

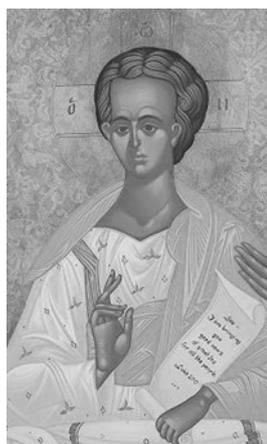
Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

2nd Sunday of the Year - 14 January 2018

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

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

The boy Jesus' face has a high forehead – a sign that he is full of Wisdom. His neck is somewhat bulging, filled with the Divine Breath, the Holy Spirit. It is said that, in icons, the face of Jesus can appear to have two sides – on the left his countenance is softer, almost smiling with gentleness; on the right side, he seems more stern. Jesus is both our compassionate Saviour and our Judge.



Look at Jesus' halo. It is different from that of Mary and Joseph and that of the angels. It has three bands, making it look a bit like a cross. However, this actually signifies that Jesus has the holiness of one of the Persons of the Trinity. In the halo we see the Greek letters in it: an abbreviation for "I am who I am" the Holy Name of God as revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14.

The boy Jesus is dressed in a traditional Jewish patterned cloth and a radiant orange, a colour associated with depictions of the Risen Christ. Down his right shoulder is a kingly sash. His right hand is raised in blessing; his fingers even make the shape of the Greek letters IC and XC, abbreviations for his own name: Jesus the Christ. Two fingers are raised to remind us that in him, two natures co-exist, in him God and humanity are one. The other three digits are nearly joined together, again reminding us of the Trinity.

In his left hand he holds a scroll. He himself is the Word God the Father speaks to us. Jesus speaks to us the words that call us to life. On the scroll is a quotation from the Gospel of Luke: the message to the angel to the poor shepherds telling us who Jesus is: the bearer of a great joy for all of humanity – the joy of Love. [Luke 2:10]

AMORIS NEWS - *Let's Talk Family, Let's Be Family*

People long for love that lasts. And such love is really possible. This is the good news at the heart of *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*) which Pope Francis invites us to embrace and share. All around the island of Ireland, and indeed in other countries around the world, parishes and families are joining in the preparations for World Meeting of Families 2018 and reflecting on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family.

During Lent we will be offering for six weeks in the Parish of Bangor 'Conversations' on the experience of family. A team of parishioners who have come together to help organise the preparations for the World Meeting of Families for our Parish will form the team who will be facilitating this programme - **'Let's Talk Family, Let's Be Family'**. *More information will follow over the coming weeks.*

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

Apply to volunteer at www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Volunteer

More information will be posted on our parish website www.bangorparish.com under World Meeting of Families.

Sunday Mass Times this week:

Bangor: Vigil 6.30 pm,
10.30 am, 12.30 pm.
Donaghadee: Sun 9.30 am.
Ballyholme: 11 am.

Hollywood: Vigil 6.30 pm;
10 am and 12 noon.

Newtownards: Vigil 6.30 pm; 11.30 am.

Comber: 10.00 am.

Weekday Mass Times:

Bangor: Mon 12 noon, Tues - Thurs 9.30 am.
Friday as announced.
Ballyholme: As announced.

Confessions: Sat 5.30 pm.

Baptisms: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2pm.
Contact the Parish Office during office hours to register.

Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday at the 10.30am Mass in St Comgall's Bangor for primary school children.

Your prayers are requested for:

Recently Deceased:

Marion Ballagh, Henry Douggan

Month's Mind: Desmond Hanna

Anniversaries:

Angela McKee, Vincent O'Regan,
Peggy Rafferty, Harriett Lismore,
Michael Jennings, Harry Morrow,
James Keenan, Daniel O'Kane,
Noel Kelly, Brian Quinn,
Fergus Owens, Margaret Murray,
Freddie Burns, Michael Carlin, Ann
McCaughey, Vera Farley,
Joe and Gerry Donaghy,
May McKenna.

*The second collection this Sunday
is for the refurbishment fund.*

**Fr Gunn, Fr Whyte and
Mgr Macaulay wish to thank all
those who sent cards and
presents, sometimes
anonymously, at Christmastime.
All are deeply appreciated.**

Diocesan Directory 2018

Now available for sale at £4 in the
Repository or the parish office.

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.

**Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity**

A Service will be held in St Comgall's
Church, Brunswick Road next Sunday
21 January at 7.30pm.

Catholic Schools Week 2018

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

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

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The Conference of Most Holy Redeemer
Ballyholme and St Comgall's D'dee
thank parishioners for their support
throughout 2017 and particularly for
their generosity over the Christmas
period. The SVP annual collection on
Sun 10 December amounted to £3,213,
of which £2620 was gift aided. For the
month of December, Church door
collections and other donations
amounted to £6,050, with £3,120 gift
aided. Your support, and that of other
donors, is greatly appreciated and
makes it possible for the Conference to
help many needy families in the local
area.

"Legislating for Life" - A lecture by
Lord Alton of Liverpool in St Brigid's
Parish Centre Derryvolgie Avenue
Belfast on Thurs 25 January at 7.30pm.
David Alton is an Independent Life
Peer, he is a Catholic and strongly holds
a "pro-life" position. His motto on his
Coat of Arms is taken from the Book of
Deuteronomy: **Choose Life.**

**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 with your
name, contact number, parish and dob
or contact us directly on 9023 2432.

**NI Children's Hospice and Anam
Cara**, (the organisation that provides
support services to bereaved parents)
are hosting a Bereavement Information
Evening in Corr's Corner Hotel,
Newtownabbey on Tues 30 Jan 7.30-
9.30pm (registration from 7.15pm).
This event gives parents an opportunity
to hear an experienced bereavement
professional talk about the many
challenges families may face after the
death of their son or daughter.

Children's Liturgy

Only children for whom consent forms
have been filled out can be permitted to
take part in the Children's liturgy.
Consent forms are available at the back
of the church and in the parish office.
The Children's Liturgy is open for
children in primary school P1 to P7.

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.

Parish Fundraising Concert

featuring all 3 generations of the
'McClellan Family' will be held on Friday
9 February in St Comgall's Parish
Centre. Doors open 7.30pm, concert
8pm. tickets £10 available from
Thomas' Shop, kids go free with a
paying adult. Bar available and fantastic
ballot prizes. All funds raised will go
towards Parish refurbishment.

Irish Language Classes

have resumed on Thursdays in the
Parish Centre. 1st and 2nd Year
7pm-8pm.

Also Ceili Dancing Class 8.15pm-
9.30pm. For further details ring 946
2055.

The Friendship Club has

recommenced on Tuesdays in the Parish
Centre at 10.30am. Everyone 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.

NI Blood Transfusion Service

The next blood donation session will be
held in Ballycrochan Presbyterian
Church Hall, Silverbirch Road, Bangor
on Friday 19 January from 2.15-4.15pm
and 5.30-8pm.

**The Emerald Ball at Titanic,
Belfast** will take place on St Patrick's
Day, 17 March 2018. The evening will
commence with drinks at 7pm, followed
by a superb four course dinner at 8pm.
There will be a high-end luxury ballot
and dancing to a live band. Dress is
formal and monies raised will support
the D&C Lourdes Pilgrimage for the
Sick. Tickets £60 pp are available from
the pilgrimage secretary, Sinead 9064
6040 or the Drumbo Parish office 9081
2238.

**Accord Catholic Marriage Care
Service**

Belfast: Tel No. 028 9033 9944
Email address
accordbelfast@btconnect.com