



# Parish of St. Bernadette



4th. Sunday of Advent (C) Sunday 23rd. December 2018 Vol.16 No. 18.

[www.stbernadettesparish.org](http://www.stbernadettesparish.org) e-mail: [info@stbernadettesparish.org](mailto:info@stbernadettesparish.org)

Fr. Paul Armstrong P.P. 28 Willowbank Park. Tel. 9079 3023 Option 1



## Celebrating the Liturgy of Christmas Week.

Christmas Eve  
9.30a.m. Mass.

12p.m. To 1p.m.  
Confessions.

7p.m. Vigil Mass  
for Families with  
Congregational  
singing.

10p.m. Vigil Mass  
with the Adult  
Choir.

Christmas  
Day

9.30a.m. Mass.  
Congregational  
singing.

11a.m. Mass with  
the Folk Choir.

No Evening Mass

Wednesday 26th.  
9.30a.m. Mass.

Thursday 27th.  
9.30a.m. Mass &  
Novena Prayers  
to Our Lady.

Friday 28th.  
9.30a.m. Mass.

Saturday 29th.  
6p.m. Vigil Mass.

Confessions at  
6.45p.m.

Sunday 30th.  
10a.m. Mass.  
12p.m. Mass.  
Notices for the  
Parish Bulletin  
should be sent by  
*e-mail only* to:  
[info@stbernadettesparish.org](mailto:info@stbernadettesparish.org)

**First Reading (Micah 5:1-4)** Micah, who laments all what will befall an obstinate and unfaithful people, prophesies their future renewal beyond the experience of destruction and exile. His ground for hope centre upon 'the one who is to rule over Israel'. The prophet, active in the eighth century BC, foretold this leader as emerging from Ephrathah, the birth-place of King David. It later became known by the name Bethlehem. His rule would be that of a committed shepherd, concerned to 'feed his flock' and embodying 'peace'.

**Second Reading (Hebrews 10:5-10)** This extract from Hebrews comprises a quote from Psalm 40 and a short commentary on it. The quote questions the value of sacrificial offerings, under the old covenant, as opposed to wider obedience to God's will. The comments which follow endorse this basic scepticism and point to the sacrifice of Christ as having rendered them redundant anyway. Through his total obedience to the Father and his offering of himself, God and mankind have been reconciled, In Christ, once and for all.

**Gospel Reading (Luke 1:39-44)** The gospel encounters known as the 'Visitations' sees Mary and Elizabeth exchange reactions to the wonderous happening in their lives. Mary has come, presumably, to support Elizabeth in the later stages of her pregnancy and marvel at what the Lord is doing for her. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognises the significance of Mary's child and proclaims her, too, to be blessed. This blessedness is both founded and realised in Mary's trust of God's word and in her willingness to surrender herself to the divine plan. ©Intercom



## A Christmas Prayer

Lord Jesus, the heavenly message at Your birth was "peace and goodwill to all". Bring Your peace, Your joy, and Your happiness into our homes this Christmas. Bless all the members of our families - those at home, and especially those who will be absent this Christmas. Fill our hearts with Your love. Keep us close to You and to each other now and throughout the year ahead. Amen.



## Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration will not take place on Christmas Day or on New Year's Day. We will resume on **Tuesday 8th. January at 9.a.m.**



## Preparing for Christmas

A leaflet with information on Mass times in the Parish during the holiday period is now available at the back of the church. It also includes the times of Masses for Christmas Day in our neighbouring Parishes.

Please make a personal commitment to pray each day, for vocations to the priesthood, especially for those young men currently preparing for the priesthood, and for those already ministering as priests in our Diocese. Remember also in your prayers those priests who are ill or in any difficulty.

## Our Faithful Departed



Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Rose McMahan R.I.P.**, whose funeral will take place in Burren on Sunday.

### Anniversaries

Patrick Bell, Brendan Gogarty, Jack McIlkerney, Nora McCay, Edward Carvill.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

## Feast of the Nativity



**Christmas Eve** : Vigil Mass for Families at 7p.m.  
Vigil 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.***

## Diocese of Down & Connor



Bishop Treanor has published his Christmas message to the people of the Diocese. It is entitled "As we walk amid passing things, You teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures." (Advent Liturgy). There are copies in the Lourdes Chapel Porch or it can be viewed on the Diocesan website at:

[www.downandconnor.org](http://www.downandconnor.org)

The Christmas edition of the **Diocesan Newsletter** has been published. It reviews highlights of events of the past year and features information on happenings planned throughout the Diocese and further afield in 2019. Copies are now available in the church porches.



## Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to **£1,743**. A sincere thanks for your generosity.

The **Christmas Voluntary Collection** will be taken up at all of the Masses for Christmas Day.

You can assist the Parish considerably by taking Offertory Envelopes and if you pay tax, the Parish will receive a payment from the Inland Revenue at **no extra cost** to yourself if you sign a **Gift Aid Form**. Just call into the Sacristy after Mass and leave your name and contact details. Please give us your support.



## Retirement Association

**Thursday 27th. December - Weekly Walk.** Meet in the church car park at 10.15a.m.

The Committee wish all of our members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



## Diocese of Down & Connor

The **2019 Edition** of the **Diocesan Directory** will be on sale at the back of the church after all of the Masses this weekend. The Directory provides useful information on Mass times in each Parish, contacts for priests, schools, religious congregations, and organisations throughout the Diocese. Cost: £4 each.

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



## St. Patrick's Parish

A vacancy has arisen for a **Permanent Part-time Secretary** in the Parish Office. The role involves performing confidential, efficient, effective secretarial and administrative support to the Parish clergy, Parishioners, and visitors. The job specification, hours, and remuneration details can be found at: **www.downandconnor.org** click on: **job vacancies**. The position has also been advertised on the **Community NI website**, where terms and conditions relating to the role can also be accessed by way of a Role Profile and Employment Application form. Application packs are also available from **St. Patrick's Parish Office**, Donegall Street. Applications are welcome from qualified persons who wish to play an active role in the Parish. **The closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Friday 11th. January 2019.**



## Parish Centre News

The Centre will be closed for the holiday period.

Please check with your group leader when your particular activity will resume. We wish all of our User Groups a very happy Christmas!

May I express my sincere thanks to all you who contribute so much of your time, talent, and energy to the life of St. Bernadette's, not only during the organisation and celebration of the liturgy, but also in activities for the benefit of the wider Parish community and beyond. I am also extremely grateful to our Parishioners for your support for the church throughout the year: through your participation in the liturgy, and your most generous financial contributions. I wish each of you and your families every blessing during this Christmas season and a joyful, peaceful New Year.

*Rev. Anthony P.P.*

## Ministers of the Eucharist



Group Leader for December - Flo McGarrigle.

## Ministers of the Word

Sunday 30th. December - Group 1

## 500 Club



**Week 14:** Congratulations to the winners of the **Weekly Prize Draw: Marie O'Hara & Maureen Haire.**

Each winner 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



## School Open Events



Transfer students and their parents are invited to attend the following schools for admission in September 2019:

**January 10th. St. Louise' College at 4.30p.m. & 6.30p.m.**

**January 12th. Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School from 9a.m. - 1p.m.**

**January 12th. St. Dominic's High School from 9.30a.m. - 1p.m.**

**January 16th. St. Malachy's College from 7p.m. - 9.30p.m.**

**January 17th. St. Mary's C.B.G.S. at 7.30p.m.**

**January 17th. St. Joseph's College from 7p.m. - 9p.m.**

**January 19th. Our Lady & St. Patrick's College Knock from 9.15a.m. - 12.30p.m.**

## St. Bernard's P.S.



The P4 children of St. Bernard's P.S. thank everyone who supported our **Erin the Elf Coffee Morning** in the Parish Centre last Sunday. We were overwhelmed with the number of people who donated their time, bakes and money. We raised over **£1,300!** The money will go to the Children's Cancer Unit where Erin and her family were helped during their most difficult times. It's wonderful to be able to give something back to them.

## Church Car Park



**Car Owners please note that church and the car park will be closed immediately after Mass each weekday throughout the Christmas holiday period. Please do not leave your car unattended in the car park after Mass times.**

Remember someone who may be worried, sick, or in special need of your prayers this Christmas! Seven-day candles for Our Lady's Shrine or the Sacred Heart Shrine are available from the Sacristy. Price £5 each. "I Lit A Candle For You" memory cards are also available price £1 each.