



# Parish of St. Bernadette



2nd. Sunday of Advent Sunday 4th. December 2016. (A) Vol.14 No. 15

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](mailto:info@stbernadettesparish.org)

**First Reading (Isaiah 11:1-10)** The stock of Jesse, the wolf living with the lamb: this magnificent Advent word picture. Dream it. Imagine it. Conjure it in your mind and soul. Let it percolate, reminding us that the Season of Expectation is underway. Something entirely new is happening. Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God, is soon to be born in history. Dream it. Imagine it. Conjure it. Let it percolate our souls, our deepest selves.

**Second Reading (Romans 15:4-9)** Treating each other with profound reverence and respect: imagine what this means with people we know. Only then are we truly doing the Lord's work and will.

**Gospel Reading (Matthew 3:1-12)** The dramatic, colourful persona of John the Baptist emerging from the wilderness, calling us to join the circus, become acrobats, perform somersaults, turn our lives completely around: this is repentance.



## Calendar of Feasts

Thursday 8th. December is 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 Wednesday and at 9.30a.m. on Thursday.

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.



## Preparing for Christmas

Each Sunday the Jesse Tree is 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 candle represent 1,000 years each - 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Saviour. The progressive lighting of the candles 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.

Reflections on the daily Mass readings during Advent are available at the back of the church. It only takes a few moments to read them each day and anything which helps to direct our minds to a spiritual preparation for Christmas is more than worthwhile.

## Our Faithful Departed



### Anniversaries

Brian Marshall, Jim Beggs, Rose Ann Adams, Maurice O'Callaghan, Charles Hasson, Rosaleen Lundy, Evelyn O'Kane, John Leer, Paula Heath Kielty, Patrick Dolan, Sally Gilmore, Kathleen McGrath, Alice Kearney,

Imelda Anne Pearman, Michael Hughes, David McGarrity, Brendan Browne, Joseph Neill, Michael Colgan, Michael McCaughey, Patrick McLarnon, Daniel Hegarty.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

## Diocese of Down & Connor



The Data Protection Act places restrictions on who has a right to access the information in our sacramental registers. From time to time, many people find it necessary to request a copy of a Certificate of Baptism, or a record of their Confirmation or Marriage in Church. Most commonly, this will be in connection with a marriage or a school application.

*In order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, all such requests need to be made in writing and certificates can only be issued to those named on the record - for instance, the person who was baptised, or, in the case of someone under the age of 16, their parent or guardian.*

*Because requests need to be signed and a written record retained of all requests for access to our sacramental registers, we are unable to accept requests by telephone or e-mail.*

To request a certificate confirming entry in one of the church registers, please complete the form in PDF format on the Parish website: [www.stbernadettesparish.org](http://www.stbernadettesparish.org) and post it to St. Bernadette's Parish, 28 Willowbank Park, Belfast BT6 0LL or leave it in the Sacristy at Mass times. Forms are also available from the Sacristy, the Lourdes Chapel porch, and in the Parish Centre.



## Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to **£1,633**. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

The monthly collection for the **Support of the Priests** will be taken up this weekend.

**Team 3** will help with the collection this week.



## Retirement Association

**Thursday 1st. December** - Weekly Walk at 10.15a.m. Meet in the church car park.



## St. Bernard's P.T.A.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR** this Sunday from 10.30a.m. to 2p.m. in the **Parish Centre**. Lots of gift stalls for browsing and buying, baked goodies, & lots more! Children come and visit **SANTA** - various prices for individual children and families! Admission for adults £3, seniors concession £1, children **free!**



## St. Joseph's College P.T.A.

Our annual Christmas Fair will be held in the school on **Tuesday 6th. December** from 7p.m. to 9p.m. Buy unique handcrafted gifts for the family, mulled wine, home-baked goodies and lots more! Carols with **Cantiunculae!** Admission **free!** All welcome! If you would like to have a stall at a cost of £20 per table, please Tel. 9049 1280.



## 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 5th.

10.15a.m. Drop in for tea/coffee & a chat after Mass.  
10.30a.m. Mothers & Toddlers.  
7.30p.m. Pilates (2 sessions).  
7.30p.m. Wynchurch Art Group.  
8p.m. Bowling Club.

### Tuesday 6th.

7p.m. Zumba.  
8p.m. - 9.15p.m. Relaxing Yoga Class.

### Wednesday 7th.

10.30a.m. Mothers & Toddlers.  
2p.m. Speech & Drama.  
5p.m. Children's Soccer.  
5.30p.m. Irish Dancing Classes.  
7p.m. - 9.30p.m. Active & Relaxing Yoga.  
8p.m. Taekwondo.

### Thursday 8th.

4.30p.m. Speech & Drama.  
7p.m. Adult Painting Class.

### Friday 9th.

9.30a.m. Pilates.  
7p.m. Youth Club - registered members only!

### Saturday 10th.

10a.m. Taekwondo.  
1p.m. - 4p.m. Junior Badminton.

### After School Club

**Rosetta 2-4 Club** for P1 - P7 children from **Monday - Friday** from 2p.m. - 4p.m. For more information please contact **Sinead** Tel. 07816 779910.

## Ministers of the Eucharist



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

## Ministers of the Word



Sunday 11th. December - Group 4  
Brendan Kerr, Nessan McGarvey,  
Marie Moriarty.

## 500 Club



**Week 11:** Congratulations to the lucky winners in the **Christmas Prize Draw:**

£250 - Michael Donnelly.  
£150 - Geraldine White.  
£100 - Declan Mee.



Our **Christmas Food Collection** for needy families is underway. Christmas can be a very difficult time for individuals and families who are already struggling to manage on extremely tight budgets. Increased winter fuel bills, and the pressure of choosing between heating and eating, will sadly push many families into terrible food crisis. Your gift of food will make such a difference to those who most need our help. Please donate **non-perishable items or small gifts** and place them in the collection bins at the back of the church **before Tuesday 13th. December**. Hampers will be made up with the items received and delivered in time for Christmas.

Latest News



Our **Annual Christmas Appeal** will take place at all of the Masses next weekend **10th. & 11th. December**.

Our annual **Christmas Gift** campaign has been launched to help families in Third World countries to become independent and self-sufficient. You can buy an olive tree, chicks, goats, seeds, 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](http://www.trocaire.org/gifts)



## St. Bernard's P.S.



We look forward to welcoming parents of children who will be starting **Primary One** in **September 2017**. There will be an opportunity to visit our school at an open evening on **Wednesday 7th. December** at 7p.m. and/or **Thursday 8th. December** at 11a.m.

## What's On!



**December 10th.** Advent Day of Reflection with Sean Goan at **Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre**, Crossgar from 10a.m. to 5p.m. Cost £30 per person includes lunch. To book please Tel. 4483 0242

**December 13th.** The **Ulster University Choir** at **Clonard Monastery** at 8p.m. performing sacred music and a selection of Christmas music. Admission is free with a retiring collection. All are welcome!

**December 20th.** **N.I. Hospice Annual Lights Ceremony** at **Dominican College, Fortwilliam**. Refreshments at 6.30p.m. followed by the Lights ceremony at 7.30p.m. Torchlight procession to the Hospice on Somerton Road.