

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.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – 12th JANUARY 2025



St. Columbanus' College
A school for the whole community

OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 14 January
6:45pm–9pm
Principal's Address
at 7pm and 8pm

Ballymacconnell Road, Bangor

Call Us 02891270927

Visit Our Website stcolumbanus.org.uk

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH DONAGHADEE

Sunday 12th January @ 9am

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Saturday 11th January @ 6.30pm and
Sunday 12th January @ 10am and 12noon

MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK:

Monday 13th - Thursday 16th January @ 9.30am

REQUIEM MASS – Friday 17th January @ 10am

You are invited to a candlelit hour of adoration, quiet prayer and reflection with Taizé chant.

In Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber, Tuesday 14th January from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

Sunday 9am Mass will be celebrated in St. Comgall's Donaghadee for the month of January

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is seeking Doctors, Nurses and Adult Volunteer helpers for the 40th Diocesan Pilgrimage in 2025. The pilgrimage is from 10-15 July and volunteers receive a subsidised fare.

For more information or to register your interest, please visit

www.downandconnor.org/lourdes or email lourdes@downandconnor.org



ST COMGALL'S PARISH CENTRE

Our **Holy Shop** items continue to be sold at each Cuppa & Connect. We hold a small stock of bibles, missals, candles, cribs etc, but can place an order for specific items if needed.

***Cuppa & Connect dates for January 2025: - Sunday 12th January after 10am mass / Sunday 19th January after 12nd mass / Sunday 26th January after 10am mass**

*We held our Christmas Cuppa & Connect on 22nd December and it was a Christmas Cracker. We raised an astonishing £650 for the Danny Mills Foundation, who matched your generosity by supplying the Parish Centre with a life saving defibrillator. The children of the parish had a wonderful time at our disco and got to meet the big man, Santa himself. We look forward to hosting more special events in the future. Such a great event it was featured in our local Spectator newspaper!

You are warmly invited to the opening of this year's 4 Corners Festival with Dr Lorna Gold, Chair of the International Laudato Si Movement.

In this 10th anniversary year of Pope Francis' Encyclical "*Laudato Si'*", Belfast is privileged to host **Lorna Gold**, Chair of the International Laudato Si Movement, at the **4 Corners Festival** on **Sunday 2nd February** (7pm, Jennymount Methodist Church, 222 North Queen Street, BT15 3DH).

The **10th anniversary of Laudato Si'** coincides with the **Jubilee Year of Hope**, making it an ideal moment to reflect on the urgent call to care for God's creation. In his letter of February 2022, Pope Francis said, "*In the realization that all of us are pilgrims on this earth, which the Lord has charged us to till and keep (cf. Gen 2:15), may we never fail, in the course of our sojourn, to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home. It is my hope that the coming Jubilee Year will be celebrated and experienced with this intention too.*"

Drawing from her extensive experience as a climate activist, policy advisor, author and protagonist of the film, "**The Letter**", Lorna will explore the connections that bind us as a human family and our planet as a shared home. She will challenge and encourage us to take positive action for the wellbeing of future generations. The 4 Corners Festival is an annual celebration designed to inspire transformation across Belfast through events that promote peace, unity, and understanding. Let this talk be an opportunity to step out of our own corner, encounter fresh perspectives and be inspired to care for our common home.

Let's come together for a future of hope and justice. **All are welcome!**

Further info from info@jointhetodtogether.org

Register

here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/4cornersfestival2/1489258>

PARISH CENTRE – PARISH GROUPS 2024

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
BRIDGE CLUB at 7.15pm until 9.45pm [Minor Hall] LECTIO DIVINA GROUP 7.30pm – 8.30pm [St Dymphna's Room] BADMINTON NOW WEEKLY at 8 to 9pm [Main Hall]	FRIENDSHIP CLUB at 10.00am [Minor Hall] IRISH DANCING CLASSES at 6.00pm to 8.30pm [Main Hall] SVP at 7.30pm to 9.30pm [St Dymphna's Room]	PARENTS & TODDLERS 10am [Main/Minor Hall] MEDITATION GROUP at 12pm to 1.30pm [St Dymphna's Room] MENCAP Every fortnight at 6.00pm [Main/Minor Hall] FOLK GROUP AT 7pm [St Dymphna's Room] SENIOR CHOIR At 7.30pm [St Dymphna's Room]	St Comgall's Guide Unit (Girls aged 6-18) at 6.15pm to 8pm [Main/Minor Hall] IRISH LANGUAGE CLASS At 7pm to 8pm [St Dymphna's Room] CEILI DANCING at 8.15pm to 9.30pm [Minor Hall]	Ju-Jitsu Club (Juniors 5-15yrs) 6-7pm [Main Hall]

