

# 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: (BRUNSWICK RD)

Vigil 6.30pm;  
Sun 11.00am

### Donaghadee:

Sun 9.30am.

### Ballyholme:

Sun 12.30pm.

## WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

**BANGOR PARISH,  
BRUNSWICK ROAD  
WEEK DAYS AT 9.30AM**

## 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 EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**EVERY MONDAY  
10.00AM TO 9.30PM**

VENUE: **ST COMGALL'S  
CHURCH, BRUNSWICK RD.**

## St Comgall's Church MARIAN PRAYER GROUP

Every Thursday evening.  
Rosary of the Unborn,  
Reflections, Petitions,  
Thanksgivings. 6.30pm –  
7.30pm. All Welcome.

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

All notices and anvs.  
notices need to be  
received by Wednesday  
at 1pm to be included.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas ~ 5 January 2020

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD [Holy Day of Obligation]

### MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

9.30am Venue: Most Holy Redeemer, Ballyholme.  
1pm & 7.30pm Venue: St Comgall's Church, Brunswick Road.



### Your prayers are requested for:

**Recently Deceased:** Kieran Kerr (Canada)  
**Anniversaries:**

Noel Kelly, Margaret Devenny, Eddie Hamilton, Dave Kelleher, Daisy Kelleher, William Fox, Sean Jenkins, Jim Greenaway, Arthur Watson, Joseph Donaghy, Sarah O'Hara, Pasquale Forte, Patrick Trainor, Sarah O'Neill, Margaret Murray, Robert Sharvin, Gordon Parker, Bill Eccles, Vincent Kerr, Harry Duggan, Laurence Connor, Rosena Connor, Mike Monaghan, Fergus Owens.

## SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

The Living Church Office will host the second of three Development Days for leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word in our offices at, 120, Cliftonville Road, Belfast BT14 6LA. The day will commence at **9.30am** and finish at **3.30pm**. Development Days are designed to nourish, support, and resource, all those involved in leading Children's Liturgy of the Word in their parish. Due to the popularity of these days, early registration is advised. As usual, there will be time for prayer, input, discussion and activities. There is no charge for the day and lunch and all necessary resources will be provided. To book your place, please contact Caren at [c.collins@downandconnor.org](mailto:c.collins@downandconnor.org) or ring the Living Church Office on 02890690920

## Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel of Saint John 1:1-18

1. John opens his Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation, of life and of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that filled you with gratitude to God for creation, and the beauty and wonder of all the world: *'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.'*
2. We often listen to a reading from the Gospels. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, like *a light that shines in the darkness*. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety or sadness and helped you to see what action would be most life-giving for you and for others.
3. Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world – speaking the truth for the world to hear, *as a witness to testify to the light*. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by the witness of their own lives and words.
4. *'No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.'* Jesus came to us to teach us about God and put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day, and for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God, and to believe in a God of love. Recall how the life and ministry of Jesus have changed your picture of God.

**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 JANUARY 2020

**6. 30pm** Mass  
Gerry Fox and  
Maura Fox  
**11.00am** Mass  
Una Graham  
and Anne Rea

**St Comgall's Church  
Refurbishment Fund.**

**Many thanks to the  
parishioners who  
donated £550.00  
this week.**

We are very grateful for  
all the generosity that  
has been shown by so  
many parishioners  
towards the fund.

## HOLY HOUR

There will be **NO** Holy  
Hour in St. Comgalls  
**DONAGHADEE** in  
January.

**PARISH CENTRE GROUPS**


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| <b>Badminton Club</b><br>Venue: Main Hall.   | Every Wednesday: 8.30pm - 9.30pm   |
| <b>Bible Study</b><br>Venue: St Dymphna's Room.  | Every Thursday: 7.30pm - 9.00pm  |
| <b>Bridge Club</b><br>Venue: Minor Hall.   | Every Monday: 7.30pm - 10.00pm   |
| <b>Charismatic Prayer Group</b><br>Venue: Pre-School Room.                             | Every Monday: 7.00pm – 8.30pm  |
| <b>Christian Meditation Prayer Group</b><br>Venue: St Columbanus Room.                 | Every Wednesday: 11.20am – 12.30pm<br><i>(up the stairs to the top floor of St Comgall's Parish Centre)</i>  |
| <b>Irish Language Group</b><br>Venue: St Columbanus Room, Ceili<br>Dancing-Minor Hall. | Every Thursday: 7.00pm - 8.00pm St. Colum.Rm<br>Every Thurs Ceili Dancing: 8.15pm-9.30pm M.Hall<br><i>Contact: Harry 9146-2055 [Language 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Year 7.00pm-8.00pm]</i> |
| <b>Friendship Club</b><br>Venue: Minor Hall.   | <u>Restarting back</u> – Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2020<br>Every Tuesday: 10.00am - 12noon   |
| <b>Mothers &amp; Toddlers Group</b> Venue:<br>Minor Hall.                              | Every Thursday: 10.30am - 12noon   |
| <b>Mulvenna Academy Irish Dancing</b><br>Venue: Main Hall.                             | Every Tuesday: 6.00pm - 9.00pm   |
| <b>St. Comgall's Briggins</b><br>Venue: Main Hall.                                     | Every Thursday:<br>Cygnetts: (p1/p2) 5.45 - 6.30pm      Aged 6-10: 6.30 - 8.00pm   |
| <b>Trocaire &amp; Traidcraft</b><br>Venue: Minor Hall.                                 | Weekend Dates:<br>February-15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>    March-14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>    April-18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>    May-16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>  |
| <b>Youth Club</b><br>Venue: Youth Room, Sports Hall.                                   | Every Mon, Wed, Fri: 6.30pm – 8.30pm<br>P6, Monday    P7, Wednesday    Yr8+ Friday   |
| <b>Whist Club</b><br>Venue: Minor Hall.  | Every Friday: 1.30pm - 3.30pm  |

