



Parish of St. Bernadette



Third Sunday of Advent (C) 16th. December 2018. Vol.16 No. 16

www.stbernadettesparish.org e-mail: info@stbernadettesparish.org

Fr. Paul Armstrong P.P. 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.

Weekdays

9.30a.m. except on Tuesday.

Tuesday

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

Saturday

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

Holy Days of Obligation

10a.m.

Other Mass times may vary and will be published in the Parish Bulletin and on the church notice boards, and Parish website.

Confessions Saturday

6.45p.m. after the Vigil Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday from **8a.m.** to **7.15p.m.**

Baptisms

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

Notices for the Parish Bulletin should be sent by **e-mail only** to: info@stbernadettesparish.org

First Reading (Zephania 3:14-18) The oracles of Zephaniah come ahead of the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC and the subsequent exile. He rails against the pride and idolatry which have seen Israel turn from the will of God. The 'Day of Yahweh' will inevitably come, however, and they will be called to account for their infidelity. Yet hope remains, in the midst of it all. A faithful remnant will survive, the 'humble of the land', who will become the foundation for a new beginning. The words of hope and assurance in this reading look towards that future rebirth.

Second Reading (Philippians 4:4-7) In concluding his letter to the Philippians, Paul hopes for their happiness. This happiness will derive neither from favourable circumstances, nor, in the main, from human effort, but from a deep trust in the Lord and an awareness of his nearness to them in their needs. For this they can be thankful, and because of it, they can be at peace, whatever the difficulties they experience. Paul is generally believed to have written this letter from prison in Rome.

Gospel Reading (Luke 3:10-18) His hearers ask John what they must do in response to his call and in consequence of the baptism he is administering. John spells out in concrete terms what repentance requires, in the various circumstances in which people find themselves. His advice stresses the relational and one's obligations towards others. Confronting the suspicion that he might, himself, be the Messiah, John re-emphasises his merely preparatory role before the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit. ©Intercom



Reflection

The third Sunday of Advent is known as "*Gaudete*" Sunday, which is Latin for "rejoice." The pink or rose candle on the Advent Wreath is lit today to signify joy. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over and God's promise to us will be fulfilled.



Festival of Carols

"Carols By Candlelight" with readings & reflections will take place this **Sunday at 6.30p.m.** with the **Folk Choir, Parish Choir,** 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** in the **Lourdes Chapel** from **9a.m.** until **7.15p.m.** Eucharistic Adoration will not take place on Christmas Day or on New Year's Day. We will resume on **Tuesday 8th. January.**

Our Faithful Departed



Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Maureen Magee R.I.P.**, mother of a Parishioner, whose funeral took place here on Friday.

Anniversaries

John Craig, Daniel McKenna, Kieran Carnaghan, Owen Lovell, Louie Carville, Raymond Hamill, Belle Prior, Fr. Peter Forde.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Names for inclusion in the weekly Anniversary List of the Dead should be left in the Sacristy one week before publication or submitted by e-mail to:
info@stbernadettesparish.org

Preparing for Christmas



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

Penitential Services in neighbouring Parishes:
Monday 17th. December - Holy Rosary at 7.30p.m.
Thursday 20th. December - Drumbo at 7.30p.m.
Sunday 23rd. December - St. Brigid's at 4p.m.

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.**

Please note there will be *no evening Mass* on Christmas Day.

Reflections on the daily **Mass** readings during **Advent** are available at the back of the church. It only takes a few moments to read them each day. Anything which helps to direct our minds to a spiritual preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord is more than worthwhile.



Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to **£1,705**. Sincere thanks for your generosity.



Retirement Association

Thursday 20th. December - Weekly Walk. Meet in the church car park at 10.15a.m.

Friday 21st. December - Ten Pin Bowling at the Ice Bowl, Dundonald from 10.30 - 11.30a.m. Concession rate £2 per game.



Living Youth

Advent – What Is It Really About? Our Advent Programme for Parishioners who are in Year 10 or above concludes in **Holy Rosary Parish Centre** on **Wednesday 19th. December** at 4p.m.



Coffee Morning

The P4 children of St. Bernard's P.S. will host a Coffee Morning in the **Parish Centre** after 10a.m. **Mass** this Sunday. All proceeds to the **Children's Cancer Unit Charity** and their 'Erin the Elf Campaign' featuring **Erin Donnelly** from P4 who was successfully treated at the Unit last year. Please come along and show your support for a brave and inspirational girl. Lots of nice treats for everyone to enjoy! All are welcome!



Diocesan Pilgrimages

NURSES! The **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** is currently seeking volunteers to join our nursing team to care for our pilgrims who will stay at the Accueil Notre Dame, during our 2019 Pilgrimage (10th.-15th. July). You will need to be a registered nurse, active on the NMC live register - newly registered nurses are welcome. For more information or to register your interest please email us with your contact details to: lourdes@downandconnor.org and we will get back to you.



Parish Centre News

For information & bookings: Tel. **9079 3023 Option 3** or e-mail: parishcentre@stbernadettesparish.org

Monday

10.15a.m. Drop in for tea/coffee & a chat after Mass.

7.30p.m. - 8.30p.m. Pilates Class.

8p.m. Indoor Bowling Club.

8.30p.m. - 9.30p.m. Pilates Class.

Tuesday

7p.m. Zumba Classes.

Wednesday

7p.m. - 8p.m. Active Yoga advanced.

8.15p.m. - 9.30p.m. Relaxation Yoga.

8p.m. Taekwondo.

Friday

9.30a.m. - 10.30a.m. Pilates Class.

Youth Club resumes on Friday 11th. January for Registration.

Saturday

10a.m. Taekwondo.

Rosetta 2-4 After School Club

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

Ministers of the Eucharist



December - Group 2.

Team Leader - Flo McGarrigle.

Ministers of the Word



Sunday 23rd. December

Group 11.

500 Club



Week 13: Congratulations to the lucky winners in the Weekly Draw: **Margaret McKinney & Patricia Dolan.** Each receives £50

We offer a confidential, non-judgemental service to vulnerable individuals and families who are in great 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**

Latest News



We wish to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to our **Annual Appeal** last weekend. The amount raised was **£3,815**. 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!

Cappella Caeciliana



"**Unity. May they all be one**", our latest CD, was launched recently. Most of the tracks were recorded here in St. Bernadette's. It is a beautiful compilation of Sacred Music featuring the **Priests** and the composer **Sir. James MacMillan**. It will make an excellent gift for Christmas. Copies of the CD are now on sale from the Sacristy at the special price of £10.

Diocesan Directories



Copies of the **Down & Connor Directory for 2019** will be on sale after all of the Masses this weekend. Priced at **£4** each, it includes lots of useful information on Mass times in every Parish, contacts for priests, religious orders, schools, and all Diocesan organisations.

What's On!



December 13th. Live Christmas Crib at **St. Mary's Grotto** from **10a.m. to 5p.m.** until Sunday 6th. January. This year animals are kindly provided by the Irish Donkey association. There will be a baby donkey in the crib. Carol singers daily at 2p.m. & 5 p.m. Proceeds to the Mill Hill Missionaries working in Sudan.

December 19th. "Advent. A season of Joy" - a Lectio Divina prayer meeting, organised by Ballynafeigh Clergy Fellowship, in **Ballynafeigh Methodist Church** from **7p.m. to 8p.m.** All are welcome!

December 20th. N.I. Hospice "Lights to Remember" at **Dominican College Fortwilliam** at **6.30p.m.** Remember and share the grief we all feel at the loss of our most dear loved ones. A time when we can come together to share our thoughts and emotions with many others who have known the same experience.