

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.

Sixth Sunday of the Year – 14 February 2021

PUBLIC MASS NEXT WEEK:

As you know there will be **NO PUBLIC MASS** in the Parish until the end of this lock down.

Dear Parishioners,

This Wednesday sees the beginning of Lent but because the churches are closed due to Covid we have to do things differently this year. In Milan, Catholics practice a different rite known as the Ambrosian rite. They do not celebrate Ash Wednesday, Lent lasts two weeks longer than in our Roman rite, and there is no Mass on a Friday in Lent because each Friday is celebrated as a mini Good Friday. A different way of being catholic (there are nineteen of them) is constantly evolving! Perhaps we should see the enforced change of our practice of the outward observance of Lent as an opportunity to explore our relationship with God more deeply by examining the reason why in the season of Lent we undertake to fast, pray and give alms. I draw your attention to the Jesuit exercises, the Lenten services from Newtownards, the Living Youth Lenten programme, Morning & Evening Prayer Sundays of Lent (Bangor Podcast) – all details can be found in this bulletin. The Meditations on the Icons of Bangor (to follow weekly during Lent).

May this very different way of living Lent bring us closer to God as we try to heed the statement of St. John the Baptist, "He must increase, I must decrease." May we open our eyes to the blessings we take for granted and be ever more aware to the sufferings and needs of our brothers and sisters at home and around the world.

Yours sincerely,
J.Gunn

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Please note Daily Mass will be recorded for the Parish Podcast and available at the usual times: 11am weekday, 9pm Saturday.  
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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'.

NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER PARISH

www.newtownardsandcomber.com

- **LENTEN JOURNEY 2021**- *'Walking with Jesus along the Via Dolorosa'*, every **WEDNESDAY EVENING at 7pm** during Lent. Starting on **Ash Wednesday, 17th February**. Fr Martin O'Hagan will lead the sessions together with the Knights of St Columbanus **via** the parish webcam.

The annual **Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse** will take place on Friday 19 February 2021. The diocese will mark this day with a Mass in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast, at 10 am.
<https://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral>

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:

Eileen Fitzgerald (Dungannon)

Anniversaries:

Sidney Stalford, Eddie McElroy, David Carlin, Deirdre Clarke, Fiona Clarke, Thomas Doherty, Brigid Doherty, Mary Waddell, Michael Devlin, Ellen Curran, Rita Brogan, Anne Louise Wilson, Eileen Bell, Anne McBurney, Brian Duffy, Michael Coyle.

LENT REFLECTIONS & RESOURCES

Jesuit Centres – Britain & Dublin

www.pathwaystogod.org/resources
www.Manresa.ie

Diocesan – Living Church Committee

Walking with Jesus along the Via Dolorosa
(found on website under Bulletins click for sub-folder 'Reflections')

Morning & Evening Prayer Sundays in Lent.

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

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

St Vincent de Paul Helpline 077 0367 9384

Donations of good quality furniture and clothing are suspended temporarily.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2021

We invite expressions of interest from parents of children not attending Catholic Schools who wish to have them confirmed. Please contact the parish office as soon as possible for registration.

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://www.google.com/googleplay). If you use these apps please **'subscribe'** to our channel so you receive all the latest podcasts straight to your phone or tablet.



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 mid-February 2021.

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.

Blessed Carlo Acutis said...

"I believe that many people don't fully understand the value of Holy Mass"

He was convinced that "If we spend time in the sunshine we get a tan. But if we spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist then we become Holy."

"Sadness is when we look into ourselves, happiness is when we look towards God."

Blessed Carlo Acutis is set to become the first millennial saint. This isn't the first time the Catholic Church has canonized children. On Oct. 10, 2020, a young Italian named Carlo Acutis was [beatified](#) at a special Mass in the city of Assisi, putting the late teenager just one step away from sainthood. It allows Catholics to venerate him as "Blessed Carlo Acutis."

[Acutis died of leukemia](#) in 2006, at the age of 15. Like other boys his age, he was avidly interested in computers, video games and the internet. He was also a devout Catholic who went to Mass daily and persuaded his mother as well to be a regular attendee. One of his pet projects was designing a webpage [listing miracles across the globe](#) associated with the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, believed by Catholics to be the body and blood of Christ. www.americamagazine.org/

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.

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 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 Please be assured that I will be including all the parishioners and their families during this Rosary.



Sixth Sunday of the Year – 14 February 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, Iesu 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, Iesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in Gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

FIRST READING 1-2.44-46 A reading from the book of Leviticus

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps31:1-2.5.11.R.v.7 R. You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

SECOND READING 10:31 - 11:1 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

GOSPEL 1:40-45. 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

Greetings from Rev. Dr. Eunan McDonnell SDB, Deacon Don Devaney and the Divine Mercy conference committee. We wish you all the joy and peace of Christ in the year ahead.