BOOKING ENQUIRIES TO BE MADE TO THE NEW PARISH CENTRE COMMITTEE VIA EMAIL: stcomgallspcc@gmail.com

Your prayers are requested for

Recently Deceased: EAMON KELLY (Dublin), PATRICIA (PAT) MCNALLY, MARY ANNE MCMULLAN (Ballymoney)

Month's Mind: RICHARD HUDSON, DECLAN MARTIN

Anniversaries: BRENDAN MCDOWELL, PEGGY CARSON, MICHAEL THOMAS MCCONVILLE, DAVE KELLEHEN, DAISY KELLEHEN, ANGLEA COLLINS, HELENA MCCLURG (nee Cross) ROSENA CONNOR, ROSE DAVIDSON, SEAN DALY, ANN MCCAUGHEY, VERA FARLEY, FLORENCE COLLINS, ETHNA TAYLOR, JOE & GERRY DONAGHY, PETER DOHERTY, DANIEL O'KANE, JUDITH SKELTON (nee Devitt), MICHAEL CARLIN, ARTHUR WATSON, GARY ROUSE

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

In Bishop Alan's recent letter explaining the Jubilee Year, he encouraged us to take part in a pilgrimage of Hope in 2025.

The novena prayer to Our lady of Knock begins " Our Lady of Knock Queen of Ireland you gave hope to your people in a time of distress and comforted them in sorrow,"

Each year parishoners from Portaferry. Ballygalget, Kircubbin and further afield travel to Our Lady's shrine in Knock to honour our Blessed Mother and pay homage to her son Jesus.

We invite you to travel with us this year on our Pilgrimage Of Hope on the 30th August 2025.

For details contact Brendan O'Neill on 07775 820006 or Lorrell in the parish office on 028 427 28373

Al-Anon offering Family support for those affected by alcoholism

Dry January 2025

Local people, from all backgrounds are being urged to think about drinking and the effects on Families as we approach Dry January 2025.

Al-Anon is launching a new campaign 'You are not alone!' during Dry January 2025 to encourage more people living with problem drinkers to find their local Al-Anon meeting.

In Northern Ireland there are 30 Al-Anon groups, and more than 700 Groups throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland. They provide support to anyone whose life is, or has been affected by someone else drinking.

A spokesperson said 'Whatever your story, you can expect to be warmly welcomed, and not judged or pressurised in any way. Anything discussed within an Al-Anon meeting is treated as confidential, including your presence at the meeting.'

By attending Al-Anon Family Group meetings, individuals discover that they didn't cause the problem and cannot control or cure it. They also learn how best to cope with their situation by switching their focus from the alcoholic to themselves.

Whatever your relationship to the drinker, whatever your story, Al-Anon can help. We hold regular meetings where members share their own experience of living with alcoholism. Our Information Office, based in Belfast is opened from 10am – 1pm Monday to Friday; contact number 02890682368.

All meetings are listed on the website www.al-anonuk.org.uk, or you can call our Confidential Helpline on 02890682368 10am – 1pm or 6pm – 10pm daily.

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)

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 **077 325 13400**

The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Beginning Experience is offering a programme of bereavement support in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast on three Saturdays (25th January; 22nd February and 29th March) Booking essential. To find out more, contact Pauline [07519289185](tel:07519289185) or Marie [07896119669](tel:07896119669) or email belfastbe@yahoo.com

- Towards Peace is an independent organization that provides a spiritual support and professional service for survivors of physical, emotional, sexual and spiritual abuse who suffered in an institutional, clerical or religious setting in Ireland. Funded by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Association of Missionary and Religious in Ireland, the vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space for people and their families, whose spiritual life has been damaged by abuse. Through spiritual accompaniment with a qualified spiritual director, Towards Peace endeavours to accompany people as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace is also a response to the continually growing understanding of the spiritual impact of the trauma of abuse and seeks to raise awareness about this within the Church. The Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service is free of charge and for more please see <https://towardspeace.ie/>**

ACCORD NI Catholic Marriage Care Service is currently recruiting people to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators.

- Accord wants to hear from you!

Successful applicants will receive professional training and will be part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes locally.

Contact Brenda on 02890 233002 or by email to info@accordni.com

www.accordni.com

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!
