

# Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

## First Sunday in Advent - 2 December 2018

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### Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospels

#### Luke 21:25-28,34-36

1. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seems that your world is collapsing around you: plans thwarted, deep disappointment, something out of your control altering the course of your life, etc.? When have such experiences been a prelude to something new? Allow the dramatic language of the passage to remind you of this experience, making sure that you recognise the double movement of collapse and liberation.
2. Jesus himself is the model in this gospel story as he taught his disciples the spirituality of 'waiting in joyful hope'. What difference has watchfulness (in the sense of being watchful in prayer) made to you in facing difficult situations?
3. Advent is a time that calls us to be alert to the signs of the hidden presence of God in our world. What reminds you of this presence of God? Have there been occasions when something work you up in an unexpected way to the presence of God in the world, eg?

John Byrne osa  
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#### Sunday Mass Times this week:

Bangor: Vigil 6.30 pm,  
10.30 am, 12.30 pm.  
Donaghadee: Sun 9.30 am.  
Ballyholme: 11 am.

**Hollywood:** Vigil 6.30 pm;  
10 am and 12 noon.

**Newtownards:** Vigil 6.30 pm; 11.30 am.

**Comber:** 10.00 am.

#### Weekday Mass Times:

Bangor: Monday 10am -  
Funeral Mass for Terence Devlin  
Tuesday - Friday 9.30am.

Ballyholme: Monday and Friday 9am.

**Confessions:** Sat 5.30 pm.

#### Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday at the 10.30am.

**Baptisms:** 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2pm.  
Register online at [www.bangorparish.com](http://www.bangorparish.com) under  
Sacramental Preparation. 4 week's notice must be given.

#### Christmas Mass Times

Following discussion with the Parish Pastoral Council  
Mass times for Christmas were agreed as follows:

#### St Comgall's, Brunswick Road:

Vigil 7pm and 9pm;  
Christmas Morning 9.30am and 11am.

#### St Comgall's Donaghadee:

Christmas Morning 9.30am.

#### Ballyholme:

Christmas Morning 11am.

#### Penitential Services for Christmas

will be held in:

Ballycran: Monday 17 December 7.30pm;  
Ballygalget: Tuesday 18 December 6.30pm;  
Portaferry: Tuesday 18 Dec 7.30pm ;  
Bangor: Wednesday 19 Dec 7.30pm;  
Newtownards: Thursday 20 Dec 7.30pm.

**Your prayers are requested for:**

**Recently Deceased:**

Terence Devlin

**Anniversaries:**

V J Thomas, Brendan Curran,  
Danny and Mary McDowell,  
Peter and Rosetta McCullagh,  
Stephen Anderson, Dessie Skillen,  
Molly Cody, Marie Grego.

*The second collection this weekend is the monthly stipend collection in support of your priests.*

**Perpetual Adoration**

St Comgall's Church  
Monday 10.30am-9.30pm.

**Holy hour and Exposition**

St Comgall's Donaghadee today Sun 2 Dec at 2.45pm sharp. All welcome.

**The Feast of the Immaculate**

**Conception:** Sat 8 December is a holy day of obligation. Mass in Most Holy Redeemer 9am and St Comgall's Church, Bangor at 1pm.

**Advent Prayer Gatherings**

The season of Advent runs for 4 weeks and offer us all an opportunity to pray our way to Christmas. For Advent 2018, the Marian Prayer Group and some young people on the St John Paul II Awards Programme invite you to join us on Wed evenings at 7pm in St Comgall's Church, Bangor, all welcome. The topics of weeks of Advent are:

- Week 2 - **The Wilderness**
- Week 3 - **Joy,**
- Week 4 - **Saying Yes to God.**

**Storehouse North Down**

**Food Collection today**

Trolleys or boxes will be available in the porches this weekend to accept goods. Thank you for your generosity already, please donate dried or tinned goods (non-perishable). With your help none in our community need go hungry.

**Jesus Heals: Koinonia John the Baptist Ireland**

invites you to join us for a prayer in St Bernard's Pastoral Centre, Glengormley, Fri 7 Dec from 7-9.30pm. Sr. Christine Sawey will guide us in reflecting on God's Word and ask Him for His gift of restoration. Refreshments afterwards. Any queries contact Anne 07796 540465 or Ellen 07708 022478.

