

Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

Parish Priest: Very Rev Joseph Gunn St Comgall's Presbytery, 27 Brunswick Road, Bangor, Co Down, BT20 3DS
T: (028) 9146-5522 E: bangor@downandconnor.org W: www.bangorparish.com Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am to 1pm.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A – 3rd December 2023

Your prayers are requested for

Recently Deceased:

Patricia Egan (Holywood)

Month's Mind:

Peter Jennings

Anniversaries:

Brendan Curran Jose Pénas Jnr
Gerry McQuaid Mary McGuigan
Anicia Baguyo Patsy McPeake
Molly Teggart Tom Connor
Bill Eccles Patrick Ward
Margaret & Bernard Barber
Hugh & Margaret Teggart
Rosetta & Peter McCullagh
Stephen Anderson
Bridie Arthurs Molly Crossey
Mary & Danny McDowell

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH, DONAGHADEE

Sunday 3rd December 2023 @ 9.00am

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Saturday 2nd December @ 6.30pm and
Sunday 3rd December @ 10am & 12noon

**MASS TIMES FOR:
DAILY MASS NEXT WEEK 4th-8th December 2023**

BAPTISM REGISTRATION
Please register online SIDE BAR under '**Baptism
Registration**'

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sat 23rd: 6.30pm *Confession after Mass*

Sun 24th: Christmas Eve

No Mass – Donaghadee

11am – St Comgall's Brunswick Road

(No 10am or 12noon Mass)

5, 7 & 9pm

Mon 25th: Christmas Day

9am Donaghadee

9am St Comgall's Brunswick Road

11am St Comgall's

The timetable is dependant on two priests being available.

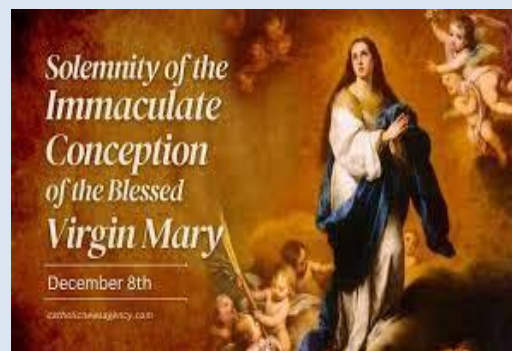
Confirmation preparation classes for children not attending the parish schools.

The above classes will begin in the parish centre on **Sunday
14th January 2024 at 10:30am** for preparation of the
sacrament.

Parents are asked to contact the parish office with their
details.

The classes are open to children currently in P7 and older
and a parent/guardian is requested to attend with their
child.

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 12 December**



Catholic News Agency

**The Immaculate Conception of
the blessed Virgin Mary**

Friday 8th December

Mass times:

9.30am

1pm

7pm

St. Comgall's Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The aim of the Bethany Group is to provide support to the bereaved. The Bethany Group may be contacted on the following number **07732 513 400**

PARISH CENTRE – PARISH GROUPS 2023

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
BRIDGE CLUB at 7.15 until 9.45pm LECTIO DIVINA GROUP 7.30pm – 8.30pm [St Dymphna's Room]	FRIENDSHIP CLUB at 10.00am IRISH DANCING CLASSES at 6.00pm SENIOR CHOIR Starting 11 th October at 7.30pm	MENCAP Every fortnight at 6.00pm BADMINTON Every fortnight at 8.00pm	St Comgall's Guide Unit (Girls aged 6-18) at 6.30pm IRISH CLASS & CEILI DANCING at 7.00pm	St Comgall's Ju-Jitsu Club (Juniors 5-15yrs) 6-7pm (Seniors 16+yrs) 7-8pm

BOOKING OF PARISH CENTRE: Contact Thomas **only** on 07305 746 263 or Email: mcmullanthomas481@gmail.com

If you have a parish group and wish to advertise the times of starting or day in this Parish Newsletter please contact the parish office by email on: bangor@downandconnor.org

STOREHOUSE BANGOR CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As Christmas approaches, we are aware that many will need help.

In the first two weeks of December, we will again be giving out approximately 400 hampers. Please do consider supporting us with the usual groceries but also with Christmas fayre eg, mince pies, small Christmas cakes and puddings. **These cannot be given out if they contain alcohol.** Please bring this to the attention of your congregation.

We also add chocolates, selection boxes, bottles of Shloer, shortbread and boxes of biscuits, tins of ham, cranberry sauce and those treats that help to make Christmas special. **We hope to start making up our hampers in the week beginning 4th December.** Our last day for Christmas hampers will be 15th December.

This means that we really need our Christmas goodies with us at the beginning of December.

