

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 9.30pm to 1pm.

Baptism of the Lord – 10 January 2021

PUBLIC MASS NEXT WEEK:

As you know there will be **NO PUBLIC MASS** in the Parish until the end of this lock down. The only exceptions will be funerals and marriages. You are encouraged to participate in daily Mass either by the parish podcast or using any of the Masses which are being streamed in the Diocese and throughout the world.

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Please note Daily Mass will be recorded for the Parish Podcast and available at the usual times: 11am weekday, 8pm Saturday.

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Fathers Gunn and Whyte wish to thank most sincerely all those who sent Christmas cards and gifts for their great generosity and thoughtfulness. The many kind words of support and assurances of prayers are deeply appreciated.

Sr Maura of the Columban Sisters

has added new reflections to the website page. Find them under the 'News' section of the tool bar and in the Columban Sisters page under 'The Parish Today'.

Preparing for Marriage?

Catholic Engaged Encounter

A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for 27-28 March 2021.

This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship.

Information/Booking: marriageencounter.ie or 028276 38512

Covid 19.

Are You, or anyone you know, having financial difficulties due to reduced or loss of income through Covid 19?

The Society of St Vincent de Paul, throughout North Down and Ards can help.

We know how hard it is to ask for help but these are extraordinary times and people are suffering through no fault of their own.

PLEASE contact us if you need help. **07703679384**

Podcast audio Mass is available on the parish website

www.bangorparish.com

(Daily) by **11.30am**. [Sat vigil] by **9pm**.



Your prayers are requested for

Recently Deceased:

Dympna Lillie, Maeve Hagan,
Ethna Caughey, Christina Bonar(Donegal).

Anniversaries:

Brendan McDowell, Peggy Carroll, Joseph Donaghy, Kevin Grimley, Maureen Murray, Freddie Burns, Sheila & Harry Currie, Michael Carlin, James Keenan, John Walsh, Angela McKee, Brian Quinn, Vincent O'Regan, Vera Farley, Gerry Donaghy, May McKenna, Ann McCaughey, Rita Flynn, Daniel O'Kane, Miriam Ellis, John Ellis, Lily McIlmurray, John McAloon, Michael McConville, Jim McDonagh, Ethna Taylor, Joe Donaghy, Peter Jennings.

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

we are here to support and listen.
Confidential. **075 1085 2157**

St Vincent de Paul Helpline 077 0367 9384

The Bangor Conferences of the Society of St Vincent de Paul offer a sincere

thank you for the very generous contributions from Parishioners following our Christmas Appeal. Your generosity is making a world of difference to families and individuals. On behalf of all those individuals, families and children you are helping, thank you. **Donations of good quality furniture and clothing are suspended temporarily.**

Bangor Parish Podcast

Fr Gunn offers Mass daily in the oratory of the Parochial House and podcasts it on the parish website. You can listen to the Parish podcasts by clicking on the audio files on the website or by searching for "**Parish Of Bangor Podcast**" in the apple or google podcast apps. You can download these apps from [Apple App Store](https://www.apple.com/app-store) or [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps). If you use these apps please **'subscribe'** to our channel so you receive all the latest podcasts straight to your phone or tablet.



Statement from the Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland
“As many people as possible *stay at home* for the sake of health, life and the Common Good”
7 January 2021

Following further briefing today by the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Officer, and in consultation with The Executive Office, we are very concerned at the current serious public health position in which Northern Ireland finds itself: with the extremely high level of transmission of the Covid-19 virus; the continuing escalation of numbers in hospital and intensive care; the number of associated deaths; and, the increasingly unsustainable pressure on our healthcare staff. The clear message from health officials is that this situation is going to worsen significantly over the coming weeks.

We recognise the efforts of so many in our parishes who have been working to ensure that our gatherings for public worship are as safe as possible and we welcome the continuing engagement between the faith communities and the NI Executive which has led to consensus between us on the importance of people being able to gather in person for worship. At this time, however, we acknowledge and support the unequivocal message from public health authorities that the movement and gathering of people should be minimised and that as many people as possible *stay at home* for the sake of health, life and the Common Good.

