

# Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

## 4th Sunday of Advent - 24 December 2017

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### World Meeting of Families on 21-26 August 2018, Dublin

Icon of the Holy Family  
*Description of the Icon continued.*

In order to better understand the ICON it will be helpful to read the passages from the Gospel which inspired them. Let's begin by reading that part of the Gospel of Luke that relates to Jesus' childhood.

#### **THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS Luke's Gospel 2:39-51**

*[New Revised Standard Version]* 39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. 41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." 49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.



We see the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, seated at table, sharing a meal. Seeing the unleavened bread, the bitter herbs and radishes and the cup of wine on the table before them we can surmise that they are celebrating the Passover meal together. "Every year" the Gospel tells us, the Holy Family went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the great Jewish feast of the Passover, celebrating how God saw his people's suffering and acted to set them free. Their faith was celebrated in their home. Their trust in God was remembered at table. It is in our home that the reality of God-with- us is communicated and passed on to future generations. Perhaps you remember saying 'grace before meals' in your homes too?

**Consider becoming a volunteer – Get involved be part of the experience!!**

Apply to volunteer at [www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Volunteer](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Volunteer)

More information will be posted on our parish website [www.bangorparish.com](http://www.bangorparish.com)  
under World Meeting of Families.

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*The Priests of the Parish  
wish all the parishioners a Joyful Christmas and  
many Blessings in the New Year*

**Your prayers are requested for:**

**Recently Deceased:**

Terry Smyth, Edna Clements, Terry Morgan, Jimmy Kennedy.

**Anniversaries:**

Thomas P V, Margaret Johnston, Maimie Smyth, Margaret Beggs, Jim McCart, Ena Bowler, Maude and Archie McKillop, Annie Coan, Gladys McFarland, Terence and Mary Donegan, Austin Gunning, Michael and Mary Gallen, Michael Thompson, Maureen Murphy, Sammy Curry, Michael Foley, Frank and Kitty Barnes, Rose and Kinsley Ringrow, Sara O'Hara, Patrick Trainor, Pasquale Forte, Brian Campbell, Desmond Gillespie, Patrick McAvoy, Jack and Martha Woodhouse.

*The Christmas collection for your priests will be taken up at the Christmas Masses.*

***As you leave Christmas Mass please take as a gift from the Irish Bishops a copy of the Icon for the World Meeting of Families.***

***It would be appreciated if only one per family were taken.***

**Mass times for Christmas Eve:**  
St Comgall's Bangor 9pm and 11pm;  
Most Holy Redeemer 9pm.

**Mass times for Christmas Day:**  
St Comgall's Donaghadee 9.30am;  
St Comgall's Bangor 9am and 11am;  
Most Holy Redeemer 11am.

**Christmas Day Mass times in Newtownards:**  
9.30am and 11.30am.

**Weekday Mass Times week in Bangor beginning 26 December**

**Funeral Mass:** Wednesday 10am for Edna Clements.

**Funeral Mass:** Wednesday 10am for Jimmy Kennedy.

**Friday 9.30am.**

**Ballyholme:** No Mass.

**Trocaire Global Gifts**

Give a gift this Christmas and help transform lives. This year you can choose from 10 gifts that help families work their way out of poverty and end the daily struggle for essentials like water and food. From Chicks £5, school lunches £20, Goats £40, Beehives £55, land for a family home £125, Farming Kit for a family £170. The full range of gifts are on the notice board and are available to buy from the Parish Office. *When you buy a Trocaire gift you're not just giving, you're joining the fight for justice.*

**Bangor Parish**

**7 Day Trip to Brittany and Normandy**

From June 25th to July 1st joining the one day St Columbanus International Meeting in St Coulomb June 30th.

The cost is 895 euro pp sharing, all breakfasts and dinners included, 3 nights Lisieux, 3 nights St Malo. Day trips include; Places associated with St Therese, Mont St Michel, Dinard and more. (Courier: Kieran Troy who has led Bangor groups in the recent past). As there is great demand for hotel space in Brittany in this period prompt booking would be highly recommended.

Details on the parish website, church notice board and from the Parish Office.

**Welcome Rota for January**

6.30 pm Mass

Madeline de Bernardo, Dympna Lillie

10.30 am Mass

Pauline Andrews, Joe Drew

12.30 pm Mass

Sarah Donaghy, Anne Rea

**Society of SVP Bangor**

Many thanks to all those who contributed to our Christmas appeal. We raised £4,438 of which £1928 was gift aided adding a further £482 from HMRC to the total. Thank you for your continued generosity on behalf of the Society and those whom we help.

**Cafe Donaghadee**

The tea money was donated to SVP £50 and St Comgall's Church refurbishment fund £100.

£1,100 was raised for the Night Shelter, £177 of this was raised by the Parish Council. Hamper won by James McAllister. Thanks to all.

**Catholic Schools Week 2018**

Sunday, January 28 marks the start of Catholic Schools Week.

As well as school-based activities, there will be a parish mass in Bangor at 9.30am for "Grandparents Day" on Wed. Jan 31 with all schools represented.

**Trocaire's Christmas Appeal, 'Until Love Conquers Fear',**

raising money to support people all over the developing world who face fear every day of their lives – like the fear of not being able to feed their children or the fear of having to flee their homes because of conflict. To find out more visit [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org) "In love there is no room for fear, but perfect love drives out fear..." *John 4:18.*

**Living Youth – World Meeting of Families - Volunteering**

Living Youth is leading a Youth Group from the Diocese of Down & Connor to Dublin this coming summer to volunteer at the World Meeting of Families Congress and to attend the Papal Mass. The trip will be from 22–26 August 2018 and will be for those aged 16–25, cost will be £100 per person. We expect places to fill quickly so to register your interest please email Living Youth @ [info@livingyouthni.org](mailto:info@livingyouthni.org) with your name, contact number, parish and dob or contact us directly on 9023 2432.

**Marian Prayer Group** meet every Thurs evening for 1hr at 6.30pm in St Comgall's Church, Brunswick Road. Rosary for the Unborn, Reflection, Music, Petitions and Divine Mercy Chaplet. All ages welcome.

**Support for the Bereaved**

If you need to talk to someone about your bereavement, a member of the Bethany Bereavement Support Group can be contacted on the Confidential mobile number: 075 1085 2157.

**Can you spare 1 HOUR a week?**

Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed at 45p per mile. Contact Siobhan McGlone at 028 82251116/07702338930 or at [smcglone@redcross.org.uk](mailto:smcglone@redcross.org.uk)

**St Columbanus' College, Bangor Open Evening**

Tuesday 9 January 7pm.

**Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock - Open Morning**

For Year 7 Pupils and Parents, Sat 13 January 9.15am – 12.30 pm. Principal's Address 9.30am and 11 am. Prospective Year 13 students are also welcome.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation**

will be celebrated in this parish on Tuesday 17 April 2018 at 5pm.