

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.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE – 21 November 2021

MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK:

Monday to Friday at 9.30am
[no registration needed]

MASS TIMES NEXT WEEKEND:
1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT

VIGIL SATURDAY 27 November @ 6.30pm
SUNDAY 28 November @ 10am, 12noon

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED

SUNDAY MASSES

Admittance will be on a first come first served basis and if the permitted number is exceeded a notice to that effect will be posted on the Church door.

Safety of parishioners and welcome to all, particularly families are joint top priorities. **Please note that the Covid sanitising regulations have not changed and will continue to be strictly observed.**

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PRAYING WITH THE ICONS

*under **The Four Saints** found in 'Parish Today'*

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NOVEMBER DEAD LIST

In the month of November when we pray especially for all the dead you are invited to list deceased friends and relatives you wish to have included in the November Masses. Lists can be found at the entrance and exit. Kindly deposit your list in the envelope provided in the November Dead Box at the Exit Porch.

The envelopes will be opened and the lists placed on the altar so that they may be included in all Masses offered by Fr Whyte and Fr Gunn during the month.

Sunday 21 November

A United Celebration Church Service at 6.30pm – 7.15pm
(also streamed live online)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1PIXcmmm4H5F7ballowWHQ>

Bangor Abbey, Bangor

A cross-community ecumenical church service on the theme of 'Nature' that celebrates the life and legacy of Columbanus.

Guest speaker: Fr. Sean McDonagh, Columban Fathers, Navan

Music: Down Singing Circle and Bangor Abbey Choir

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**MASS OF SAINT COLUMBANUS**  
**TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER at 7.30pm**

Celebrant: Fr Joseph Gunn. Fr Henry McCann will be concelebrating.

This will be attended by a group of the Knights of St Columbanus. Admittance will be first come: alternatively Watch online by webcam.

### Your prayers are requested for



#### Recently Deceased:

Patricia Hanna,  
Desmond Keenan

#### Anniversaries:

Robert Coulter, Kathleen Storey, Margaret Forte, Maureen Duffy, Marian McLarnon, Charlie Morrison, Peg Connell, Alice Carvill, Geraldine Shields, Daniel McCambridge, Kathleen Horan, Rose Gethin, Patricia McGivern.

### 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'.

### BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Evenings only until further notice at 7pm. Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please register online SIDE BAR under 'Sacramental Preparation'

### Bethany Bereavement Support Group

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

**St Vincent de Paul**  
**Helpline 077 0367 9384**

**Mass is Live Streamed and can be accessed via the Parish Website**

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

### Sunday 21 November at 3pm

Bishop Noel will lead a Prayer Service from St Peter's Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to join online with me and the diocesan representatives of Safeguarding for this Prayer Service via Church Services TV. To join, kindly follow the links to the...

Cathedral webcam:

<http://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral>

**8 Page Bulletin don't forget to scroll down for all the updated information...**

# Columbanus Festival 2021

## COLUMBANUS FESTIVAL

Commemorating the life and legacy of Columbanus  
Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 November

**20 November/Calligraphy Workshop for Children/11.00am - 1.00pm/Free\***

**Ballyholme Parish Church Hall, Groomsport Road, Bangor**

Acclaimed calligrapher Jacquie Brachi will teach basic skills as practised by the Bangor monks in the 6th century. All materials supplied.

**20 November/Nature and Humanity in Irish Monastic Poetry**

**Lecture by Zoom/11.00am/Free**

Inspired by Irish monastic poetry, Brooklyn born Tim Dwyer will discuss how the monks created images of nature and conveyed deep human feeling and spirituality, ranging from grief to humour and satire through their poetry and writings.

**20 November/Calligraphy Workshop for Adults/2.00pm - 4.00pm/£10\***

**Ballyholme Parish Church Hall, Groomsport Road, Bangor**

Acclaimed calligrapher Jacquie Brachi will teach basic skills as practised by the Bangor monks in the 6th century. All materials supplied.

**21 November/Columbanus Bell Walk/1.30pm - 3.00pm/£6**

**Meet at the Bangor Bell, Bangor Abbey, at 1.30pm**

Brigid Watson, an experienced and qualified guide, will trace the story of Columbanus from Bangor to Bobbio by following the Bangor Bell Trail through Castle Gardens to the North Down Museum.