The virtual **Divine Mercy Conference (2021)** will take place on **19, 20, and 21 February**.

It will be broadcast through our website www.divinemercyconference.com free of charge. It will also be available on www.RadioMaria.ie and you may listen in via your TV on Saorview 210 (audio only) and dial up listening service 01-4373277.

The theme of this our 30th Conference is: *For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory* (Mt. 6:13).

The speakers over the weekend are: Sr. Briege McKenna, Healing Ministry, Conference Speaker and author. Fr. Hayden Williams, OFM Cap, Healing Ministry and preacher. Fr. Colomba Jordan C.F.R, Healing Ministry and Retreat Director. Fr. Brendan Walsh, SCA, Retreat Director, Healing Ministry and Conference speaker. Rev. Dr. Eunan McDonnell, SDB, Provincial of the Salesians in Ireland and Spiritual Director to the Conference Committee. Fr. Eamonn McCarthy, Director of Radio Maria. Christy May, Legion of Mary member who will share his testimony of conversion.

LENTEN PIONEER PLEDGE

Many people choose to abstain from alcohol during Lent. Why not take this opportunity to perhaps help yourself or someone you know with an alcohol or drug problem by offering your sacrifice for freedom from addiction? Please consider taking the short- term Lenten Pledge and make a difference to someone's life and say the following daily prayer.

PRAYER: " I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink during Lent."

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.

Knock Shrine offers virtual pilgrimages

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

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.

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**

Right To Life UK. [Stand Up and Smile campaign](#)

to protect babies with cleft-lip and club foot. Below an intercessory prayer.

"We pray for all women going through unexpected pregnancies, that they would experience peace and support in their situations, and experience the many blessings that motherhood brings."

Ask your MP to sign a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain

A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link below:

www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

livingchurch@downandconnor.org are offering **Lectio Divina Sessions** over the Lenten period. There are 3 sessions to choose from.

Beginning on Monday **15th February @7:00pm** via Zoom and running for 5 weeks.
Beginning on Thursday **18th February @1:30pm** via zoom and running for 5 weeks.
Beginning on Thursday **18th February @7:00pm** via zoom and running for 5 weeks.

If you would like a copy of the Lectio Divina programme or would like to register for one of the Living Church sessions, please contact Geraldine at livingchurch@downandconnor.org

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 385

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St Joseph's Consecration - Poster

Poster of special dates in the Year of St Joseph when you can especially make a consecration to him can be found on the subfolder of the 'Bulletin' page under noticeboard...

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Each week, **Living Youth** will be posting an activity for young people to engage in, which will have a video outlining the activity, a task/guidance for those aged 11-14 to complete and a task/guidance for those aged 15-18 to complete.

The themes for each week are:

- Week 1 - Fasting from Consumerism
- Week 2 - Mental Wellbeing with the 4 Corners Festival
- Week 3 - Social Awareness with Habitat for Humanity
- Week 4 - Digital Fasting for Mother's Day
- Week 5 - Praying with Your Parish
- Week 6 - Almsgiving to a Foodbank
- Week 7 - Praying for Our Church (Mass of Christ)
- Week 8 - Pilgrimage to Your Parish (Easter Week)

www.livingyouth.co.uk

The full programme and resources for the programme can be found at <https://www.livingyouth.co.uk/lent-2021-resources> and the weekly activities for participants will be posted at <https://www.livingyouth.co.uk/lent-2021> and on the Living Youth [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#).

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

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UPDATES FROM North Down Community Network

UPDATES TO CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

Our Community Hub remains closed for walk ins, however, there is a member of staff here each week day, should anyone need to knock on our door or call for support. Staff will continue

work remotely and help deliver essential shopping and pick up prescriptions for those who need it. Again, our booklet will help those seek a service of support depending on their

need and the link is attached to download as a PDF -

<https://ndcn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Winter-Booklet-2020.pdf>

full brochure found on the parish website under 'Bulletin' subfolder 'noticeboard'...

