



# Parish of St. Bernadette



Third Sunday of Advent 17th. December 2017. (B) Vol.15 No. 16.  
www.stbernadettesparish.org e-mail: info@stbernadettesparish.org  
Fr. Paul Armstrong P.P. 28 Willowbank Park. Tel. 9079 3023

## 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 (Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11)** This reading from Isaiah comes in two parts. First, the Prophet reflects on the effect of God's presence: it has enabled him to bring 'good news,' and that word has transformed life for the poor, prisoners and those with broken hearts. In a second moment, the prophet offers a psalm-like prayer of praise, as he rejoices in God and in the freshness of life that has begun as a result of his prophetic word.

**Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)** The first letter to the Thessalonians is the earliest text in the New Testament. It is born of a very deep human need for reassurance and hope. Paul had evangelised the Thessalonians and moved on quickly. Now they are discouraged and fearful as some of their members have died. Paul in his letter tried to reassure them and now, as he ends it, he encourages them to find joy anew. Joy will be found in prayer as they encounter Christ and fulfil his will on their journey to the fulfilment that he has promised.

**Gospel Reading (John 1:6-8, 19-28)** Part of this reading comes from the Prologue of John, while another part is later in the same chapter. In the prologue, John is identified as a worthy witness. This is expanded when we see the Jerusalem authorities come to him to ask him to clarify his role. They have neither mandated nor recognised his ministry. They seek to pigeon-hole him into some role that they can identify. Yet John identifies himself as being outside of their set ideas: he is a witness to a new world and a new sense of God.

©Intercom



## Preparing for Christmas

### Christmas Masses in this church Christmas Eve

7p.m. Mass for Families with congregational carol singing.  
10p.m. Midnight Mass with the Adult Choir.

### Christmas Day

9.30a.m. Mass with congregational carol singing.  
11a.m. Mass with the Folk Choir.

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

Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year.  
The Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will be celebrated as usual on Saturday & Sunday 23rd. & 24th. December.

The Parish Penitential Service will be held on Wednesday at 7.30p.m.

Penitential Services in neighbouring Parishes will take place as follows:

Sunday 17th. December

St. Brigid's at 4p.m.

Monday 18th. December

Holy Rosary at 7.30p.m.

Thursday 21st. December

Drumbo at 7.30p.m.

Reflections on the daily Mass readings during Advent will be available at the back of the church each week. Please take a copy home with you. It only takes a few moments to read them each day and anything which helps to direct our minds to a spiritual preparation for the birth of Our Lord is more than worthwhile.

## Our Faithful Departed



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **David Smyth R.I.P.**, the brother of a Parishioner, whose funeral took place in St. Matthew's Church on Tuesday.

### Anniversaries

Annie Murray, James Daly, Annie Moran, Ursula Curran, Thomas McQuillan, William Lyttle, John Flack, Hugh Burns, Marie O'Sullivan, Gabrielle Smyth, Hugh McEvoy, Edward Winters, Monica Murphy, Patricia McNulty, Michael Green.

Tom Kennedy, Mary Ann Shannon, Hugh Daly, John & Mary Anne Keenan, Victor Martin, Kathleen McNally, Theresa Gallen, Sarah Walten, John Craig, Michael Kearney.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

## Parish Carol Service



"Carols By Candlelight" with readings & reflections will take place this Sunday at 6p.m. with the Folk Choir, Parish Choir, soloists, and the Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School Folk Group.

We come together as a Parish family, taking a little time out from the daily rush and bustle, to meditate on the events leading up to the birth of Our Saviour in an atmosphere of peace and serenity. Please make a special effort to attend with your family and friends.



## Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to **£1,501**. Sincere thanks for your generosity.



