



Parish of St. Bernadette

First Sunday of Advent 3rd. December 2017. (B) Vol.15 No. 14.
www.stbernadettesparish.org e-mail: info@stbernadettesparish.org
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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 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8) This reading from Isaiah should be read as a prayer in the vein of the lament psalms. There are acknowledgements of human fault and sinfulness that have left the people 'like withered leaves in the wind' – but there is a greater sense of the mercy of God, who will act dramatically to restore his people, even to the extent of tearing open the heavens.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:3-9) The thanksgiving at the beginning is a set piece of the Pauline letter and normally gives a hint of some of the key issues to be addressed in the letter. Here Paul gives thanks for the graces that have enriched this community, particularly in the gift of good teachers and leaders. Yet these very leaders have also been the source of divisions, so Paul changes the perspective from one of narrow focus on the giftedness of certain leaders to the need for us all to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Gospel Reading (Mark 13:33-37) A question that governs the entirety of this chapter: *what will be the sign that all is about to be accomplished?* (13:4). There is no code or specific portent. Instead, Christ offers some reflections on human realities that happen in the course of history, from persecutions to natural disasters to false interpretations of these events. For believers, waiting for specific signs is a fool's game. Christ exhorts his people rather to an attitude of vigilance and reflection, to discover how the Master might be returning to his house in ways missed by a sleeping watchman. Being caught up in reading patterns and codes will mislead some people, but Christ asks that his followers might not so much adopt a fearful suspicion, but rather that they learn to live with an attentiveness as to how Christ might be present to his people. © Intercom

✠ The Season of Advent

Today we begin the new liturgical year in the Church and set out on our Advent journey in preparation for the birth of Our Lord on Christmas Day.

Each Sunday the **Jesse Tree** will be decorated with symbols that remind us of the purpose and promises of God from Creation to the Birth of Jesus Christ. Jesse was the father of King David and God promised David that his Kingdom would last forever.

The circle of the **Advent Wreath** signifies continuous life which has no beginning or end, the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. The three purple and the rose candles represent 1,000 years each - 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Saviour. The progressive lighting of the candles each week signifies the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The celebrant will wear purple vestments during Advent to remind us that Advent, like Lent is also a **time for prayer, penance, preparatory sacrifices, and good works.**

Our Faithful Departed ✠

Anniversaries

Frank Murray, Mary Ellen Mullin, Alice Kearney, Patrick McGowan, Brian Marshall, Jim Beggs, Joseph Neill, Maurice O'Callaghan, John Leer, Charles Hasson, Rosaleen Lundy, Evelyn O'Kane.

Paula Heath Kielty, Patrick Dolan, Sally Gilmore, Bridget Murtagh, Kathleen McGrath, Imelda Anne Pearman, Michael Hughes.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Calendar of Feasts ✠✠

On **Friday 8th. December**, we celebrate the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.** The **Vigil Mass** will be at 7.30p.m. on **Thursday** and at **9.30a.m.** on **Friday.**

Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that Our Lady was **free** from **Original Sin** from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. It is the concrete expression of God's love for Mary, who gave herself fully, completely, and without hesitation to His service.

Reflections on the **daily Mass readings** during **Advent** will be available at the back of the church each week. Please take a cop 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.



Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to **£1,833**. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

The monthly collection for the **Support of the Priests** will take place this weekend.



Retirement Association

Thursday 7th. December - Weekly Walk at 10.15a.m.

Wednesday 13th. December - Monthly Coffee Morning in the Lounge in the Parish Centre at 10.15a.m. Everyone is welcome! Meet other members & make new friends!



The Priory Singers

We are a chamber choir formed thirty years ago by Dr Harry Grindle. The choir is now in the very capable hands of Robert Thompson, Director of Music. We are delighted to present "Carols by Candlelight" in **St. Bernadette's Church** on **Friday 15th. December** at **8p.m.** with Organist Phillip Elliott. Admission is free (retiring collection). Proceeds to the St. Bernadette's Church Restoration Fund. We look forward to offering the Parishioners of St. Bernadette's and other local churches some wonderful music for the Nativity.

Prayer Vigil for the Sanctity of Life

12 hours of prayer for the protection of human life from conception until natural death will be held in **St. Brigid's Church** on **Friday 8th. December** from **9a.m.** until **9p.m.** with guest speakers, recitation of the rosary and Eucharistic Adoration. Copies of the programme are now available in the church porches.



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.
7p.m. Youth Club - registered members only!

Saturday

10a.m. Taekwondo.
1.30p.m. Junior Badminton.

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



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 10th. December - Group 1
Gerard Malone, Brendan Kerr (snr),
Maura Macklin.

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

500 Club



Week 11: Congratulations to the lucky winners in the **Christmas Draw:** **£250** - **Marie Moriarty.**
£150 - **Anne Lonergan.**
£100 - **Margaret Vernor.**



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.

Latest News



Apostolic Workers



A **Coffee Morning** will take place in the Lounge in the **Parish Centre** after both Masses this **Sunday**. Drop in for a cuppa, some goodies, and give whatever you can afford! Help us to help the Missions!

Parish Carol Service



"Carols By Candlelight" with readings & reflections will take place on **Sunday 17th. December** at **6p.m.** with the **Folk Choir, Parish Choir**, soloists, and the **Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School Folk Group**. As a Parish family, we will come together in peace and serenity to meditate on the events leading up to the birth of Our Saviour. Please make a special effort to attend with your family and friends.

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.trocaire.org/gifts



What's On!



December 3rd. Prayer for all Families in Holy Family Church from **5p.m. to 5.30p.m.** All welcome!

December 18th. Liam Lawton "in Concert in Saintfield & Carrickmannon Parish. To book tickets, please Tel. **077884 35797** or **079193 32490**.



"The family is called to join in daily prayer, to read the word of God and to share in Eucharistic Communion, and thus grow in love and become ever more fully a temple in which the spirit dwells."
Amoris Laetitia - The Joy of Love, Pope Francis.