

ADVENT

Parish Bulletin



Cycle C Psalter Week 4
Fourth Sunday of Advent
19th December 2021



PARISH OF
HOLY ROSARY



PARISH OF
ST BERNADETTE



SUNDAY MASS TIMES

St Bernadette's Parish Vigil 6.00pm & 11am
Holy Rosary Parish 9am, 10.30am & 12.30pm

Weekday Mass Times

St Bernadette's Parish: Mon, Tues & Wed 9.30am
Holy Rosary Parish: Thurs, Fri & Sat 10am

Given the current public health emergency the [Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Mass](#) has been extended UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. The faithful are encouraged, but not required, to attend Sunday Mass whenever possible or to participate in live-streamed Parish Masses offered online.

Visit www.stbernadettesparish.org and Click on "Watch Live" for St Bernadette's Parish.

www.holyrosaryparishbelfast.net for Holy Rosary Parish and click on the webcam

Church Opening Times for Private Prayer

St. Bernadette's Parish: Mon, Tues, Wed 10am – 12 noon.
Holy Rosary Parish: Thurs, Fri, Sat 10.30 – 12 noon

OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Recently Deceased:

Danny Trainor, Margaret O'Rourke,
Sheila O'Reilly, Deirdre Smyth.



Anniversaries:

Brigid Presley (6pm), John Craig, Betty McCafferty (11am), Eileen McAnulty, Michael Green, Maureen Prentice, Brendan Gogarty. Mollie Lonergan (9am), Edward & Agnes Carville (10.30am), Rosaleen Fitzpatrick (12.30pm), John Toland, Hugh McAteer, Diarmuid Boyle.

St Bernadette's Bethany Bereavement Support Group ☎. 07733773758

Holy Rosary's Bethany Bereavement Support Group ☎. 07818090323

ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH FINANCES

Weekly Collection (12th December) **£ 942.60**

Many thanks to all those who have been able to contribute to the parish finances through a standing order, PayPal, or parish envelopes.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

In the current Covid situation, it is not possible to use the confessional box, but the sacrament of reconciliation is available on request in the sacristy after Mass or at the door of the parochial house.



At this time, when it is not possible for many people to come for confession, what are we to do? Pope Francis spoke about this situation on March 20th 2020. Speak directly with God, your Father; acknowledge truthfully what you have done or failed to do, and with all your heart ask forgiveness with a sincere act of sorrow, confident that God always forgives the contrite. Later, when coronavirus has released its grip, we can return to the church and avail of confession.

A personal penitential prayer in preparation for Christmas can be found on the parish website (see *Advent Resources* section). You may find this helpful.



SVP: Many thanks to parishioners for your continued generosity. Donations can be left in the church. For St Bernadette's Parish donations can also be made online at www.Svpni.co.uk or telephone 02890750161 or on the dedicated giving site which can be accessed at <https://www.svp.ie/stbernadettebelfast> If you require assistance, please telephone SVP Regional Office 02890351561 and you will be directed to your local SVP Conference.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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stbernadettes@downandconnor.org

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SVP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The SVP Annual Christmas Appeal for 2021 is ongoing. Many requests for Christmas support have already been received. Please support the SVP Annual Appeal this Advent.

TRÓCAIRE GIFTS OF LOVE

Trócaire's Gifts of Love can be bought online. For more details see www.trocaire.org/gifts



See online bulletin for children's activities.

COVID-19 & FACE MASKS IN CHURCH



1. Face coverings must be worn by all while entering and exiting the Church – this is a legal requirement.

In the interests of the common good and for everyone's well-being we ask that:

2. Face coverings continue to be worn by all when moving around the Church, at Communion time and at other times when social distancing is difficult.
3. **Face coverings are strongly recommended at all other times, even when seated.**

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE (24th December)

St. Bernadette's 7pm and 9pm
Holy Rosary 7pm and 9pm



CHRISTMAS DAY (Nativity of Our Lord)

St. Bernadette's 9am and 11am
Holy Rosary 9am, 10.30am and 12.30pm

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (26th December, St. Stephen's Day)

No 6pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Day

St. Bernadette's 11am
Holy Rosary 9am, 10.30am & 12.30pm

As the capacity of the churches continues to be limited by social distancing requirements, unfortunately this year it will not be possible to accommodate the large numbers wishing to attend Mass at Christmas. We urge you to carefully consider whether or not you should attend Mass this Christmas, particularly if you are in a vulnerable group. All Masses will be broadcast live via the webcam, and we encourage you to participate online.

Please be advised that entrance to the church will be based on a first come, first in basis. When the church reaches its seating capacity, no-one else will be able to enter the church unfortunately. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in these matters.

A PRAYER RESOURCE FOR HOME FOR THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



A booklet of prayers and reflections for each of the twelve days of Christmas (Dec 25th – January 6th) has been produced by the Northern Pastoral Network and is available on the parish website, see stbernadettes@downandconnor.org. You may find this a help to prayer at home over the Christmas season, for both individuals and families.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

With the season of Christmas approaching, you are invited to donate a Poinsettia plant in memory of a loved one. The plants will be used for the decoration of the church and crib.