In light of our ongoing consultations and of the current serious and worsening situation, and in line with clear public health guidance that people should *stay at home*, we have decided that for a limited period (from midnight on Thursday 7 January until Saturday 6 February 2021, subject to review in late January), the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgies should take place without the physical presence of the faithful - with the exception of marriage, funeral, baptismal liturgies and drive-in services (subject to regulations). Arrangements for recording and/or livestreaming, and making individual visits for private prayer are also permissible in accordance with regulations. We encourage parishes, where possible, to continue to broadcast the celebration of Mass - and other devotions and prayer services - online and on other media, knowing that faith and prayer can be a tremendous support to individuals and society during these difficult times.

We make this decision reluctantly, conscious that not being able to gather for public worship can cause pain for all the faithful, but in the hope that this limited period of sacrifice will be for the protection of life and health and for the greater good of all. We once more ask for prayers for the sick, the bereaved and all those whose livelihoods have been particularly impacted by the pandemic. We keep in our prayers all health workers, carers, chaplains and other essential workers. We welcome the announcement that a similar position is being taken by the leaders of the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland and many other denominations and faith communities in response to the unequivocal message from public health authorities that as many people as possible stay at home at this time.

Most Rev Eamon Martin DD

Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All-Ireland
Apostolic Administrator of Dromore

Most Rev Noel Treanor DD

Bishop of Down and Connor

Most Rev Donal McKeown DD

Bishop of Derry

Most Rev Larry Duffy DD

Bishop of Clogher

Most Rev Michael Router DD

Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh

THE PARISH CENTRE IS CLOSED to groups until further notice due to social distancing as recommended by the Diocese of Down and Connor, which is following the government's advice.

If you would like your deceased family & friends to be prayed for please email your names to the parish office: E: bangor@downandconnor.org
all names will then be mentioned on the weekly Sunday bulletin.

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BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Baptisms will be starting back in February.
Evenings only until further notice at 7pm.
Wednesdays, Thursdays.
Please register online SIDE BAR under '**Sacramental Preparation**'

FULL COPY OF MISSALETTE ON THE WEBSITE on the Slider or found in 'NEWS'

As you will have noticed we have refreshed our website and have given some new prayer resources: Look under **The Parish Today**

- Daily Mass – uploaded by 11am.
- **NEW RESOURCES ONLINE... November 2020**
Prayer Resources & articles from the Columban Sisters – Sr Maura & Sr Suzanna.
- Family Creative Prayer.

Diocesan Directory available in the Parish Office.

Cost £4

Includes updated list of Priests, City & Country Parishes, Church Services, Diocesan Bodies, Religious Orders & Pastoral Organisations, Schools & Colleges, Index of deceased bishops and priests 1960 – 2019.

Different ways of donating to St Vincent de Paul.

Direct Payment to Conferences Bank Account. St Comgall's, Allied Irish Bank. Sort Code 93-82-03. A/C No is 25302098. **Most Holy Redeemer Ballyholme**, Allied Irish Bank. Sort Code 93-82-03. A/C No. 06885061.

For account reconciliation purposes, please provide a note of your name where indicated.

Gift Aid Envelopes will be made available. **Standing order form** is available on Parish website.

Taxpayers please tick the box which will give us an extra 25p in the pound. Thank you.

Donations of good quality furniture and clothing are suspended temporarily.

4 Corners Festival Belfast

This inter-denominational arts festival aimed at promoting reconciliation runs from January 31 to February 7. Because of the pandemic it is a purely on-line project with all events being available in the comfort of your home via "live" video streaming services such as Facebook and YouTube.

The theme is Breathe... The Hebrew word Ruach means 'breath' or 'spirit' – the source of life. And the festival aims to breathe hope and creativity into Belfast and further afield at a very difficult time.

The keynote speaker is Prof John Paul Lederach, the internationally renowned author and conflict transformation expert from the University of Notre Dame in the United States.