**SVP Christmas cards** on sale after all Masses, £3.50 per pack. Please support this worthy cause.

**St Vincent de Paul**

Annual Christmas appeal will be held on Sun 9 Dec. SVP supports low income families and individuals in the Bangor area, providing them with help for food, gas, electricity, heating oil and essential household items ie cookers/washing machines. SVP relies almost entirely on parishioners to help fund this work and thank you in anticipation of your continuing support.

**Stormont Rosary for Life:** Join us in praying the Rosary for the protection of Ireland's unborn babies at Stormont (Main Gates) Belfast at 3pm on Sat 8 Dec, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. For more info contact the Rosary Crusade for Ireland 9027 8484.

**Tobar Mhuire: Annual Christmas**

**Fund Raising Craft Fair:** 8/9 Dec, 1pm-5pm. Enjoy a family afternoon out, hot food, home made desserts, etc. Face Painting, and local Craft stalls. There's the Gift Shop for all your cards, cribs, and religious items, and of course a visit with Santa! All welcome.

**Trocaire Global Gifts**

This year you can choose from 13 gifts that help families work their way out of poverty and end the daily struggle for essentials like water and food. From Chicks £7, school lunches £15, Goats £40, Beehives £55, Water £85. The full range of gifts are on the notice board and are available to buy from the Parish Office. When you buy a Trócaire gift you're not just giving, you're joining the fight for justice. Leaflets available in the church.

**Art by Syrian and Palestinian Refugee Women:**

Trócaire invites you to the launch of an exhibition of powerful art work by Syrian and Palestinian refugee women on Mon 10 Dec at 1pm in the Falls Rd Library. A light lunch will be served. The exhibition can be viewed until the end of December. Free, All welcome.

**Turkey (Whist) Drive** will take place on Sun 16 December at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Comber. Proceeds in aid of Church Restoration Fund. Adm £5 including supper.

**Confirmation 2019**

Sacramental Preparation classes for children from the Parish, not attending the Parish Schools, will be held in Newtownards in early December. If you wish your child to attend please send details i.e Name of child and parents, address, age of child etc to: newtownards@downandconnor.org

**Ministers of the Word/Eucharist**

New rotas are available in the Sacristy for collection this weekend.

**Bible Study Group** meet in St

Dympna Room in the Parish Centre on Thursday evening at 7pm. Theme for Advent: Waiting for God!

**The Bangor Parish Family of Schools** warmly invite you to attend our Open Days/Nights to experience the warmth and ethos of a Catholic School.

- St Malachy's PS, Tues 4 Dec 7pm
  - St Anne's PS, D'dee, Wed 5 Dec, 11am - 12 noon.
  - St Comgall's PS, Thurs 6 Dec 7pm
  - St Columbanus' College, 8 Jan 7pm
- Follow us on Twitter@BangorParishSch

**Starting Pre-School 2019/20**

St Comgall's Pre-School Education Centre (situated in the parish centre) providing opportunities for children to develop in a safe, friendly, learning environment. Open Morning Tues 4 Dec from 9.30am-10.30am. All welcome.

**Christmas: A Time to Remember**

A fusion of Irish and Festive music featuring All Ireland Scor Champions from Saul, Brigid O'Neill, Kathryn Mullan, Scoil Rince an Chroi on Sat 22 Dec at 7.30pm in The Great Hall, Downpatrick. The concert is in memory of Phil Stratton and in aid of Marie Curie. Tickets £12 available online at tiny.cc/rememberphil or call Gareth 07786837198.

**The Spirit of Christmas'**

concert Sat 15 December at 7.30pm in Good Shepherd showcasing Marion Jordan. Post concert, the parish centre will host a small craft fair and guests can avail of mulled wine and nibbles. Tickets £15 from www.marionjordan.com and also at venue. The 'Spirit of Christmas' EP and Marion's debut album 'The Prayer' will be available to purchase. Proceeds to St Michael's PTA and PIPS charity.

Fr Gunn/Parish Office Tel: 9146 5522, 27 Brunswick Road, Bangor.

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

Email: [bangor@downandconnor.org](mailto:bangor@downandconnor.org) Office hours Mon-Fri 9.30am-1pm.