CATHOLIC GROUPS ANNOUNCE VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND

CNA Staff, Feb 8, 2021 / 03:46 pm (CNA).- Several Catholic groups have opened on-line registration for a free virtual pilgrimage, where pilgrims may experience the culture and prayer of the Holy Land for over 40 days. It is titled the "Pilgrimage In Faith: A Virtual Lenten Journey Through the Holy Land Inspired by Abraham, Our Father in Faith" and will take place **between Feb. 15 and April 4.**

This is the second virtual pilgrimage since the organizations the Pontifical Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center, Terra Sancta Mexico, and Magdala conducted a similar trip in October. Pilgrims will experience a virtual tour of the Holy Land through Lent and Holy Week, and they will conclude the pilgrimage with a broadcast of Easter Vigil Mass and a reflection of the "Pilgrimage in Faith." Each day, the virtual tour will offer a 30-minute reflection on the Creed alongside significant locations in the Holy Land. It will then be followed by the broadcast of Mass. The first two days will also include two introductory videos from pilgrim leaders Kathleen Nichols and Father Eamon Kelly. The Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi and the RC Music Collective have provided a majority of musical content for the pilgrimage. An additional piece was composed by Alejandro de la Garza to help pilgrims meditate through the Lenten period. Several registered participants will also win a special gift at the end of the virtual pilgrimage. The gifts will be raffled on Easter Sunday.

<http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/catholicnewsagency/dailynews/~3/CM664CfSLG0/#noredirect>

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

15th anniversary of Italian priest's martyrdom

IT HAS BEEN 15 YEARS SINCE FR. ANDREA SANTORO WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY A GUNMAN IN HIS CHURCH IN TRABZON, TURKEY. IN ADVANCE OF THE ITALIAN PRIEST'S ANNIVERSARY, AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED SPOKE WITH FR. ANDREA'S FRIEND, CARDINAL ENRICO FEROCI. By Conn McNally



The funeral of Fr. Andrea Santoro. (Credit: Cristian Gennari)

On 5th February 2006, Fr. Andrea Santoro was shot and killed in Trabzon, Turkey. **Fr. Andrea was kneeling in prayer at his church when he was shot and killed by a 16-year-old Islamist.** The priest was hit by two bullets. One to his liver and one to his heart. Fr. Andrea Santoro was 60-years-old when he was murdered. The priest was from Italy and had volunteered to go to Turkey in 2000 to minister to the small

Catholic community in Trabzon. Fr. Andrea was born in 1945 in Priverno in the Lazio region of Italy, close to Rome. In 1970, Fr. Andrea was ordained in Rome and began ministry in a parish on the outskirts of the Eternal City.

Fr. Andrea Santoro. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

On the 15th anniversary of the martyrdom of Fr. Andrea, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) spoke with

Cardinal Enrico Feroci. The Italian cardinal had known Fr. Andrea and was friends with him. The cardinal said of him: **"I remember him with particular affection. I had a long-standing friendship with him."**

The two men had gotten to know each other while in Rome, with both having spent extended periods of their lives in the city. In fact, **Cardinal Feroci had seen Fr. Andrea just four days before his death.** Fr. Andrea had been in Rome and was returning to Turkey. **Cardinal Feroci speaks of the last time he saw his friend:**

"I had accompanied him to Fiumicino airport here in Rome, and we said goodbye. **It was the last embrace of my friend before he left for Turkey.**"

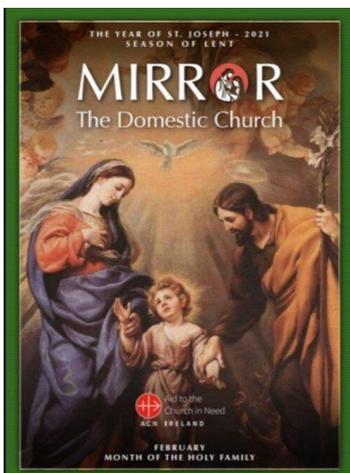


Fr. Andrea Santoro. (Credit: Cristian Gennari)

Cardinal Feroci said that Fr. Andrea was very committed and keen to serve the Middle Eastern Church. **The Italian priest believed it was very important for the Church of Rome, as the head Church, to show respect and give support to the Church in the Middle East, the birthplace of Christianity.** While in Trabzon, Fr. Andrea had spent time working with the local Muslim population to improve relations.

When Cardinal Feroci heard of his friend's death he was saddened, but still maintained hope. In the cardinal's own words:

"I believe in what our forefathers used to say, **'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christianity.'** I believe that the profound witness of faith of Fr. Andrea's priestly life – lived in respect and love of neighbours – will bear fruits of opening, in the sense that people will be more willing to listen to the Word of God and to serve their brothers and sisters."



The Mirror: The Domestic Church

If you have been inspired by our work, consider subscribing to our monthly publication, 'The Mirror'. February's issue is 'The Domestic Church'. **Each month, we highlight the many injustices faced by Christians around the world and the work we do to combat this.** We also offer thought-provoking articles to help elevate our readers hearts and minds towards God our Saviour and towards the suffering Body of Christ...

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