Morning and Night Prayer will be streamed throughout the festival. Night Prayer will be led by Jim Deeds, a pastoral worker in Down and Connor and his colleague, Paula McKeown, director of the diocesan Living Church Office will facilitate a workshop on resilience.

There will be discussions on topics such as domestic abuse and racism and one of the moderators will be Seamus McKee..

Due to the lack of social contact the organisers cannot spread word about the festival as they normally do and must rely heavily on social media. So, they would appreciate if you could follow them on Facebook and Twitter and share their posts whenever you can.

The Festival was co-founded in 2012 by Falls Road priest, Fr Martin Magill and Presbyterian minister, Rev Steve Stockman.

Further details can be found at the website 4cornersfestival.com

TRÓCAIRE thank you for your help. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.trocaire.org.
2. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI), please count the amount you have collected indicating the parish you are connected to by writing on the back of the cheque D&C Bangor Parish. Post your cheque through the post box at the parochial house with your Name, Address and Tel No. and we will send to Trocaire. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Holy Mass Live Stream

Holy Mass is celebrated Monday to Friday at 12 noon for friends and benefactors of **Aid to the Church in Need, Ireland**. Beginning soon, we will also host a weekly rosary, to facilitate prayerful community among our staff and benefactors. Contact info@acnireland.org if you would like to join us weekly to pray for the persecuted Church.

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Prayers of Intercession which you might like to use for private meditation can be accessed on the following link, which will bring you directly to the relevant page on the vocations.ie website.
<https://vocations.ie/2020/08/04/parish-vocation-resources-for-august-2020/>

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Knock Shrine offers virtual pilgrimages in unique times

This year, as we find ourselves in unique and challenging times, pilgrimage Masses will be broadcast online from Knock Basilica **every Sunday at 3pm**. The schedule for the afternoon will include the praying of the Rosary at 2.30pm, followed by Mass and Benediction at 3pm. The celebrant will be Fr. Richard Gibbons, PP, Rector at Knock Shrine. Daily Masses continue to be broadcast on the Knock Shrine website and Facebook page at 12 Noon and 7.30pm, with Rosary at 7pm. **SUNDAY MASS IS BROADCAST AT 12 NOON**, ROSARY AT 2.30PM and MASS AT 3PM. For further details, please see www.knockshrine.ie

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Mary's Meals Campaign

Despite the challenges of another lockdown, we embrace the start of a new year with the hope of better times and continue to be inspired by your love and support for our work. This January, as many of us turn our minds to achieving new resolutions and personal goals, the Miles For Mary's Meals campaign is the perfect way to fulfil your new year's resolutions while making a long-lasting difference to the world's poorest children. Whether it's taking on a regular run, getting on your bike or upping your daily step count, there are lots of different ways you can take part. Simply set yourself an active challenge and make a donation, or ask for sponsorship from friends and family for every mile that you achieve. And thanks to Double The Love, your miles will go even further! Give until 31 January 2021, and the UK government will match public donations, up to £2 million, helping us to reach more hungry children in Liberia.

Please ensure that you take part in your chosen challenge safely and follow Covid-19 restrictions in your local area.

Contact us at Mary's Meals E: info@marysmeals.org

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Deacon Eric Cooney | Administrator - National Vocations Office Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference | Columba Centre | Maynooth | Co. Kildare Tel: +353 (0)1 505 3118 email: Eric.Cooney@vocations.ie

The following link will bring you the resources for the period from next Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord) up to the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The link is: <https://vocations.ie/2021/01/04/parish-resources-jan-10th-to-feb-14th-2021/>

Alternatively they are easily found by just visiting the www.vocations.ie website.

Storehouse North Down

Storehouse continues to help St Vincent De Paul provide non-perishable food for those in need. Storehouse welcomes donations of foodstuff at their premises, 12 Balloo Avenue, Bangor on Mondays and Thursdays between 10.00am to 3.00 pm. Cash donations are also very acceptable.