## Retirement Association

**Thursday 21st. December** - Weekly Walk at 10.15a.m.



## Parish Pastoral Council

We met last Wednesday. A brief report was provided on the recently formed **Pastoral Community Forum** for South and East Belfast, comprising eight local Parishes. The Commissioning Service for members took place in St. Anne's Church last Sunday. Both Fr. Armstrong and Joe McGinnity are the designated representatives for St. Bernadette's on the Forum. We also discussed the ongoing training for facilitators in the Amoris **'Let's Talk Family! Let's Be Family!'** **Lenten programme**. Training took place in St. Mary's University College in October and will be followed up with two more sessions in January. This is a Parish conversation to which you are all invited. The **Lenten Programme** will take place on **Tuesdays** from **13<sup>th</sup> February to 20<sup>th</sup> March** from **8.15 p.m. to 9.45p.m. in St. Bernard's Primary School Assembly Hall**. More information to follow later. You can preview the programme online: [www.worldmeeting2018.ie/amoris](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/amoris)



## Living Youth

We need young people from the Diocese to volunteer at the **2018 World Meeting of Families Congress** in **Dublin** from **22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August** for those aged 16 - 25 and to attend the **Papal Mass** Cost £100 per person. Register your interest now! Send an e-mail now to: [info@livingyouthni.org](mailto:info@livingyouthni.org) with your name, contact number, Parish, and date of birth.



## Parish Centre News

**For information & bookings: Tel. 9040 1169 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.  
8p.m. - 9.15p.m. Yoga Class.

### Wednesday

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

### Friday

9.30a.m. - 10.30a.m. Pilates Class.  
**Youth Club Enrolment on Friday 5th. January from 6.30p.m. to 7.30p.m.**

### Saturday

10a.m. Taekwondo.

## Ministers of the Eucharist



Group Leader for **December** - Flo McGarrigle.

### Mass Rota

6p.m. E. Mooney, C. Foster.  
10a.m. G. Mooney, J. McGinnity, E. McGrath.  
12p.m. F. McGarrigle, G. Flanagan,  
E. McGettrick, N. McGarvey.

## Ministers of the Word



**Sunday 24th. December** - Group 3  
**Tom McGonigle, Jacinta Lyons,  
Moya Beatty, Patricia McFlynn.**

The new Readers' rota is now available for collection from the Sacristy.

## 500 Club



**Week 13:** Congratulations to the lucky winners in the **Weekly Draw: Bernadette Bradley & Janet Edwards.**

Our **Christmas Appeal** is underway for families and people in need within our local community. This year, rather than providing food hampers, we would like to give a gift voucher for local stores in order to protect the individual's dignity and self respect. Therefore rather than donating food we would be grateful if you would donate money or a gift voucher and put it in an envelope marked **SVP Christmas Appeal**. Please put your Envelope into the collection basket or leave it into the Sacristy. We hope you will support us in this new initiative. Once again we thank you for your generosity and we wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Latest News



**Christmas Cards** will be on sale in the Lourdes Chapel Porch from this weekend after all of the Masses. The price is £3 per pack of 10 cards.

Our annual **Christmas Gift** campaign has been launched to help families in Third World countries to become independent and self-sufficient. You can buy beehives, chicks, goats, solar lamps, tools, clean water kits, and lots more! The gift is sourced locally and sustainably from the country where it is needed. So the gifts not only support families in the world's poorest places, they help grow the local economy. Pick up a brochure in the Lourdes Chapel porch or visit: [www.trócaire.org/gifts](http://www.trócaire.org/gifts)



## Diocesan Directories



Copies of the **Down & Connor Directory for 2018** 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. Buy one now before they are all gone!

**Help to conserve heat! Please close the internal doors as you enter and leave the church!**



"We need to peer into those long 30 years when Jesus earned his keep by the work of his hands; reciting the traditional prayers, coming to know that ancestral faith, until he made it bear fruit in the mystery of the kingdom. This is the mystery of Christmas and the secret of Nazareth, exuding the beauty of family life." Amoris Laetitia - The Joy of Love, Pope Francis.