The plant's association with Christmas began in 16th-century Mexico, where legend tells of a girl, commonly called Pepita or Maria, who was too poor to provide a gift for the celebration of Jesus' birthday and was inspired by an Angel to gather weeds from the roadside and place them in front of the church altar. Crimson blossoms sprouted from the weeds and became beautiful poinsettias. From the 17th century, Franciscan friars in Mexico included the plants in their Christmas celebrations. The star-shaped leaf pattern is said to symbolize the star of Bethlehem, and the red colour represents the blood sacrifice through the crucifixion of Jesus.

Plants can be left in the church at Mass times or on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday mornings up to 12. You may wish to attach a card with the name of your loved one. A Mass will be offered during the Christmas season for all those, in whose memory the plants are donated.

THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: PREPARING TO LISTEN

Pope Francis has affirmed that: "A synodal Church is a Church which listens. The faithful People, the Bishops, all listening to each other; and all listening to the Holy Spirit." Listening from a place of prayer is the foundation of our synodal process, and it requires an open mind and heart, without prejudice.

As pilgrims on this synodal journey we recognise that no one person has the answer and that through authentic listening everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit.

This week we pray that we will be a listening church; listening to the Holy Spirit prompting the Church to be attentive to the missionary dream of God's love reaching everyone and inspired by God's love that we reach out to care for all humanity. This week we invite you to pray:

**Come Holy Spirit,
Make our ears to hear, make our eyes to see, make our mouths to speak, make our hearts to seek, make our hands to reach out and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

Thank You to Parish Volunteers

Many thanks to all parishioners who contribute to the life of the parish in so many ways - very often behind the scenes. We acknowledge the added burden, as a result of Covid on the volunteers who clean the church, & on the stewards, who keep us safe. Thank you everyone for your contribution to parish life in this most challenging year.

Wishing all parishioners & your families, a Happy and Peaceful Christmas, & every blessing for 2022.



Fr. Brendan Hickland, Canon Bob Fullerton, Fr. Michael Spence & Fr. Paul Fleming,



Children's Corner

A Children's Advent Calendar is available to download.

See *Advent 2021 Section* on the parish website

www.stbernadettesparish.org



H	A	E	L	H	A	D	U	J	A
E	A	T	O	T	M	B	O	W	D
L	B	I	M	E	O	Y	J	R	E
I	L	U	R	B	M	O	W	A	S
Z	E	R	O	A	L	A	T	H	S
A	S	F	E	Z	H	E	R	C	E
B	E	D	L	I	H	C	O	Y	L
T	P	A	E	L	O	T	E	A	B
M	O	T	H	E	R	S	O	Z	L
D	E	S	I	M	O	R	P	M	E

MARY JUDAH ZECHARIAH
 ELIZABETH CHILD LEAPT
 WOMB BLESSED FRUIT
 MOTHER JOY PROMISE



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

"Blessed are you"



"Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

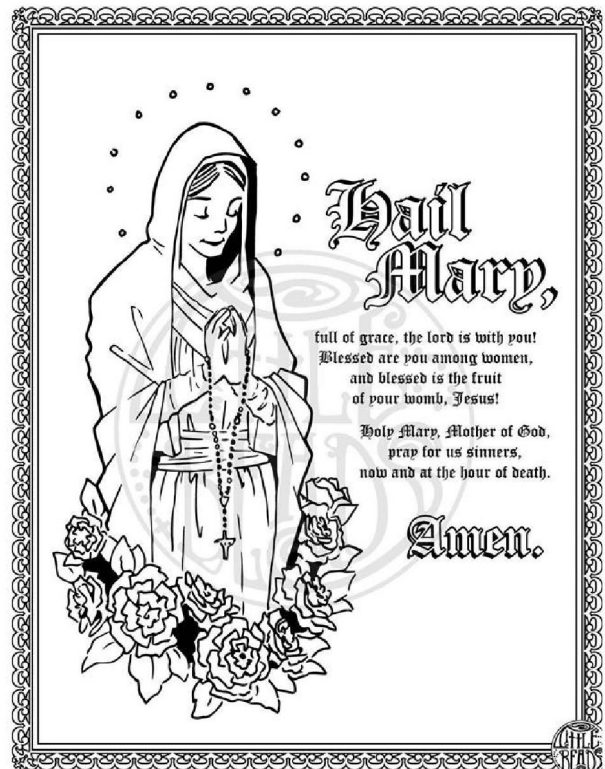
Luke 1: 39-45

Church of Saint Leo the Great

www.stleothegreat.com/childrens-corner

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

"Blessed are you"



Hail Mary,

full of grace, the lord is with you!
 Blessed are you among women,
 and blessed is the fruit
 of your womb, Jesus!

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
 pray for us sinners,
 now and at the hour of death.

Amen.

Church of Saint Leo the Great

www.stleothegreat.com/childrens-corner