



# Parish of St. Bernadette



4th. Sunday of Advent (B) Vol.15 No. 17. Sunday 24th. December 2017

www.stbernadettesparish.org e-mail: info@stbernadettesparish.org  
Fr. Paul Armstrong P.P. 28 Willowbank Park. Tel. 9079 3023



## Celebrating the Liturgy of Christmas Week.

Christmas Eve  
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

Tuesday 26th.  
9.30a.m. Mass &  
Novena Prayers  
to Our Lady.

Wednesday 27th.  
9.30a.m. Mass.

Thursday 28th.  
9.30a.m. Mass

Friday 29th.  
9.30a.m. Mass.

Saturday 30th.  
6p.m. Vigil Mass.

Confessions at  
6.45p.m.

Sunday 31st.  
10a.m. Mass.

12p.m. Mass.

**First Reading (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 13-16)** Finding a dwelling for God proves a test for David. He willingly offers to build a fine and worthy house for the Ark of the Covenant. While this may seem an honour and a pious act, it has an intrinsic danger: God is not to be 'confined' to a house of cedar or stone. His dwelling is among the people he has called to be his own. Trying to put him into a confined space will be futile and even dangerous: God will dwell among those who have answered his call to be his people.

**Second Reading (Romans 16:25-27)** In Romans, Paul presents his greatest fear and his greatest hope. His greatest fear and regret is the fact that the people whom God has chosen seem to reject the fullness of that chosen-ness in the coming of Christ, while his hope comes from the fact that so many others seem to accept it. In the end, he gives over to the unbri-dled praise of God, who will ultimately bring all peoples to himself.

**Gospel Reading (Luke 1:26-38)** We return to the gospel of the Annunciation for the second time in our Advent journey. Of note this time is the first imperative in the Angel's words: Listen! The great prayer of Jewish people was the *Shema* - 'Hear O Israel!' As Mary is asked here to represent humanity and to accept to be the vessel by which God will enter into the human story in a definitive and fulfilling way, the beginning of her role is simply again to listen for the word that will save and renew. ©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**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will not take place on **Tuesday 26th. December**. Grateful thanks to all who attend each week throughout the year. Adoration will begin again on **Tuesday 2nd. January** at **8a.m.** May you have a very happy and blessed Christmas! Please continue with your much valued commitment during 2018.

## **Diocese of Down & Connor**

Bishop Treanor has published his Christmas message to the people of the Diocese. It is entitled "Emmanuel: God is with us". Copies are available in the Lourdes Chapel Porch or you can view it online at the Diocesan website at: [www.downandconnor.org](http://www.downandconnor.org)

## **Our Faithful Departed**



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Kieran Carnaghan R.I.P.**, of Mt. Merrion Park, whose funeral took place on Tuesday, for **Owen Lovell R.I.P.**, of Beechgrove Drive, whose funeral took place on Thursday, and for **Fr. Peter Forde P.E.**, whose funeral took place in Carnlough on Saturday.

### **Anniversaries**

Sarah Ann Hamilton, Edward Winters, John Peel, Edward Carvill, Patrick Bell, Brendan Gogarty, Clement King, Elizabeth Kennedy, Nellie Rooney, Kevin McCusker, Teresa Small, Cassie Toye, Richard Derby, Eilish Egli, Jack McIlkerney, Teresa Marshall, Anita Murtagh, Teresa Duffin.

Frances McArt, Charlie Stuart, Rose Beattie, Rita Devlin, Thomas McGettrick, Mary O'Halloran, Eileen Rocks, Daniel Duffin, Laurence Fody, Mary Moore, William Greene, Gerry Crosbie, Denis Malone, Sr. Olivia Curran C.P., Anna Forde, Sarah McGlinchey, Margaret Carville.

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.**



"Every family, despite its weaknesses, can become a light in the darkness of the world. Nazareth teaches us the meaning of family life, its loving communion, its simple and austere beauty, its sacred and inviolable character." Amoris Laetitia - The Joy of Love, Pope Francis.



## Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to **£1,545**. 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

There will not be a weekly walk this week. We will meet again after the holidays. The Committee wish all of our members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



## Diocese of Down & Connor

The **2018 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!***



## 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.

## ✚ Youth Ministry Training

We are offering the opportunity for **Young Persons** (over the age of 14), or **Adult Volunteers**, to gain an **OCN Qualification in Practical Youth Ministry Skills**. The training will be held in **St. Bernadette's Parish Centre** for 7 Tuesdays beginning on **16th. January 2018**. Subsidised cost: £15 per person. There are a limited number of places so will be operating on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested, contact **Seán** ASAP on [s.farrell@downandconnor.org](mailto:s.farrell@downandconnor.org)



## 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.

*Pauline Cunningham P.P.*

## 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 28th. December - Group 4

Brendan Kerr, Nesson McGarvey,  
Marie Moriarty.

## 500 Club



**Week 14:** Congratulations to the winners of the **Weekly Prize Draw:** **Stella Magee & Ella Dolan.**

Each winner receives £50.

The President & members of **St. Bernadette's Conference** thank you so much for your most generous response to our **Christmas Appeal** and sale of Christmas cards. Your generosity has allowed us to purchase gift cards from local stores and distribute them to families and to individuals in need. Your support throughout the year is invaluable enabling us to support all those in need, not only financially, but those who are sick, the elderly, lonely, or those suffering from mental illness. We wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year!



## School Open Events



Transfer students and their parents are invited to attend the following schools for admission in September 2018:

January 10th. St. Malachy's College from 7p.m. - 9p.m.

January 11th. St. Louise' College at 4.30p.m. & 6.30p.m.

January 13th. Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School from 9a.m. - 1p.m.

January 13th. Our Lady & St. Patrick's College Knock from 9.15a.m. - 12.30p.m.

January 13th. St. Dominic's High School from 9.30a.m. - 1p.m.

January 15th. St. Mary's C.B.G.S. at 7.30p.m.

January 18th. St. Joseph's College from 7p.m. - 9p.m.

**Remember someone in special need this Christmas!** Seven-day candles to use at Our Lady's Shrine or at the Sacred Heart Shrine are available from the Sacristy. Price £5 each.

**Drumbo Parish** is planning a possible 7 day **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** in Autumn 2018 visiting the major Gospel sights: Galilee, Nazareth, the Dead Sea, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethlehem etc. The price will include flights and full board in 4\* hotels. To register interest, please email: [drumbo@downandconnor.org](mailto:drumbo@downandconnor.org) or Tel. 9081 2238