrow and lament be ended.'

Second Reading (James 5:7-10) If Advent is a time of waiting, it is, by the same token, a time of patience. St James urges patience several times in this short reading, and at the centre of his exhortation lies the command and the effect of patience: 'Do not lose heart.'

Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11) John the Baptist, whom Jesus describes as 'much more than a prophet,' greatest of the children of men, sent from his prison cell to ask the plaintive question: 'Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for another?' Let us not hesitate to pour out our doubts and our hopes to Christ during this season of Advent. ©Intercom



Festival of Carols

"Carols By Candlelight" with readings & reflections will take place next **Sunday at 6p.m.** with the **Folk Choir, Parish Choir, the Assumption Grammar School Singers,** and guest soloists.

As a Parish family, we come together to meditate on the events leading up to the birth of Our Saviour in a serene and peaceful atmosphere. Please make a special effort to attend with your family and friends.



Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues on **Tuesday from 9.a.m. until 7.15p.m.,** and on **Christmas Eve from 9a.m. until 12pm** (revised times). Adoration will not take place on **31st. December** but will resume on **Tuesday 7th. January** after the Christmas & New Year break.



Pray for Vocations

Please make a personal commitment to pray each day, for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. Remember those young men currently in training for ordination, and for those already ministering as priests in our Diocese. Remember those who are also in training for the Diaconate. **'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'** Luke 10:2-5.

If you would like to book Anniversary Masses, Baptisms, Marriages etc., please call into the Sacristy or Tel. **9040 1975** and leave a message or send an e-mail to the following address: info@stbernadettesparish.org

Our Faithful Departed



Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of
Deirdre McShane R.I.P.
Rosemary McVicker R.I.P.
 who died during the past week.

Anniversaries

Owen Lovell, Brigid Presley, John Craig, Mary Corr, Daniel McKenna, Dan Blake, Agnes Carvill, Marie O'Sullivan.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Our **Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group** offers listening and support to those who have been bereaved. Tel. **077 3377 3758.**

Parish Penitential Services ✠✠

The **Parish Penitential Service** will be held on **Thursday 19th. December at 7.30p.m.**

Penitential Services in neighbouring Parishes:
Monday 16th. December - Holy Rosary at 7.30p.m.
Wednesday 18th. December - Drumbo at 7.30p.m.
Sunday 22nd. December - St. Brigid's at 4p.m.

Feast of the Nativity



St. Bernadette's Church

Christmas Eve : Vigil Mass for Families at 7p.m.
Midnight Mass at 10p.m. with the Adult Choir.
Christmas Day Masses: 9.30a.m. & 11a.m. The **Folk Choir** invites all of the children of the Parish to sing with them at the **11a.m. Mass.**

Good Shepherd Church

Christmas Eve : 7pm & 10pm
Christmas Day Masses: 9am, 10.30am, 12pm.
Please note there will be no evening Masses on Christmas Day.



Parish Collections

Last week's Parish collection amounted to £1,723.
Sincere thanks for your generosity.



Retirement Association

Thursday 19th. December - Weekly Walk. Meet in the church car park at 10.15a.m.

Friday 20th. December - Ten Pin Bowling at the Ice Bowl, Dundonald from 11am. Concession rate £2.20 per game. All members invited to take part.



Looking for a way to get into the true spirit of Christmas **Trocaire Gifts** are the perfect way to give a gift that will make a real difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people. You can buy a sustainable and ethical gift from the Trocaire Gifts range from equipment to provide clean water, farm tools, farm stock, children's educational and domestic needs, and so much more. Pick up a catalogue from the Lourdes Chapel porch or visit: www.trocaire.org/gifts



Poinsettias For Christmas

This year you are invited to donate a Poinsettia for Christmas in memory of a loved one. The star-shaped leaf pattern symbolises the star of Bethlehem. The red colour is the blood sacrifice through the crucifixion of Jesus. Please leave your poinsettia in the church from 21st. December, with a card with the name of your loved one. A Mass will be offered during the Octave of Christmas for all those whose names we receive.



Parish Centre News

For information & bookings: Tel. 9079 3023 Option 3 or call in and speak to Paul on weekdays from 9a.m. to 1p.m.

Monday

10.15a.m. Drop in for tea/coffee after Mass.
10.30a.m. Mothers & Toddlers.
7.30p.m. - 8.30p.m. Pilates Class.
8p.m. Indoor Bowling Club.
8.30p.m. - 9.30p.m. Pilates Class.

Tuesday

7p.m. - 8p.m. Zumba Class.

Wednesday

10.30a.m. Mothers & Toddlers.
8p.m. Taekwondo.

Thursday

10 - 11a.m. Yoga Class (mixed ability).
7p.m. Art Class.

Friday

9.30a.m. - 10.30a.m. Pilates Class.
3.30p.m. & 4.15p.m. **Playball Classes** for ages 2-9. **Youth Club closed until January.** Happy Christmas from the Management Committee and all the leaders of St. Bernadette's Youth Club.

Saturday

10a.m. Taekwondo.
1.30p.m. Junior Badminton. New members aged 8 - 18 welcome!

Rosetta 2-4 After School Club

From **Monday - Friday** for P1 - P7 children from **2p.m. - 4p.m.** Call Sinead Tel. 07816 779910.

Ministers of the Eucharist



December - Group 2.

Team Leader - Flo McGarrigle.

Ministers of the Word



Sunday 22nd. December.

Group 8.

500 Club



Congratulations to the lucky winners in the Draw for **Week 13: Evelyn Crowley & Terence Daly**
Each receives £50.

We offer a confidential, non-judgemental service to anyone in need. We can provide direct financial assistance and essential items such as food, fuel, and household items. Do you need our help? Tel. **9035 1561**.



We wish to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to our **Annual Appeal** last weekend. The amount raised was **£5,637**. Your kind donations will enable us to help those in great need during the Christmas season and beyond. It is still not too late to make a donation. Our envelopes and Gift Aid forms are available in the church. The members of St. Bernadette's Conference wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a blessed, peaceful New Year!

St. Malachy's Parish



Applications are invited from suitable qualified persons for the position of Parish Secretary. 1 year fixed term, Monday - Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm. £10.50 p.h. For further details and an Application Form, please visit: <http://www.downandconnor.org> or the Community NI website or St. Malachy's Parish Office, Tel. **9032 1713**. Closing date for applications is noon on Thursday 19th. December.

Diocesan Pilgrimages



NURSES! We need volunteers to join our nursing team to care for our pilgrims travelling to Lourdes from 8th. to 13th. July. Registered nurses active on the NMC live register & newly registered nurses are welcome. For more information, please send your contact details to: lourdes@downandconnor.org.

What's On!



December 15th. Live Christmas Crib at St. Mary's Grotto from 10.30am to 6pm to Tuesday 24th. December and from Saturday 28th. December to Monday 6th. January (19th. & 23rd. December to 8 pm) Animals kindly provided by the Irish Donkey Society. Carols at 2pm and 5pm. Schools groups, choirs and carol singers welcome. Proceeds to **Tuesday's Child Following Yonder Star Christmas Appeal** for the children in Gaza, Syria, Kenya and Sudan. Prayers at the crib each day for peace for every child, born and unborn. Tel. **07545 452362**.

December 19th. Assumption Grammar School Choir invite you to an evening of festive music and readings on at **7pm**. All money raised will help fund their trip to New York in March where they will represent Co. Down in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Please come and give your support our students. Light refreshments will be available.