

Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

Second Sunday of Advent - 9 December 2018

Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospels

Luke 3:1-6

1. The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall in detail the time and the circumstances of particularly significant moments in your life?
2. John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g. burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.
3. Behind the quotation from Isaiah lies the practice of preparing festival routes for religious celebrations. Isaiah visualises such a celebration to celebrate the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem. Can you recall a particularly memorable Advent? What happened? Think of what you can do this Advent.

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 - 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 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 Dec 7.30pm;
Ballygalget: Tuesday 18 Dec 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 those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

James Thomas, C T Mathew, Josephine and Patrick Thompson, Desmond Hanna, Mary Turley, Michael Horan, Carmel Fitzgerald, Vera O'Neill, Brid Coyle, Ruby O'Prey, Patricia McCart, Joe and Betty Kelly, Sean Hudson, May O'Neill, Margaret and Hugh Teggart, Patsy and Jimmy McPeake, Terry Fox, Eileen Thompson.

The second collection this weekend is for the Parish Development Fund.

Grateful thanks for donations of £260 recently received for the Refurbishment of St Comgall's Church.

Perpetual Adoration

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

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 them on Wed evenings at 7pm in St Comgall's Church, Bangor, all welcome. The topics for the next 2 weeks are:

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

St Vincent de Paul

Annual Christmas appeal will be held today 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.

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

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.

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.

St Peter's Cathedral Schola

Cantorum: Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 9 Dec at 4.30 pm in St Peter's Cathedral. The service is set in the very beautiful, candlelit St Peter's and features carols and readings that reflect the true meaning of Christmas. We are joined this year by special guests, the Winchester College Quiristers and the evening is sure to be a very special treat for fans of Choral music. Entry is free with a collection in aid of the continued work of Schola, festive refreshments served in the parish hall after the service. It truly is a real highlight of the advent season and one not to be missed!

'Do not let the downtrodden retreat in confusion, give the poor and needy cause to praise your name.' Psalms 74:21.

Millions of people have had to flee conflict in South Sudan and Yemen. In one area alone in northern Uganda 33,000 mainly women and children from South Sudan have taken refuge. They have witnessed and experienced the worst kind of violence and have arrived traumatised and broken. Trocaire's Christmas Appeal will help these people and many others rebuild their lives. Visit www.trocaire.org to find out more.

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.

Ards CCE Grand Christmas Prize Draw, with amazing prizes. Tickets £1 available in Thomas shop until 1.30pm this Sun 9 Dec, the draw will take place at Ards CCE Christmas Concert 9 Dec in the stables 5pm.

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.

St Comgall's Donaghadee - Coffee Morning raised £1,681 for the Night Sleepers Rough Shelter. The Turkey Raffle was won by Doreen and Jim Lawther. Thanks to all, a great event.

The Live Crib: Visit the Live Christmas Crib at St Mary's Grotto from Thurs 13 Dec until Sun 6 Jan. Come along and meet Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and the Three wise men. This year animals are kindly provided by the Irish Donkey association and there will be a baby donkey in the crib this year. Carol singers daily at 2 pm. and 5 pm. Proceeds to the Mill Hill Missionaries working in Sudan.

St Comgall's D'dee Church Team

Express their sincere thanks to the Parishioners for donations of £85 received during November towards the cost of altar flowers. Your donations mean that we can continue funding the floral tributes for Sunday Mass and Liturgy Services during Jan/Feb 2019.

The praise band thank the huge crowd that turned out to support the launch of our new album 'let there be light'. To all the artists and anyone who contributed to the night thank you . There are some CD's for sale at £10 in Thomas shop .

The Spirit of Christmas' concert Sat 15 Dec 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.

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 December 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.

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