**To Book - follow the link below:**

[www.visitardsandnorthdown.com/news/2021/11/3/columbanus-festival-a2535](http://www.visitardsandnorthdown.com/news/2021/11/3/columbanus-festival-a2535)

or drop into **Bangor or Ards Visitor Centres**, or call **028 9127 0069**

**21 November/A United Celebration Church Service/6.30pm - 7.15pm\*  
(also streamed live online)**

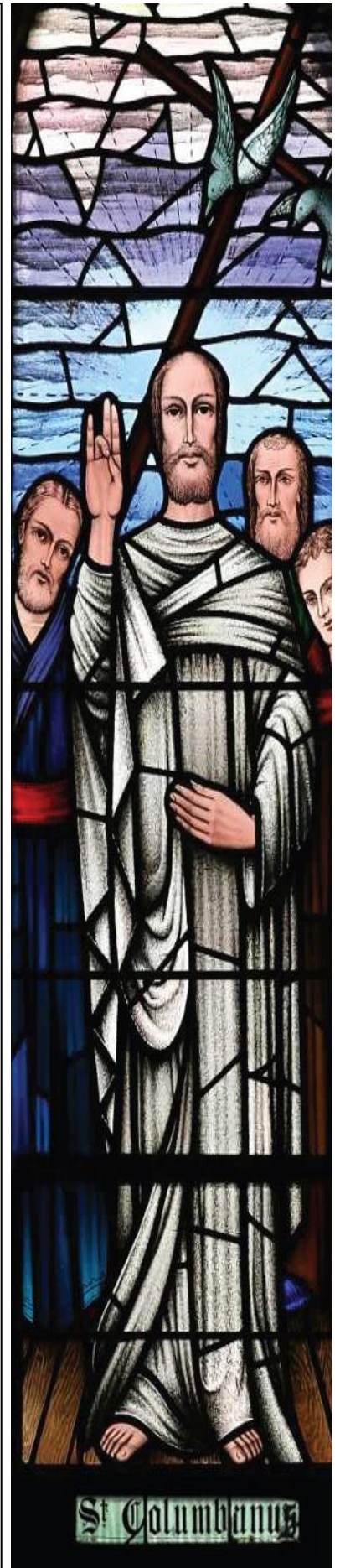
**Bangor Abbey, Bangor**

A cross-community ecumenical church service on the theme of 'Nature' that celebrates the life and legacy of Columbanus.

Guest speaker: Fr. Sean McDonagh, Columban Fathers, Navan

Music: Down Singing Circle and Bangor Abbey Choir

\*Masks must be worn at these indoor events



If you would like your deceased family & friends to be prayed for please email your names to the parish office: E: [bangor@downandconnor.org](mailto:bangor@downandconnor.org)  
all names will then be mentioned on the weekly Sunday bulletin and at all the weekend Masses.

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

## Bangor Parish Podcast



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](#) or [Google Play](#). If you use these apps please '**subscribe**' to our channel so you receive all the latest podcasts straight to your phone or tablet.

### NOVEMBER - Month of the Holy Souls.

Many people choose to abstain from alcohol for the month of November and offer up their sacrifice for their deceased family members and friends. You can do likewise.

Please consider taking the **Short-Term Pledge for November** and say the Prayer daily:

"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 November". Thank You.

### **SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

This year, as Bishop of the Diocese, I have designated Sunday 21st November as 'Safeguarding Sunday'. This is an opportunity for all the parishes to come together and acknowledge the dedication of hundreds of parish volunteers who serve in the ministry of Safeguarding across the Diocese. During the celebration of the Sunday liturgy, we will renew our commitment to the pastoral care of victims of sexual abuse as well as children, young people, and adults in our parishes.

On **Sunday 21 November at 3pm**, I will lead a Prayer Service from St Peter's Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to join online with me and the diocesan representatives of Safeguarding for this Prayer Service via Church Services TV. To join, kindly follow the links to the Cathedral webcam: <http://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral>

+ Noel Treanor  
Bishop of Down and Connor

**The Society of St Vincent de Paul offers practical and confidential help to those in need throughout the North Down Area. We know it can be hard to ask for help but please, if you need help call us on our Helpline, 07703679384.**

To help us to help others you can make direct payments 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.  
Please provide a note of your name where indicated.  
Gift Aid Envelopes will be made available. Standing order form is available on Parish website.