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| <b>Baptism Course</b> –<br>Pre-Sacramental Parents &<br>God-parents Evening. | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month<br>7.00pm until 7.45pm | <u>Venue:</u> St Columbanus & St Cecelia Rooms<br><i>[Through the green fence 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Parish Centre]</i> |
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| <b>SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Communion Date - <b>16<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b> at 10am &amp; 1pm.</li> <li>• Holy Communion and First Penance Classes - Venue: St Dymphna's Room.</li> <li>• Confirmation Date – <b>20<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b> at 5pm.</li> <li>• Confirmation Class - Venue: St Columbanus Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Parish Centre.</li> </ul> |
| All classes held after 11am Mass in the Parish Centre. |   |

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

**BANGOR PARISH FAMILY OF SCHOOLS**  
Open Days/Nights



**St Anne's PS, Donaghadee** –  
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.

**FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY - SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
This Inter-Denominational Arts Festival aimed at promoting reconciliation runs from January 31 to February 9. You are invited to attend as many as possible of nearly 20 events throughout Belfast, including a talk by Fr Peter McVerry SJ, the famous champion of the homeless. The theme this year is "Building a City of Grace" and the intention is to promote through music, drama and prayer discussion about the need we share for the gift of grace in our divided society. One of the keynote events sees Church of Ireland bishop, Alan Abernethy, return to St Anthony's Catholic Church, Willowfield, where as a horrified fifteen-year-old he witnessed a sectarian attack that he says changed his life. The Festival was co-founded in 2012 by Falls Road priest, Fr Martin Magill and Presbyterian minister, Rev Steve Stockman. The events are free and further details can be found at the website [4cornersfestival.com](http://4cornersfestival.com)

**Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock**  
Year 7 Pupils and Parents  
Open Morning in  
**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
9.15 am – 12.30 pm  
Principal's Address 9.15 am and 11.00 am.  
Anyone considering entry to our Sixth Form is also most welcome.

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We are currently looking for Church Cleaners to help with the existing Rota. Volunteers will be asked to help for one 2 hour session per month. Please leave your contact details in the parish office.

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020

'O Come, Let Us Adore: Exploring the Crib at Christmas' (Veritas,2010), pp.37-38 Fr Chris Hayden.

The wisdom shown by the wise men is not unlimited. Evidently, they are men of good will, yet they represent the quintessentially modern phenomenon of believing without belonging. Indeed, the wise men bear a striking similarity to those who 'practice their faith at Christmas time', then disappear as quickly as they have appeared. They have been drawn, intrigued, fascinated, but they have not been captivated. Their mysterious and short-lived presence in the Gospel story offers us both a consolation and a challenge. Jesus Christ is for all. He is not the Lord of the virtuous, the pious, the observant, the practicing, but the Lord of all. It is consoling indeed to reflect that God's providence and love for every human person simply does not admit to being tied down by all-too-human distinctions such as practicing or non-practicing, member or non-member. God is a lover, not a lawyer, and admission to the manger is free.

On a more challenging note, the wise men remind us that departure from the manger is also free, and that having encountered the Lord, we are at liberty to return to a life that is untouched by his presence. It is, in fact, the adult Christ that wins men and women: the Christ who spoke and healed and suffered and died, the Christ who overcame death. The best that the crib can do is revive our nostalgia, sharpen our longing for a real encounter with the risen Lord. But we remain free to pursue this encounter or not to do so; the Lord invites but never imposes.

### Extra Notices! For your information!

#### 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.

**HEALTHCARE VISITOR TRAINING.** Are you a lay person who might be interested in healthcare visitation either within your local parish context or within a chaplaincy context? Are you a lay person who visits healthcare facilities as part of your church responsibilities? Do you sometimes feel unsure what to do, what to say or how to react to the different pastoral situations you meet or could meet in a healthcare setting? Please consider attending training for healthcare visitors: Venue: Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast BT9 5BY; Dates: Thursday 23rd to Thursday 19th March 2020, 7-9pm. Fee: £75. T:028 9066 5870, Edgehill Theological College.

#### 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).

Application Deadline: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020



**Every day in Northern Ireland, 4 children experience the death of a parent. YOU** can make a difference in the lives of bereaved children across NI by volunteering with Cruse Bereavement Care. APPLY NOW for the 2020 NI Bereavement Support Foundation (BSF) Course + Children's & Young People's (CYP) Elective. Must have at least 100 hours experience working with CYP, and be available for training weekends on: \*8 – 9<sup>th</sup> February \*29<sup>th</sup> February , \*28-29 March \*25-26 April, \*16<sup>th</sup> May. An application pack, contact: [maria.mcentee@cruse.org.uk](mailto:maria.mcentee@cruse.org.uk) For more insights, see [www.hopeagain.org.uk](http://www.hopeagain.org.uk)

#### 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).