

Announcements for week beginning 22nd July 2019

- Next week daily Mass will be at 9.30am in Most Holy Redeemer Church, Ballyholme Monday to Friday.
- St Comgall's Church, Brunswick Road will close on Monday 22nd July for 20 weeks all the weekend Bangor Masses will be celebrated in St Comgall's Parish Centre which is located behind the St Comgall's Church.
- Weekend Mass Times in all the Churches are all follows:
Donaghadee 9.30am, Bangor – Saturday vigil 6.30pm, Sunday 11am,
Ballyholme 12.30pm.
- We are starting Eucharistic Adoration in Ballyholme over the 20 weeks that St Comgall's Church is closed **still on a Monday** after daily Mass - up to **9.30pm**. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the porch in Ballyholme for all those who wish to participate over the 20 weeks. We need to make sure that Jesus is not left alone during any of the hours so your help is most appreciated.
- There are copies at the back of the Church of the Irish Bishop's response to the Westminster Parliament and how they have used the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill to rush through legislation which will have a devastating impact on the right to life of unborn children.

PROLIFE WHAT OUR BISHOPS ARE SAYING FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Statement from Bishop Noel Treanor 6 July 2019

The protection of human life, inviolable from its conception until its natural end, is a matter of fundamental ethical and social ethical importance for citizens, society and the state. It is therefore vital that citizens of Northern Ireland, and especially Christian citizens, take note that the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill, now before the Westminster Parliament, is being used to introduce amendments aiming to liberalise provision of abortion in Northern Ireland without the say-so of either the citizens of Northern Ireland or their elected representatives. I therefore view with the deepest concern this eleventh hour initiative by some MP's to table amendments to a Bill, whose primary function is to put in place measures to accommodate the ongoing absence of a Northern Ireland Assembly. The issue of the protection of human life and the redefinition of marriage are not just devolved matters, which should be decided upon by the people of Northern Ireland, but touchstone issues which deserve the most anxious and intense consideration by legislators and citizens. I would encourage everyone urgently to contact their MP to register their objection to this undemocratic and process.

<http://righttolife.org.uk/take-action-abortionamendment/> ~~~ENDS~~~

Bishops alarmed at rush to remove rights of the most vulnerable – 18 July 2019

“With the thousands of others who have voiced their concern in recent days, we wish to express our alarm at the unprecedented way in which the Westminster Parliament has used the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill to rush through legislation which will have a devastating impact on the right to life of unborn children.

The equal right to life, and love, of a mother and her unborn child is so fundamental to the common good of every society that citizens deserve the fullest participation in the democratic debate about the legislation which governs it. This also applies to decisions regarding the nature of marriage. What is happening in Westminster during these days recklessly undermines this fundamental right of citizens and the principle of devolution at the heart of the Good Friday Agreement. It should be a matter of grave alarm for every citizen in Northern Ireland and all who cherish the right to life as the most fundamental of all human rights.

We appeal to the Prime Minister and Westminster Government to move to overturn this hijacking of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill for purposes for which it was never intended and to uphold the right of citizens in Northern Ireland, under the Good Friday Agreement, to decide these matters for themselves. We appeal to all citizens in Northern Ireland, to give expression to their commitment to the care of every mother and unborn child by asking their political representatives to ensure the equal right to life is upheld in our devolved legislation.”

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Dromore
Bishop Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor
Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry
Bishop Larry Duffy, Bishop of Clogher”