

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: 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
under

Sacramental Preparation.

2 month's notice required.

PERPETUAL EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Monday
10.00am to 9.30pm

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

COMMUNITY CAROLS

Please join us for our
annual Festive Carol singing
together with our
Ballyholme Neighbour
Churches on **Thursday**
19th December from
5.30pm to 6.30pm.
Outside Heatherlea Bakery!

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.

3rd SUNDAY in ADVENT - 15th December 2019

PENITENTIAL SERVICES - DECEMBER 2019

Monday 16th - St Patrick's Church, N'ards at 7.30pm

Tuesday 17th - St Comgall's Parish Centre at 7.00pm

Wednesday 18th - St Patrick's Church, Ballygalget at 6.30pm

Wednesday 18th - St Patrick's Church, Ballyphilip at 7.30pm

Thursday 19th - Holywood Parish at 7.30pm

Café Donaghadee have donated £50 to the
Guide Dogs for the Blind & £50 to the Copeland's Fold Bus
to thank them for hosting last week's Christmas Fayre
which raised £1,300.00 for the Night Shelter.

Coming soon - Look out for the pictures in the Spectator.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve 6pm & 8pm - Brunswick Rd
Christmas Day 9.30am & 11am - Brunswick Rd
Christmas Day 11am - Most Holy Redeemer

Unfortunately and with deep regret, following Monsignor
Macaulay's recent death there will be
no Mass in Donaghadee for Christmas.



Your prayers are requested for:

Anniversaries:

Joan Larkin, Dympna Lennon, Bridie Close, Joe Walsh,
Mary Maguire, Margo Saunders, Phil Jones, Ellen
Dougherty, Daniel Dougherty, Terry Smith, Vera O'Neill,
Patricia McCart, Nora Somerville, Ruby O'Prey, Michael
McGonigal, Ann Spruce, Charlotte McAlorum, Terry Fox,
Desmond McGlinchey, Eileen Young.



Merry Christmas

FESTIVE FUN!! on

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

Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospel of Saint Matthew 11:2-11

1. In response to the question of John, Jesus let his actions speak for him. Some people show by the way they live what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Who has given you such an example? Perhaps there have been times when you have done the same for others.
2. John made a journey of faith from an incomplete knowledge of Jesus to a deeper understanding of who he was. Recall similar steps in your journey of faith.
3. Faith is not primarily about answering abstract theological questions but about living the gospel. What in your life has helped you to get that sense of perspective?
4. John marked the end of an era, Jesus the beginning of a new one. In our lives how do we honour the past and yet be free to move on into a new era?

John Byrne OSA, E: jbpb Byrneosa@gmail.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.

**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 £600 this
week and also to the
person who donated
2 new clocks to the
Church to the value
of £150.** 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

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

BANGOR PARISH FAMILY OF SCHOOLS
 Open Days/Nights



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

St Columbanus' College,
 Bangor – Tuesday 7th January at 7pm.

Principal's address 7pm & 8pm.

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 VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS DINNER

SVP Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner will be held in the Parish Centre on **Sunday 22nd 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.

FRIDAY 13TH TO TUESDAY 24TH 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.

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>

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 (All special dietary meals catered for via prior arrangement.

WEDNESDAY 18TH 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 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 the College website at www.smucb.ac.uk.

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 monthly. Please leave your contact details in the parish office.

Extra Notices! For your information!

NORTHERN IRELAND Blood Transfusion Service

The next blood donations will be:

Ballycrochan Presbyterian Church Hall
Silverbirch Road, Bangor

Friday 20th December

Time: 2.15-4.15pm & 5.30-8.00pm

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Conference starts at 2pm on Friday 27th December and ends on Monday 30th 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

NI CANCER PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.

Tues. 19th May to Sunday 24th 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 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.

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes are currently seeking volunteer registered nurses to work on the 2020 Pilgrimage (8-13 July). For more information or to register your interest, please email Lourdes@downandconnor.org

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. Contact Parish Office for details.

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: **29th July – 7th August 2020**, for those aged 17 – 25 Cost £799. For an Application Form and more information go to www.livingyouthni.org or contact us on 02890 232 432 or info@livingyouthni.org.