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**ST ELISABETH CONVENT – (ORTHODOX)**

Dear Friend,

Merry Christmas to you! And those who celebrated on Dec 25 - blessed Epiphany!

**This Saturday, January 9th, 2021 at 9 am PST, 12 pm EST, 5 pm GMT, and 8 pm Moscow time, I - Sister Anastasia - and Brother Nicholas will host a YouTube Livestream called "Christmas Caroling Tradition" to bring you the joys of caroling into your home.**

The Livestream will be in English - all are welcome!

We know that many of us are still under strict rules about what we can do and where we can go. Even worse, churches may be closed as lockdowns continue... This means you may feel lonely and isolated from the rest of the world.

We are hosting this Livestream because we want you - and everyone reading these words - to know that THEY ARE NOT ALONE.

Our Livestream will be dedicated to the tradition of Christmas Caroling: How we celebrate Nativity, where we travel, what is caroling like and if it is relevant in the contemporary world. **Additionally, we will be answering your questions live on air. So it's another great reason to participate!**

So, regardless of where you are in the world, we want you to mark your calendar and set a reminder to join us. You can do so by clicking this link and then clicking the 'Reminder' button and bell underneath the video.

To learn more about Saint Elisabeth Convent's many ministries, please click on this link.

**Faith, Hope, and Charity: the many ministries of St Elisabeth Convent**

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**WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2021**

- from the Holocaust Memorial Day team at The Executive Office.

It is important that we continue to remember those who lost their lives in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides and that society learns lessons from the past to create a better future for all. **Holocaust Memorial Day** is a poignant commemoration and remains very important to all of us all. This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been decided there will not be a regional stand-alone event in NI and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust will hold a virtual UK wide commemoration event online with local contributions being made to ceremony which will be broadcast on the evening of 27 January 2021. The public registration portal is now open at:

[www.hmdt.geteventaccess.com/registration](http://www.hmdt.geteventaccess.com/registration) And also at Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/holocaust-memorial-day-2021-tickets-130788236135>

**Prayer Online:** Come and join us at... [www.soulpardonmission.com](http://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 Mother Teresa, St John Paul II, 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. Come and join us and be part of the prayer movement online! **Every Saturday at 4.30pm** over the next 3 months (Jan-March 2021) I will be leading a live Rosary broadcast with ShalomWorld Internet TV. Just click on the following link to access this time of prayer. [www.swprayer.org](http://www.swprayer.org) Please be assured that I will be including all the parishioners and their families during this Rosary.



## The Baptism of the Lord – 10 JANUARY 2021

**Penitential Act:** I confess to the almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

### Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Gloria

*Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.*

*Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex cælestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.*

*Domine Fili Unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostrum. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.*

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in Gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

**FIRST READING** 42:1-4.6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps28:1-4.9-10.R.v.11 **R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**SECOND READING** 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**GOSPEL** 1:7-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

## 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

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

By now, you are likely aware of RTE's blasphemous NYE "comedy" sketch, which portrays God as a rapist of Our Blessed Mother. In it, the Holy Trinity is mocked and the Mystery of the Incarnation is degraded. This offence is part of the wider cultural persecution of Catholics which is now rampant in modern Ireland. **Even more outrageously, it grossly offends the dignity of Mary's fiat and the beauty of the Annunciation.** While such decay of our culture is devastating to witness, it is nonetheless a clear invitation to press deeper into a life lived entirely for Christ. Drawing inspiration from the 245 million Christians around the world who suffer high levels of persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ, **let us have the moral courage to stand more boldly for our Catholic faith in post-Christian Ireland.**

### Ireland: Priest Rejects Insincere Apology From RTE

Father Sean Mulligan from the Clogher Diocese has rejected RTE's "insincere apology" of their blasphemous New Years' Eve comedy sketch, calling it **"a clear and direct attack on the Great Mystery of the Incarnation."** Father Mulligan pointed out that the offensive clip has not been removed from RTE player and that the apology itself was insincere. He called out their refusal to back down from their **"calculated insult to every person of faith and goodwill in this country, and to Christians throughout the world."**

WATCH THE VIDEO

← Hover mouse over the WATCH THE VIDEO and press `Ctrl+Click` together to follow link.

