



Parish of St. Bernadette



1st. Sunday of Advent Sunday 27th. November 2016. (A) Vol.14 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 2:1-5) Mountains in the Hebrew scriptures are always places of theophany – the encounter with God. Whether it is with Abraham and the binding of Isaac or Elijah and the gentle breeze at the mouth of the cave, God's presence is felt on high and sometimes lonely places. Here, the mountain is a place of instruction. Those chosen are set apart and in climbing the mountain will become the people living in right relationship with Yehweh.

Second Reading (1 Romans 13:11-14) The allusion of light and darkness seems strange here at this time of year when we tend to get up and go to bed in darkness. Perhaps it concentrates the mind into realising not only how much light can brighten our lives, but also how much divine light, and the bringer of that light can brighten the darker places of our souls where the sins mentioned by St Paul are known to live.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 24:37-44) The message is clear; stay awake. Jesus' admonition is not a million miles away from where we left off with Luke's Gospel two weeks ago. We don't and won't know the day or the hour. Christianity is a perpetual state of readiness and anticipation. As Christians we live our lives to the best of our ability in the ordinary and every day, but we also keep our eye on the prize. Behind the reading is the destruction of the Temple; the fact of which those first listeners of the Gospel would have been aware. Remember, everyone laughed at Noah when he began to build the ark, but they weren't laughing when the rain came.



Eucharistic Adoration

The **Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Apostolate** will visit St. Bernadette's this weekend and will speak at all of the Masses for a renewal of the Parish Adoration. **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** takes place each **Tuesday** in the **Lourdes Chapel** from **8a.m.** until **7.15p.m.** Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament has brought so many graces to our Parish and to the lives of the 40 or so people who attend each week. "*Will you give a little of your time to be in the very presence of Our Lord?*"



First Friday Visits

Next Friday is the First Friday of the month. The sick, housebound, and those Parishioners who are in hospital and nursing homes will be attended by the priest during the coming week.

If, in our words and actions, our daily lives are full of the spirit of Jesus, then we have prepared. We do not need to be anxious about the future or what will happen to us. Concentrate on today, on the present hour, the present situation and respond to it in truth and love and the future will take care of itself. ©1999- 2016 Living Space

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



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Kathleen McCormick R.I.P.**, of **Glencregagh Drive**, whose funeral took place on **Thursday.**

Anniversaries

Marie Graham, Malachy McKinley, Sarah Heaney, Eileen McKernan, Frank Small, Gerard McKay, David & Jane Leckey, Stephen Mossey, Maureen Small, Winnie Wilkinson, Frank Murray.

Eileen Ita Canavan, Mary Jane Murray, Noel Kearney, Fr. Jim Downey, Patrick Dunlop, Desmond McKee, Lilla McKenty, Patrick Blaney, Mary Ellen Mullin, Patrick McGowan.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Mass will be celebrated each day during November for the repose of the souls of relatives and friends whose names have been included in the **November Dead Lists**. If you wish to donate an offering for Masses, please include it in the envelope provided. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Preparing for Christmas



Today we begin the new liturgical year in the Church and set out on our Advent journey as we prepare for the birth of Our Lord. 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.** The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit today.



Parish Collections

Last week's collection amounted to **£1,698**. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

Team 2 will help with the collection this week.

Voluntary offering envelopes for 2017 will soon be available. If you have changed address or would like to register for the Voluntary Offering Scheme, please leave the details in the Sacristy as soon as possible.



Retirement Association

Monday 28th. November - "A United Kingdom" at the QFT at 6.20p.m. The story of an interracial romance that changed the world. Adm. £4. To book, please contact **Geraldine** Tel. 0784593 3371 as soon as possible.

Wednesday 30th. November - Monthly Lunch in **Eight South, 14 The Square, Carryduff** at 1p.m. Cost £17. For bookings please contact **Geraldine** Tel. 078459 33371 or **Veronica** Tel. 9040 2776 as soon as possible.

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

Wednesday 14th. December - "The Nativity - What the Donkey Saw" at the Lyric at 7.45p.m. Adm. £10. Contact **Anne** Tel. 9064 3031 *before 3rd. December*.



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 28th.

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 29th.

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

Wednesday 30th.

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 1st.

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

Friday 2nd.

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

Saturday 3rd.

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.

The church is open for private prayer each weekday until 6p.m. (Tuesdays until after the 7.30p.m. Mass.).

Ministers of the Eucharist



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

Ministers of the Word



Sunday 4th. December - Group 3
**Tom McGonigle, Jacinta Lyons,
Moya Beatty, Patricia McFlynn.**

500 Club



Week 10: Congratulations to the winners of the Weekly Prize Draw: **Ita Maguire & Una McCloskey**.

Each winner receives £50.

A Lunch for Senior Citizens will be held in the **Ivanhoe Hotel** on **Wednesday 7th. December** at 1p.m. If you wish to attend, please put your name and number on the list in the Sacristy or contact **Frances** Tel. 07800 562398. Names must be in by **Tuesday 29th. November** at the latest.

Latest News



Our **Christmas Food Collection** for needy families begins this week. 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.

Apostolic Workers



A **Coffee Morning** will take place in the **Lounge** in the **Parish Centre** after both Masses this Sunday. Your support can make such a big difference to the missionary priests, religious, and lay workers to help the poor and deprived in the Third World. Drop in after Mass for a cuppa! Everyone welcome! Help us to help the Missions!

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 by **Cantiunculae!** Admission **free!** All welcome! If you would like to have a stall at a cost of £20 per table, please Tel. 9049 1280.

What's On!



November 27th. "The Mercy of God in Art" presented by **Dr. Eileen Kane** at 4p.m. in **St. Brigid's Parish Centre**, Derryvolgie Avenue. This event has been arranged by Bishop Treanor to mark the closing of the Jubilee of Mercy. All welcome! Admission free!

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 followed by the tree lights switch on at 8.15p.m. To sponsor a light or for more information please Tel. 9077 7123 or visit nihospice.org