



Parish of St. Bernadette



First Sunday of Advent (A) 1st. December 2019. Vol.17 No. 14.

www.stbernadettesparish.org e-mail: info@stbernadettesparish.org

Fr. Brendan Hickland P.P., Holy Rosary Presbytery, 503 Ormeau Road. Tel. 9064 2446.

Fr. Michael Spence C.C., 28 Willowbank Park. Tel. 9079 3023 Option 1.

Mass Times

Sunday

10a.m. with the Adult Choir.

12p.m. Children's Liturgy for P2 - P5.

Monday 9.30a.m.

Tuesday 7.30p.m. (with Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help)

Wednesday 9.30a.m.

Thursday 9.30a.m.

Friday - No Mass.

Drumbo 9.30a.m. Good Shepherd Church 10a.m.

Saturday

6.00p.m. Vigil Mass with the Folk Choir every second Week.

Holy Days of Obligation 10a.m.

Confessions Saturday

6.45p.m. after the Vigil Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday from 9a.m. to 7.15p.m.

Baptisms

On the first Sunday of each month. By appointment only four weeks in advance.

All Masses are streamed live online via the Parish website: www.stbernadettesparish.org

First Reading (Isaiah 2:1-5) The very first reading of this new liturgical year contains a subtle miracle: although the Temple of the Lord will tower high above any other mountain, the nations will *stream* to it. The force of gravity cannot compete with the beauty of God and the power of God's grace.

Second Reading (Romans 13:11-14) It is because of what God has done, because God is drawing near, that we are not only asked, but enabled, to live a life of goodness, of righteousness, of sacrifice and self-giving. In order to make this our life's project, we need to be armed, and our armour is Christ himself.

Gospel (Matthew 24:37-44) In this Gospel reading, there is a strong emphasis on *not knowing*. Like the people long ago, we do not know the details of God's plan or the hour of Christ's return. The consequence of not knowing should be neither curiosity nor fear, but an ongoing state of readiness. ©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. Advent, like Lent is a **time for prayer, penance, sacrifices, and good works.**

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 **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 special **Advent Calendar** and the **Weekly Reflection** attached to the Parish Bulletin have been produced by the **Parish Pastoral Council** to help guide us on our spiritual journey through Advent. Extra copies are available at the back of the church.

If you would like to book Anniversary Masses, Baptisms, Marriages etc., please call into the Sacristy or Tel. 9040 1975 and leave a message or send an e-mail to the following address: info@stbernadettesparish.org

Our Faithful Departed



Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Jim Shore R.I.P.**, of Wynchurch Road, whose funeral took place on Saturday.

Anniversaries

Joseph Neill, Paula Heath-Kielty, Patrick Dolan, Bridget Murtagh, Finn McCann, Joe Kearney.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Our **Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group** offers listening and support to those who have been bereaved over the last few years. To speak to someone in confidence Tel. 077 3377 3758.

Mass Times



Mass next Tuesday with the novena prayers to Our Mother of Perpetual Help will be at 9.30a.m. in place of the usual evening Mass. On Tuesday 10th. December, Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm.

Eucharistic Adoration will be at the usual times from 9am to 7.15pm.

An Advent Prayer



Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

Calendar of Feasts



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not celebrated on Sunday 8th. December this year but will be observed on Monday 9th. December. It will not be a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be no change to Mass times.



Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to £1,580. The monthly collection for the **Support of the Priests** will take place this weekend. Sincere thanks for your generosity.



Retirement Association

Wednesday 4th. December - The Lyric presents "Driving home for Christmas" by Grimes & McKee, at 7.30pm. Tickets £12. Contact Anne Tel. 9064 3031 as soon as possible to secure your ticket.

Thursday 5th. December - **Weekly Walk**. Meet in the church car park at 10.15a.m.

Friday 6th. December - **Ten Pin Bowling** at the **Ice Bowl, Dundonald** from 11am. Concession rate £2.20 per game. All members invited to take part.



Invitation

The ladies of St. Bernadettes are invited to a **Carol Service** at **Orangefield Presbyterian Church** on the Castlereagh Road on **Tuesday 10th. December** at 7.30 pm. Music will be provided by the Salvation Army band and a voluntary collection will be taken up for their Christmas appeal. Please contact Marie Tel. 9079 2226 if you wish to attend. Transport can be provided.



Looking for a way to get into the true spirit of Christmas **Trocaire Gifts** are the perfect way to give a gift that will make a real difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people. Pick up a catalogue from the Lourdes Chapel porch.



Parish Centre News

For information & bookings: Tel. 9079 3023 Option 3 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.

No Mothers & Toddlers today.

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.

Wednesday

10.30a.m. Mothers & Toddlers.

8p.m. Taekwondo.

Thursday

10 - 11a.m. Yoga Class (mixed ability).

7p.m. Art Class.

Friday

9.30a.m. - 10.30a.m. Pilates Class.

3.30p.m. & 4.15p.m. **Playball Classes** for ages 2-9.

7p.m. Youth Club at 7p.m. - 8.15p.m. for Juniors and

8.30p.m. - 10p.m. for Seniors. Registered members only!

Saturday

10a.m. Taekwondo.

1.30p.m. Junior Badminton. New members aged 8 - 18 welcome!

Rosetta 2-4 After School Club

From **Monday - Friday** for P1 - P7 children from 2p.m. - 4p.m. Call Sinead Tel. 07816 779910.

Ministers of the Eucharist



December - Group 2.

Team Leader - Flo McGarrigle.

Ministers of the Word



Sunday 8th. December.

Group 6.

500 Club



Congratulations to the lucky winners in the Draw for **Week 11: Mary McAllister & Maura McCallion**
Each receives £50.

We offer a confidential, non-judgemental service to anyone in 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



Our **Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner** will be held on **Wednesday 11th. December** at 12.30pm in the **Ivanhoe**. If you wish to attend, please register your phone number and menu choice on the list in the Sacristy or contact Frances Tel. 078005 62398 before Sunday 1st. December.

SVP Christmas Cards will be available at Masses this weekend. This year instead of a specific price per pack, Parishioners are invited to make a suitable donation.

The **Annual S.V.P. Christmas Collection** will be held on **Saturday 7th. & Sunday 8th. December** after all of the Masses. Christmas is the time of year when there is increased demand for our help. Members of the Parish Conference will speak at each Mass to explain our work and to thank you for your most valuable support during the past year. A special church-door collection will take place. Donation envelopes and Gift Aid forms are now available in the church. Please take one home with you and return it at Mass next weekend.

St. Bernard's P.S.



Two **School Open** events will take place on **Wednesday 4th. December** from 6pm - 7pm and on **Thursday 5th. December** from 11am - 12noon for parents & children who wish to enrol in September 2020. This is a great opportunity to look around our school, meet the staff and receive the necessary information on the Application process. We look forward to seeing you.

What's On!



December 7th. Cappella Caeciliana present a **Christmas Concert** in **St. John's C.O.I., Malone Road**, at 7.30pm.

Tickets (£15 including refreshments) are available from www.caeciliana.org and Matchetts, Wellington Place.

December 8th. St. Bernard's PTA Christmas Fair in the Parish Centre after 12pm Mass. Lots of goodies on sale for everyone. Santa will be there too!

December 13th. A Celtic Christmas by Candlelight with **St. Agnes' Choral Society** at 7.45pm in **St. Peter's Cathedral** with donations in aid of the Belfast City Hospital Renal Unit. Tickets £12 / £6 concession available online at: www.tinyurl.com/agneschristmas or Tel. 077868 37198.