### **A SURVIVOR OF AN ISLAMIST BOMB BLAST LOOKS BACK WITH FORGIVENESS, 10 YEARS AFTER THE ATTACK THAT KILLED THREE OF HIS FAMILY MEMBERS, INCLUDING HIS MOTHER.** By Clodagh Gallagher

Kiro Khalil, Coptic Orthodox Christian, who survived a bomb attack in front of a church in Alexandria in 2010. (Credit: Aid To The Church In Need.) "I feel pity for my persecutors."

**Ten years ago on the 31st December 2010, Coptic Orthodox Christian Kiro Khalil survived a bomb explosion aimed at Christians that killed three members of his family.** It was after midnight and his family were among 4,000 Christians leaving the Church of St. Mark and St. Peter in Alexandria after New Years Eve service. At 20 years old, he says his world was "turned upside down" when a car bomb exploded beside the church and killed 24 people. **Among the dead were his mother, sister and aunt.** Another sister was severely injured and had to be operated on 33 times, but survived. Several hundred other people were also injured in the blast. **Instead of yielding to despair, Kiro says his faith in God has enabled him to feel hopeful that "three of [his] family members were chosen to be martyrs."**

In current-day Egypt, Christians are dying for their faith in Jesus Christ. **Most Coptic Christians have a cross tattooed on their wrist where Jesus was nailed, in remembrance of His crucifixion and of the 7th century Arab invasion of Egypt, when Christians were branded like cattle.** Kiro says that today, Egypt's extremists live under such severe pressure to conform to their regime that he feels pity for them; "they believe that they must carry out violence against those of different faiths in order to please God. These people have blood on their hands. How can a person live with that burden of guilt? I imagine that they are suffering just as greatly from the after-effects of this attack as I am."

**The persecution of Christians in Egypt is both historical and ongoing, with Christians a constant target of Islamist violence.** Christians account for a mere 10 percent of Egypt's 100 million population, making the country home to the largest Christian population within the boundaries of the modern Arab world. **Since 2011 hundreds of Egyptian Copts have been murdered in anti-Christian attacks. In October 2020, a violent sectarian clash was sparked when two Muslim adults beat up a 10 year old Christian child in the village of Dasbous.** The violence ended with attacks on local Christian homes. Over the past decade, many Christian homes, churches and businesses have been destroyed by Islamists. **Following the attack, Kiro was similarly subjected to discrimination and death threats.** He was forced to flee his Egypt and seek refuge in Germany. When asked whether he has any residual anger towards those who murdered his mother, sister and aunt, he emphasises the importance of loving our neighbour, stating: **"Since I was a child I have been the object of hate and discrimination because I am Christian. I was often verbally harassed at school, just because my name is Kiro, which is a traditional Christian name. My mother taught us children to love our fellow human beings no matter what they did to us. "Love thy neighbour as thyself".** My mother implanted this commandment of Jesus deeply within us. After the attack, it helped me tremendously in dealing with my grief."

**Aid To The Church In Need supports the upbuilding of the Catholic faith in Egypt.** As priests minister to their flock in such persecution, our pontifical charity supports them with Mass stipends. We are also supporting seminarians in their formation. In Egypt, the Christian faith is very much alive, despite the trials and tribulations they are facing. It is thanks to your generosity that we have been able to help them. May God bless you for your kindness towards your persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. If you would like to donate directly to a priest in a country like Egypt, you may do so through our Mass stipends, available here on our website. **100% of all your generous Mass Offerings are donated to the suffering and persecuted Church. All Holy Masses are celebrated by a priest providing pastoral care in the suffering and persecuted Church.** Alternatively, you can more generally support the work of our pontifical charity below, helping us to save lives, save souls and save the faith.