Thank you for your help



Relax with a hot chocolate and a mince pie. This Advent season let's journey with the Holy family. Contemplating, praying, quieting our hearts and minds, with Hope, Love, Joy and Peace, O come Emmanuel. In St Dymphna's room , St Comgall's parish centre, 7.30pm on Monday evenings, 27th Nov, 4th Dec, 11th Dec and 18th Dec.

All welcome, children to be accompanied

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 Youth 2000 Ireland are having their annual Christmas retreat in Dominican College, Newbridge, Co Kildare on the 8th -10th of December for ages 16-35. This promises to be a special retreat!! Excellent Speakers, Inspiring Talks & Workshops, Fantastic music, Group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, Reconciliation, prayer, Drama, Games & plenty of time to chill out, meet new people and find out what it means to be young & Catholic today!! There are free buses leaving from all over the country to the retreat. Donation only. Find out more and register now on www.youth2000.ie"



Thanks to the generosity of all the parishioners who supported our Christmas Trócaire Coffee morning we raised a magnificent **£1,880.**

Your Support Matters.

Your Support Changes Lives.

Thank you for your support from the Trócaire Team

Ecumenical Prayer for Peace in Middle East and Ukraine

On Sunday 3 December, the Association Friends of Saint Columbanus here in Ireland are organizing an online Ecumenical Prayer Service for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine. We are inviting all our friends of St. Columbanus to join us in prayer. The Service will take place on Zoom from 6pm to 6.45 pm (GMT) 7.00pm - 7.45pm (European time).

Topic: Saint Columbanus Prayer Service for Peace

Time: Dec 3, 2023 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85637792228?pwd=cGE0SHh4Vy92RnRwbEVScU1HcINCUT09>

Meeting ID: 856 3779 2228

Passcode: 898197

GREAT WOMEN OF PRAYER & FAITH: AN ADVENT JOURNEY

There will be three talks during Advent in the Parish Centre, at St Colmcille’s Ballyhackamore on Wednesday evenings: **6th, 13th, and 20th December at 7.30pm**. The talks will be given by Mary Cairns, Rev Paul Hutton and Paula McKeown respectively. The evenings will conclude with supper. All are welcome.

ADORATION – *would anyone in the adoration group be willing to swap their earlier time slot to a 3-4pm time slot?*
Please contact Emma in the Parish Office to arrange

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Spiritual Preparation for Christmas - For Adults

Saturday 16th December - St John the Baptist PS, Finaghy Road North Belfast
Hosted by the Legion of Mary and Fr Darren Brennan PP
Registration 9:30am - 3pm Finish
Talks and Testimonies followed by Confessions, Adoration and Holy Mass
Cost is £10 - Includes Lunch
For more information or to book, please contact Luke on 07955386288
Prepare your Soul for Christmas!

Totus Tuus Magazine is a Catholic magazine, full of articles from Irish priests and laity, which aims to highlight the beauty and joy of our faith. It is going into its 7th year and is run by donations. If you haven't come across Totus Tuus Magazine and would like a free copy please contact Fiona Kiely on 086 8760058.

The 2024 Pioneer calendar is available from Pioneer centres and from Central Office (01 805 4226). The calendar is designed to offer spiritual support to families which are being impacted by alcohol and addiction. The calendar is priced at €5. Further information from www.pioneerassociation.org/calendar

Open Day Information for September 2024 Admission

St Comgall’s Primary

St Comgall’s Primary School warmly invites all prospective new parents/carers, and their children, to our Open Night on **Thursday 7th December 2023** with the Principal address at 7pm and tour to follow. If you require any additional information, please contact ajones169@c2kni.net in the school office.

St Malachy’s Primary School and Nursery Unit

The Principal & Staff of would like to welcome prospective Nursery and P1 parents and children to their OPEN NIGHT on **Tuesday 5th December 2023** at 6pm.
Address by Principal and Staff members, followed by tours of the school. If you require any further information, please contact the Principal via email srafferty812@c2kni.net.

St. Comgall’s Pre-School

The staff in St Comgall’s pre-school would like to invite prospective pre-school parents/carers to their Open Morning on **Thursday 7th December 2023** from 9.30am to 11am.

If you require any further information, please phone the Pre-School on 02891 468844 between 11.50am-12.30pm daily.

