

# 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: Monday to Friday, 9.30am-1.30pm

## SUNDAY MASS TIMES This weekend:

**Bangor:** (PARISH CENTRE)

Vigil 6.30pm;  
Sun 11.00am

**Donaghadee:**

Sun 9.30am.

**Ballyholme:**

Sun 12.30pm.

## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

**MOST HOLY REDEEMER**  
at 9.30am Monday-Friday

### Confessions:

**Bangor:** Sat 5.30 pm and  
after all Masses.

### Weekend Mass in the Pastoral Communities

**Holywood:** Vigil 6.30pm;  
Sun 10am & 12noon.

**Newtownards:**

Vigil 6.30pm; Sun 11.30am.  
**Comber:** Sun 10.00am.

### Baptisms: 1st and 3rd

Sunday of the Month at  
2pm. Register online at  
[www.bangorparish.com](http://www.bangorparish.com)  
under

**Sacramental Preparation.**  
2 month's notice required.

### PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Every Monday  
10.00am to 9.30pm**

Venue: **Most Holy  
Redeemer Church,**  
Ballyholme.

The Marian Prayer Group  
continue to meet in the  
Most Holy Redeemer  
Church, Ballyholme at  
6.30pm-7.30pm every  
Thursday. All welcome.  
Rosary for the Unborn,  
Meditations, music &  
reflections.

### Extra notices on the website page! 3 page Bulletin.

For inclusion in the  
Bulletin Notices, notices  
need to be in to the  
Parish Office before 1pm  
on Wednesdays.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY in ADVENT – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception** is transferred to  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December and as a result will **NOT** be a Holy Day of  
Obligation. Mass will be at the usual time of 9.30am, in Most  
Holy Redeemer Church, followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

### PENITENTIAL SERVICES – DECEMBER 2019

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – St Patrick's Church, N'ards at 7.30pm

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> – St Comgall's Parish Centre at 7.00pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – St Patrick's Church, Ballygalget at 6.30pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – St Patrick's Church, Ballyphilip at 7.30pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – Hollywood Parish at 7.30pm

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The **Trocaire ballot** raised **£1500 in Bangor and £300 in Ballyholme.** Thank you for the support and extremely generous donations. Special thanks to Thomas for the hamper and Patricia for the cake. All ballot prizes have been delivered.



### Your prayers are requested for:

#### Anniversaries:

Mary Turley, Michael Horan, Desmond Hanna, Brid Coyle,  
Shane Moraghan, Josephine Thompson, Patrick Thompson,  
Dessie Skillen, Molly Cody, Daniel McCambridge, Eileen  
Thompson, Bridie Arthurs, May O'Neill, Tommy O'Neill,  
Paddy McKenna, Bridie York, Stephanie Barbour,  
Mamie Dougherty.



Merry Christmas

### FESTIVE FUN!! on

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER** join us after  
11am Mass in the Parish Centre for an extra  
special Christmas Coffee Morning with music &  
festive treats.

### SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

St Comgall's Bangor Marian Prayer Group invites you to our  
**Annual Advent One Day Retreat** with the Mother Teresa  
nuns, Missionaries of Charity in their house in Armagh. A bus  
has been organised to pick up in Portaferry, 7.30am-The  
Square; Bangor 8.05am-Brunswick Rd; Holywood, 8.25am-  
Spafield Carpark. If you would like to book a seat, cost £10  
each please contact Jacinta during office hrs.

### Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel of Saint Matthew 3:1-12

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to us of the good news of the gospel that God loves us – a friend, a parent, a teacher? To whom have we borne that witness?
2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of opposition. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been content to be yourself, without pretending to be more than you are? What was it like to have that freedom, even in the face of criticism from others?
3. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

John Byrne OSA, E: [jbpbymeosa@gmail.com](mailto:jbpbymeosa@gmail.com)

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

**Bethany  
Bereavement  
Support Group**  
we are here to support  
and listen. Confidential.  
**075 1085 2157**

### WELCOME ROTA DURING DECEMBER

**6.30pm** Mass -  
Anne Mc Cabe and  
Maxine Galway  
**11.00am** Mass -  
Joe Drew and  
Pauline Andrews

St Comgall's Church  
Refurbishment Fund.

**Many thanks to the  
parishioners who  
donated £450 this  
week.** We are very  
grateful for all the  
generosity that has been  
shown by  
so many parishioners  
towards the fund.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES CONTINUE AFTER 11AM MASS IN THE PARISH CENTRE.

Please register your interest by contacting the parish office during office hours or by email. [bangor@downandconnor.org](mailto:bangor@downandconnor.org)

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY! AND OTHER NOTICES....