***We can now accept donations of Good quality furniture – please call our Helpline or speak to a member of the Society.***

#### **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.

#### **COVID INFORMATION**

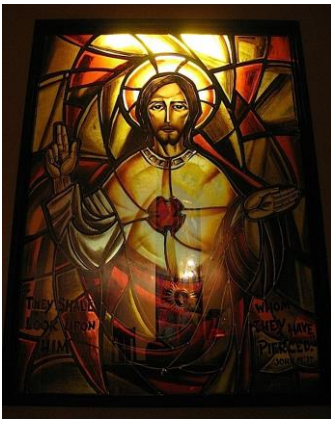
An up-to-date summary of all Executive regulations and guidance can be found at:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>



#### **Angel Guardian**

"Angel of God my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen."



## Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – 21 November 2021

**Lord Jesus, you have said, 'Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.'** I come to you in faith and trust, in love and hope. Let me know your closeness to me and your care for me and for all who are dear to me.

**My intention:** Hear my prayer (*mention intention*); grant what I ask, and may I always trust that in all that happens in life, you will be close to me as my friend, guide and saviour. And so, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

**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.

### 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

### CALENDAR OF SAINTS DAYS

## OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2021

#### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November

The Dedication of the Basilica of Ss Peter and Paul

#### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November

Blessed Virgin Mary

#### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

#### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Saint Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

#### Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Saint Columbanus, Abbot & Missionary

#### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November

Saints Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions

#### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Saint Clement I, Pope & Martyr

#### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Saint Fergal, Bishop & Missionary

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November

First Sunday of Advent

#### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Saint Andrew, Apostle

#### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

#### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Saint John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

**Prayer Online:** Come and join us at... [www.soulparemission.com](http://www.soulparemission.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!

**Saturday at 4.30pm (live)** I will be leading the Most Holy Rosary. **Saturday at 8.30pm (live)** I will be leading prayer with Eucharistic Adoration on the Catholic Internet TV – Shalom World 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 live Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration.

**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](http://www.knockshrine.ie)

**The Lough Derg Pilgrim Path** on the lough shore is now open daily. The full route is a 12km loop, with a shorter 8km option, and several information boards highlight features of particular interest. Leaflets are available at the Visitors Centre. For bookings and further information email [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org) or telephone 0(0353) 71 9861518.



**MARY'S MEALS** [info@marysmeals.org](mailto:info@marysmeals.org)

We have some incredible news! From today until 31 January 2022, every donation made to our Double The Love appeal will be matched, up to £1.6 million!

This is all thanks to a group of generous supporters, who have promised to double your donations. You can help us access all of the available funding by giving to Mary's Meals during the campaign period.

**Donate now and double your gift**

The work of Mary's Meals is a fruit of prayer. We rely on your continued prayers to help us reach hungry children around the world, including those affected by natural disasters, conflict, and the ongoing Covid pandemic. Sibongile and Sarah live with their family in a farming village in Zambia. It takes the girls two hours to walk to school. But they make the journey knowing that they will soon receive their serving of Mary's Meals which will help them to concentrate in class. Sibongile says: "I eat my porridge at 11am. If there's no leftover food from the night before that will be the first time I eat."

Together, through [Double The Love](#), we can transform the lives of so many more children like Sibongile and Sarah.

**Catholic Bishops Online Advent Calendar!!** This year's calendar goes live on **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – 28 Nov!** Now in its eighth year, the unique online Advent Calendar offers resources for the parish, school and for families which can be accessed behind a virtual door each day during the season of Advent. Just click on the following link to get connected: [www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar)

**Trocaire**

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

1. Online at [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org).
2. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trocaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI),

This Christmas see the gifts online @ [www.trocaire.org/gifts](http://www.trocaire.org/gifts)

### **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](mailto:info@acnireland.org) if you would like to join us weekly to pray for the persecuted Church.

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**ADVENT RESOURCES FROM Web Shop**  
**Scriptural Books, Christmas Cards,**  
[www.redcoms.org](http://www.redcoms.org)

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES**

For all children not attending Catholic Schools

**1<sup>ST</sup> PENANCE & HOLY COMMUNION** - Classes to be held in the Parish Centre on Sunday mornings at 9:15 starting in November 2021. Please register by contacting the parish office by email stating the Child's(rens) Name(s), Primary School, Year Group and Age.

### **CONFIRMATION 2022**

Confirmation Classes will be starting in January 2022 –  
Please register by email to the parish office  
E: [bangor@downandconnor.org](mailto:bangor@downandconnor.org)

**USE THE LINK BELOW TO ACCESS - Issue 70 of *Sharing the Good News*.** The current issue can be linked to and downloaded from the home page of [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).

