

# 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](http://www.bangorparish.com) Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am to 1pm.

## Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday – 15th December 2024



Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock

### OPEN MORNING

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
9.00 am - 12.30 pm

The College Principal, Miss McLaughlin, will address visitors in the College Hall at 9.00 am and 11.00 am.



120 Glinahirk Road  
Belfast  
BT5 7DL

info@knock.co.uk  
028 9040 1184

### MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH BALLYHOLME

Sunday 15th December @ 9am

### ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December @ 6.30pm and  
Sunday 15th December @ 10am and 12noon

### MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK:

DAILY MASS NEXT WEEK 16th – 20th December @9.30am

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

St Comgall's Church Brunswick Road @ 5, 7 & 9pm

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

Most Holy Redeemer Church Ballyholme @ 9am

St Comgall's Church Brunswick Road @ 9 & 11am

Carol Singing: Most Holy Redeemer Church Ballyholme:  
Immediately following mass at 9am on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 Carol Singing will be held. All parishioners, friends and families are welcome.

### Penitential Services

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec – Ballygalget @ 6pm**  
**Portaferry @ 7pm**

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – Ardkeen @ 7pm**

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – N'Ards & Comber @ 7pm**

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Bangor @ 7pm**

### **CELTIC CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT FOR ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

St Mary's Church, Chapel Lane, Belfast, is the venue for a special event in aid of this year's St Vincent de Paul Annual Appeal. Celebrating 180 years in Ireland, the Society is experiencing an increase in calls for help every day due to the crippling increased costs associated with day to day living and, although it can be the most wonderful time of the year, for some families at this time of year they wonder whether they will have Christmas at all. Local Belfast man Patrick Davey of Davey Music is a respected performer, teacher and composer of traditional Irish music, and he will be hosting Celtic Carols by Candlelight in St Mary's Church, Chapel Lane, Belfast, on Sunday 22 December at 5.00pm. There will be music and readings for the season from the Celtic nations and proceeds from the event will be donated to this year's SVP Annual Appeal. [www.svp.ie](http://www.svp.ie)

### Invitation to Opening of Jubilee Year – 29<sup>th</sup> December

On Christmas Eve 2024, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and the Jubilee of Hope will begin in Rome. The theme the Holy Father has chosen for this year of special graces is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and he invites the whole People of God – clergy and laity – to celebrate God's Gift of Grace through their expressions of Deep Faith, Lively Hope and Active Charity. The Holy Year in the Diocese will begin on the Feast of the Holy Family.

All parishioners are warmly invited to join Bishop Alan McGuckian at the Solemn Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year of Hope on Sunday, 29th December at 3pm in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast. We encourage everyone to attend and be part of this celebration for the Jubilee Year. The webcam will allow for people to view the Mass from home: [www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral](http://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral)

On Thursday, we commemorated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We ask for the intercession of this patroness of the unborn, saying: 'Let us implore the gift of children for families without children, respect for conceived life and the openness of hearts to Gospel values'. Lord hear us.

**PARISH CENTRE – PARISH GROUPS 2024**

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

**BOOKING ENQUIRIES TO BE MADE TO THE NEW PARISH CENTRE COMMITTEE VIA EMAIL: [stcomgallspcc@gmail.com](mailto:stcomgallspcc@gmail.com)**

**Your prayers are requested for**

**Recently deceased: DECLAN MARTIN**

**Anniversaries: JOAN LARKIN, MARGO SAUNDERS, ORLA O'REILLY, CHRISTINA MCCAMBRIDGE, ANN SPRUCE, CHARLOTTE MCALORUM, MAY TROUPE, PHYLLIS HARVEY, JOE WALSH, LILY SIMPSON, DESMOND HANNA, BRIAN DUFFIN, GEORGE & JEAN DUFFIN, NORA SOMERVILLE**

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**ST COMGALL'S  
PARISH CENTRE**

Cuppa & Connect is back this Sunday after 12md Mass, thank you all for your continued support. Ballot tickets continue to be sold for our **Christmas raffle** in aid of a Defibrillator for our Parish Centre. Prizes include a Christmas food hamper, a pamper hamper, a Bryansburn Inn voucher and a meat voucher from Irvine's butchers, to name but a few. The ballot will be drawn at our Christmas Cuppa & Connect on Sunday 22nd December.

We are delighted to announce that our new **Parents & Tots group** will be commencing on Wednesday 8th January at 10am. We have a fabulous team of new volunteers who are ready to welcome everyone.

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.

Upcoming dates for the diary:

Sunday 15th December: Cuppa & Connect after 12 midday Mass;

Sunday 22nd December: **Christmas Cuppa & Connect** after 10am Mass, with a special appearance from Santa and a Christmas disco 🎅🎄🎁🎄🎅

Wednesday 8th January: **Parents & Tots group** 10am.

We continue to recruit volunteers to re-establish parish groups. Please register your details through our new email account: [stcomgallspcc@gmail.com](mailto:stcomgallspcc@gmail.com) or by telephoning the Parish Office on 02891465522.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINES**

**Bangor Conference 07703679384**

(covering Bangor West, Clandeboye/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**

- Towards Peace Spiritual Support Service

**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/>**

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**Accord NI Catholic Marriage Care  Service seeking  
Marriage Preparation Facilitators**

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

- If you have a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church
- If you have the enthusiasm to be part of the Accord team in supporting couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage

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](mailto:info@accordni.com)

[www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com)

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## 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](mailto:email@familycareadoption.org)

Phone: 02890 691133

Website: [www.familycareadoption.com](http://www.familycareadoption.com)

We are waiting to hear from you!

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