#### **BANGOR PARISH FAMILY OF SCHOOLS**

Open Days/Nights



Bangor Parish Family of Schools

**St Anne's PS**, Donaghadee –  
Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec & Thurs. 9<sup>th</sup>  
Jan, 11am~12noon

**St Columbanus' College**,  
Bangor – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January  
at 7pm.

Principal's address 7pm & 8pm.

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**St Comgall's Pre-School**,  
St Comgall's Parish Centre  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 9.30am-10.30am.

#### **ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS DINNER**

SVP Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner will be held in the Parish Centre on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 3.00pm.**

Do you wish to attend or do you know someone who would be interested? Please leave name, address and contact details, together with any dietary requirements on SVP Helpline 07703 679384. Transport to and/or from the venue can be arranged, if required.

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#### **SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> & THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

St Anne's Primary School's children will be singing at 10.30am on Saturday, Dec 9 at Copeland Fold (Donaghadee), for a Parish fundraiser in aid of the homeless charity, Night Shelter. Coffee, tombola, Santa etc and then at 1.30pm on Thursday, Dec 19 at Donaghadee Garden Centre.

#### **FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

A Celtic Christmas by Candlelight. Join the award-winning St Agnes' Choral Society for a Celtic Christmas at **7.45pm** in St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast. With donations in aid of Belfast City Hospital's Renal Unit. Tickets are £12 (£6 chn) and are available from St. Peter's Cathedral, online at [www.tinyurl.com/agneschristmas](http://www.tinyurl.com/agneschristmas) or by calling 077 868 37198.

#### **FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> TO TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Visit The Live Crib at St. Mary's Grotto, Chapel Lane Belfast, opening Fri 13th to Tue 24 Dec and from Sat 28th Dec to Mon 6 Jan '20 from 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on 19th and 23rd Dec to 8 p.m. Come along and meet Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus, the shepherds and the animals. The three wise men will arrive on 6th January. Animals featuring this year are donkeys: Obie, Denis, Pablo, Daisy, Pongo and friends kindly provided by the Irish Donkey Society, Holly the sheep and Tinsel and Archie the goats. Carols at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Schools groups, choirs and carol singers welcome. Proceeds to Tuesday's Child Following Yonder Star Christmas Appeal for children in Gaza, Syria, Kenya and Sudan. Prayers at the crib each day for peace for every child, born and unborn. Contact 07545-452362.

#### **St Vincent de Paul –**

Storehouse North Down anticipate distributing 300 + family hampers into the Christmas period and are reliant on our supporting Churches to fulfil this need. Please do consider supporting us with the usual non-perishable groceries but also Christmas fayre eg mince pies, small Christmas cakes or puddings, chocolates or bottles of Shloer and those treats that help make Christmas special. Donations gratefully accepted in 1st or 2nd weekend in December.

#### **St Joseph's Young Priests Society.**

The latest addition of The Sheaf, the quarterly magazine of the Society, is available at the back of the church. There are also blue "thank you cards" thanking you for your support in the past. On the reverse of the cards are statistics showing the expenditure over the last three years, the number of students assisted, and the number of new Priests ordained.

Please take copies of both.

#### **The Diocese of Down and Connor Office**

The Westminster parliament recently passed a Bill extending abortion services to Northern Ireland. It is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office to implement the Bill. A public consultation on the implementation of a legal framework for abortion services in Northern Ireland is now underway. This consultation will influence the precise details of the legislation. **Bishop Noel Treanor** would like to bring this issue to the attention of all parishioners and encourage them to take part either by going on line – (see links below) – or by responding in writing to: Abortion Consultation, Northern Ireland Office, Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SH. **Please note: the deadline is 16 December 2019.**

##### 1) Overview on Consultation

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/nio-implementation-team/a-new-legal-framework-for-abortion-services-in-ni/>

##### 2) Form for Response to Consultation

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/nio-implementation-team/a-new-legal-framework-for-abortion-services-in-ni/consultation/intro/>

##### 3) Advice from SPUC

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/NIconsultation>

#### **FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> to SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Advent Retreat: "A Sabbath for the Lord" with Fr Brian O'Leary SJ *Drumalis*. These quiet days in the middle of Advent will offer us the opportunity to leave aside the busyness of our daily lives and rest, in silence, togetherness and worship, as we await the coming of the Son of God at Christmas. For further information or to book a place, please contact Drumalis - tel 28272196/28276455 (during office hours, Mon-Fri 9 am – 5 pm) or email [drumalis@btconnect.com](mailto:drumalis@btconnect.com)

**Saint Vincent de Paul Society** appreciate the generosity of the parishioners in Bangor, however due to the ongoing reorganisation of our storage facility, St Vincent de Paul **cannot currently accept donations of clothes**, household or furniture items. Contact the helpline number. Please **do not** leave clothes in the Parish Centre.

### WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Anam Cara Armagh, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents at 7:20pm in the The Armagh City Hotel, Armagh, BT601E. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. **Contact us on [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) or 085 2888 888 for any queries.**

### St Mary's University College, Belfast

St Mary's is at present accepting applications for courses beginning in September 2020. On offer are places on undergraduate courses for the BEd (Hons) Primary teaching degree, the BEd (Hons) Post-Primary teaching degree, and the BA (Hons) Liberal Arts. The closing date for applications for these undergraduate courses is Monday, 13 January 2020. Also on offer are places on a postgraduate course for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Irish-medium Education) Primary. The **closing date** for this postgraduate course is Friday 28 February 2020. For further details contact the College on +44(0) 28 90268320 or [visit](http://www.smucb.ac.uk) the College website at [www.smucb.ac.uk](http://www.smucb.ac.uk).

### SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

First Saturday Devotion of Reparation as requested by Our Lady of Fatima will take place in St Joseph's Church, Killough, Chapel Street, BT30 7QJ: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8.30am; Sacrament of Reconciliation from 8.30 to 9.45am; Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 9.00am; Meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary at 9.30am, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 10.00am.

*'Let the mind press onward,  
even as life presses onward,  
and let maturity of mind increase  
with the fullness of old age.  
And as our span of life grows shorter  
so let the number of our faults grow less,  
that we may leave the world  
to its own ways, as we go to the Lord.  
May this be so by the help of  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to whom be glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*



*Columban, Sermon VI*

### St Vincent De Paul: Clare Lodge, Newcastle

Why spend Christmas or New Year alone when you can be among friends and have company.

- Christmas breaks from 24th December – 27th Dec
- New Year 30th December – 2nd January (Accommodation & full board meals) - (single room occupancy £175.00) (Sharing room £145.00)

Alternatively, if you just wish to spend the day having Christmas Dinner and Evening Tea or New Year's Dinner & Evening Tea in the company of others for the cost £20.00 (numbers for day visit limited to 20 people)

All bookings to be made in advance. For further information and any queries, please contact Clare Lodge Reception on 028 4372 2849 or email [clare.lodge@svpni.co.uk](mailto:clare.lodge@svpni.co.uk) (All special dietary meals catered for via prior arrangement).

### YOUTH FESTIVAL AT MEDJUGORJE - 2020

The LIVING YOUTH Summer Pilgrimage 2020 will be to Medjugorje. We will join more than 50,000 other young people from around the world to celebrate our Catholic Faith. Staying at the Medjugorje Palace Hotel we will take part in the youth festival and also visit the Waterfalls of Kravice, the capital Mostar and the Shrine of Vepric at Makarska, all the while journeying with other young people from across our Diocese.

Pilgrimage Dates: **29<sup>th</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020**, for those aged 17 – 25 Cost £799. For an Application Form and more information go to [www.livingyouthni.org](http://www.livingyouthni.org) or contact us on 02890 232 432 or [info@livingyouthni.org](mailto:info@livingyouthni.org).

### INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Conference starts at 2pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December and ends on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. The Conference takes place at Clongowes Wood College, Castlebrown, Clane, Co Kildare, W19 DN40. Price for the 4 day event is 150 euro inclusive. Age group 16+. Register: [www.afcmteamireland.org](http://www.afcmteamireland.org)

### NI CANCER PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.

**Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The price of £695 (with price reduction for Cancer Patients) will include: Return flights from Belfast International Airport, operated by JWT License T.O. 052. Full board and accommodation at the Hotel Agena in Lourdes for five nights based on twin/double/treble rooms. Travel insurance cover for persons up to 85 years on date of return.

The party will consist of patients, ex-patients, relatives and friends accompanied by medical, nursing and other staff. To enquire or to obtain a booking form please speak to a member of the committee on Tel: 07933938981; Email: [mail@nicancerpilgrimage.org.uk](mailto:mail@nicancerpilgrimage.org.uk) or contact: Mrs Jean Clarke, N. I. Cancer Pilgrimage, c/o Drumbo & Cartyduff Parish, 546 Saintfield Road, Carryduff, Belfast, BT8 8DL. Chairman:- Dr Gerard Walls, accompanied by Dr Seamus McAleer & Spiritual Director.