The November issue features the following articles:

- Archbishop Eamon Martin's homily from the Mass of Remembrance in Knock Shrine
- Pope Francis' appointment of Bishop Francis Duffy as Archbishop of Tuam
- Trócaire's launch of their life-saving Gifts of Love for Christmas 2021
- Archbishop Dermot Farrell's homily at opening of the Academic Year at DCU
- Dr Nicola Brady recognised by the Irish Council of Churches and by the Irish Inter- Church Meeting
- Deadline extended for the first phase of the synodal process
- Bishop Martin Hayes' attendance at COP26 climate summit
- Bishops' online interactive calendar going live on Sunday 28 November

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**Support the Benedictine Community**

Buy your Christmas gifts at the shop of Holy Cross Abbey, 119 Kilbroney Road, Rostrevor, Co. Down BT34 3BN  
Candles and Soaps made by the monks, Books and a range of different gifts.

Shop opens 9-11am & 2.30-5pm

[www.benedictinemonks.co.uk](http://www.benedictinemonks.co.uk)

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**We need people like**

**You.** We are recruiting people like you to provide supported lodgings

accommodation for young people not quite ready to live independently. Lodgings is a type of foster care that provides the same level of care that fosters



**HSC**  
**Northern Ireland Foster Care**

interested in finding out more please: Call us on **0800 0720 137** or visit [www.adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net](http://www.adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net)

**DRUMALIS RETREAT CENTRE, LARNE**

For further information, please contact 028 28276455/28272196 during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm) or **email**

**[maura@drumalis.co.uk](mailto:maura@drumalis.co.uk)** Details are also available on the

Drumalis website - <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

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**Advent Retreat:**

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” with the Drumalis Team and Fr Perry Gildea CM  
Drumalis - **Friday, 10 - Sunday, 12 December**

During this residential weekend of quiet and prayer at Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre in Larne, we will reflect on the various ways that God comes to us, speaks to us, invites us and remains with us, especially during these days of pandemic.

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**“All My Children: Genesis and Exodus. Who said family was easy?”** with Sr Pam Thimmes OSC. An eight part Zoom series exploring the theme of family in the Books of Genesis and Exodus. The course will take place from 7:00 pm – 9:15 pm on 25 Nov, 13 Jan and 27 Jan.

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**DROMANTINE - FINAL WORKSHOP OF 2021 - LIMITED SPACES STILL AVAILABLE**

**BROKEN OPEN: HOW DIFFICULT TIMES CAN HELP US GROW** - In this workshop, participants will learn how to respectfully navigate loss, bereavement and trauma so as to foster greater resilience, allow woundedness to awaken compassion and reconnect with life through the gifts of acceptance, healing and hope.

**Friday 19 November** (arrive 5pm) - Sunday 21 November (depart 2pm) £200/€230

Workshop Facilitator: Father Hugh Lagan SMA, Fr Lagan is a priest with the Society of African Missions and a chartered clinical psychologist. He has led workshops internationally on psychological and spiritual well-being, trauma, and resilience. Please contact Jacinta or Louisa to reserve your place: 028 (048 from ROI) 3082 1964

[admin@dromantineconference.com](mailto:admin@dromantineconference.com)

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**Al-Anon offering Family support for those affected by alcoholism  
Alcohol Awareness Week 16 – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**

Local people, from all backgrounds are being urged to think about their drinking as we approach Alcohol Awareness Week 16 – 22 November. Al-Anon wishes to remind the community that help is available for anyone who needs it. In Northern Ireland there are 48 Al-Anon groups, and more than 700 Al-Anon Family 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. There are no charge fees for membership or attending meetings as Al-Anon is funded solely through members own voluntary donations and a collection will normally be held at each meeting. Meetings usually last an hour and a half. “You don’t need to speak at a meeting unless you are comfortable doing so” said a spokesperson. “You can sit and listen.” ‘Al-Anon is a spiritual fellowship. Members of any faith or non are welcome, and they make a point of discouraging talking about specific religious beliefs’ All meetings are listed on the website [www.al-anonuk.org.uk](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk) , or you can call our Confidential Helpline on 02890682368 10am – 1pm or 6pm – 10pm.