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St Comgall's Pre-School Education Centre
St Comgall's Parish Centre
23 Brunswick Road, Bangor BT20 3DS

Leader: Ms Colette O'Reilly
Deputy Leader: Mrs Patricia McWilliams
Assistants: Mrs Susan McDowell & Mrs Jan Alcock

St. Comgall's Pre-School Open Morning

We will be holding our 'Open Morning' on
Thursday 7th December 2023 from 9.30am to 11am
For the academic school year 2024/25

If you require any further information, please phone the Pre-School on
02891 468844 between 11.50am-12.30pm daily

'St. Comgall's Pre-school Education Centre's main aim is to promote the social, emotional and early educational development of each child in a safe, friendly, caring and fun filled environment'



Email: info@stcomgallspreschool.org.uk

Tel: 02891 468844 / Twitter: [@StCPreSchool](https://twitter.com/StCPreSchool)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINES

Bangor Conference 07703679384

(covering Bangor West, Clondeboye/Newtownards Road area, Kilcooley, Helens Bay and Crawfordsburn) will continue to use the existing number - .

Ballyholme/Donaghadee Conference 07703679389. (covering Bangor city centre, Bangor East/Ballyholme, Balloo/Bloomfield Road area, Conlig/Breezmount, Groomsport, Donaghadee and Millisle)

ADOPTIVE PARENTS NEEDED URGENTLY



Family Care Adoption Services is an Adoption Agency, and a core part of our work is to place children with new adoptive families. We provide adoption services throughout all Northern Ireland and work with Health and Social Care Trusts to place single children and sibling groups for adoption.

These children are aged from babyhood to approximately 5 years old.

There are currently more children waiting to be adopted in Northern Ireland than families approved to adopt and there is an urgent need for new families to come forward.

All sorts of people from all walks of life can be considered for adoption.

So, wherever you live in Northern Ireland if you think you could offer a child/ren a new life in a family of their own and would like an informal chat to discuss this and to find out more about adoption,

CONTACT US!

Email: email@familycareadoption.org

Phone: 02890 691133

Website: www.familycareadoption.com

We are waiting to hear from you!

DOWN AND CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST ST COLMCILLE'S PARISH BELFAST : VACANCY YOUTH & PASTORAL MINISTRY CO-ORDINATOR

An exciting opportunity has arisen where we seek to recruit, in a paid role, a Youth & Pastoral Ministry Co-ordinator. The post holder will be required to assist the Parish Priest in the development of Youth and Pastoral Ministry within St Colmcille's Parish, through the delivery of various programmes and initiatives. Hours of work – 20 hours per week, flexibility will be required from time to time. Full details relating to the vacancy, including an application form can be found on the Diocesan website at:

<http://www.downandconnor.org> clicking on the tab: job vacancies.

Closing date: this Tuesday 28th November at 12 noon.

Mary's Meals – Double the Love

Mary's Meals is keeping the promise of a daily school meal to over 2.4 million children in 18 countries. Our Double the Love Campaign has launched, and all donations made to Mary's Meals until 22nd January 2024 will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1million. Amongst the many challenges we see in today's world, from conflict to the cost-of-living crisis, your little acts of love can go further thanks to Double the Love, bringing hope to desperately hungry children and their families. Please pray that we can reach even more children around the world with our life-changing school meals this Christmas. Find out more and browse our Christmas gift cards at marysmeals.org.uk or freephone 0800 698 1212.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Mary's Meals mission.

Kindest Regards,

Caoimhe McCann



Caoimhe McCann
Supporter Engagement Officer – Northern Ireland
Mary's Meals UK
Based in Belfast, N.I
t: 07394564065
e: caoimhe.mccann@marysmeals.org



PRAYERS AT HOLY COMMUNION

Spiritual Holy Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present
in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things and
I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you have already come,
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.
composed by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

ANIMA CHRISTI

Prayer to the Most Holy Redeemer

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, embolden me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
From the evil enemy defend me.
At the hour of my death call me
and bid me to come to you,
that with your Saints I may praise you
for age upon age. Amen

Prayer Online: Come and join us at... www.soulpardonmission.com Who are we? We are a new interactive prayer website created by Jacinta Crockford DipTH, Spiritual Director living in Down and Connor. What's on offer? A variety of PDF meditations on Scripture, Mother Teresa, Ignatius Spirituality to name but a few. Lots of content to Dive into! There you will find - Podcasts on Faith, Friendship & Knowledge; Rosaries, Prayers and Marian Consecration, Videos of Reflective Prayers during Adoration. Come and join us and be part of the local prayer movement online!

CALENDAR OF SAINTS DAYS

October/November 2023

Saturday 07 October Our Lady of the Rosary	Wednesday 01 November All Saints
Monday 16 October St Gall	Thursday 02 November All Souls
Sunday 22 October Mission Sunday	Friday 03 November St Malachy
	Sunday 05 November Prisoners Sunday
	Sunday 19 November World Day of the Poor
	Tuesday 21 November The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Thursday 23 November St Columbanus