## AID TO THE CHURCH

<https://www.acnireland.org/n-donate>

### SUBSCRIBE TO THE MIRROR

From 22nd until 26th November, ACN is hosting our annual Week of Witness. **On Red Wednesday, 24th November, ACN Ireland will be launching our report "Hear Her Cries" about the kidnapping, forced conversion and sexual victimisation of Christian women and girls around the world.**

The **Week of Witness® initiative by ACN IRELAND** is an invitation to Christians across the island of Ireland to stand in solidarity with, and bear witness to the heroic example of, our persecuted brothers and sisters in faith across the world. ACN Ireland, as a Pontifical Foundation, is part of the Church in a most profound way – to help our Church heal our world. Being present with and for the most vulnerable of God's people is vital to achieving this, no matter how perilous the environment. Through the Church's pastoral care, through the Holy Sacraments, through the heroic witness of Christians martyrs, God's Grace provides the Church – and the world – with the means of bringing the Light and Love of Christ to places and people where before there was only darkness and hate. This year, the **Week of Witness® initiative will be held from the 22nd of November to the 26th of November**, with online events and exhibitions being held throughout the island of Ireland on the theme of Christian persecution.

This year, **Red Wednesday® Prayer Vigil will be held on the 24th of November.**

*Click on the following link to keep updated with all the articles etc...*

### WEEK OF WITNESS

During the **Week of Witness® initiative**, you can bear personal witness to God's Love and Mercy for the persecuted Church through our *Ways to Witness*:

- ❖ **ILLUMINATING** your Church or school in red to show the world that the sacrifice and suffering of the persecuted and martyred Church is an ongoing reality.
- ❖ **WEARING** a red tie, scarf or scapular as a mark of the blood lost by Christians in defence of our Faith.
- ❖ **PRAYING** for the suffering and persecuted Church at the hours of the Angelus, 1200 and 1800 and during Holy Mass.
- ❖ **BLESSING** oneself in public when having a meal, passing a graveyard or a Church.
- ❖ **DONATING** to ACN Ireland to help in our work for persecuted Christians globally – your donations constitute a powerful corporal work of mercy and, when you order a Mass Card or Mass Offering through ACN Ireland, 100% of your offering goes directly to help support a priest provide pastoral care and ministry to the suffering Church.

*"You, through your help and support of ACN Ireland, can help make a world in which Christianity can thrive everywhere. In pursuit of this charism and mission, we at ACN Ireland are so grateful for your prayers, donations and especially Mass offerings (100% of which go directly to the persecuted Church) to help make this reality, by the Grace of God. Yours in Christ." Michael*

## Concern For Safety Of Priests And Religious

**ACN HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS AROUND THE WORLD. PRIESTS ARE FREQUENTLY ATTACKED AND KIDNAPPED BY TERRORIST AND CRIMINAL GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD.** By ACN Staff



Dr. Thomas Heine-Geldern. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has expressed concern for the safety of priests and religious around the world.

**In 2021, there has been reported to have been at least 17 priests murdered and 20 kidnapped.**

Priests are at risk of attack at all times of day and night, and also in all places such as churches and at home.

ACN's Night of the Witnesses 2021 in France. (Credit:

Laurence Mullenders/ACN)

The executive president of ACN International, Dr.

Thomas Heine-Geldern, said the following of the attacks:

*"Being a priest or religious does not make a person immune to violence. **On the contrary, it can make them more of a target.** Sometimes the motive is financial, whether robbery or ransom. Sometimes the attackers want to silence the prophetic voice of the Church denouncing injustice and violence. **But there is also increasing aggression based on persecution and the lack of religious freedom.**"*

The situation is particularly bad in Nigeria, where priests are frequently kidnapped. **These kidnappings are carried out by Islamist groups, Fulani herdsmen and criminal gangs. Mexico is also seeing attacks on priests.** Mexico is also experiencing frequent attacks on priests. **Just this year three priests and one catechist were killed in separate attacks.** Similar incidents take place in countries as far ranging as Venezuela, Haiti, South Sudan, and Burkina Faso. Even in countries such as France, priests have been targeted. **Just this August, Fr. Olivier Maire was murdered by a man staying with him.** The individual believed to have murdered Fr. Olivier was preparing to stand trial for setting Nantes Cathedral on fire.

Dr. Heine-Geldern explained that priests are an essential support to vulnerable communities living around the world: *"When security is fragile and everybody has left, **the priests, religious and lay Catholic missionaries remain, and their dedication to serve others puts them in the firing line.** They need our prayers and support more than ever."* ACN supports priests working in the most difficult circumstance around the world. Please keep priest in your prayers.

