

Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

6th Sunday of the Year - 11 February 2018

World Meeting of Families on 21-26 August 2018, Dublin

Icon of the Holy Family

Description of the Icon continued.



Mary sees their dire need and the risk of embarrassment to them. Sometimes mothers have the keenest eyes for the burdens of others. She herself can do nothing but she goes to Jesus. We see her standing right beside him, pointing with her hand towards the husband and wife. Jesus has not yet worked any signs. He feels it's not yet the appropriate time, and the face of Jesus in this icon captures something of his reticence. But Mary sees the couples need as most important. She trusts that Jesus can do something and tells the servants: "Do whatever he tells you." With one hand holding a scroll of the dynamic Word of God, Jesus, with his right hand, blesses the water being poured into the jars by the servants in response to his command. Something insipid and tasteless is filled with flavour and joy. And God gives with superabundance, beyond all expectations. The seated wedding steward holds a cup of wine up with a gesture of approval. "You have kept the good wine till now," he says.

You have saved the best till last, perhaps an allusion to Hebrews 1:2: God spoke to us through the prophets "but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son". Christ Jesus is revealed too as the Bridegroom of the marriage between God and Humanity. The bread and wine on the table again remind us of the Eucharist. Indeed blessed are those called to the supper, the wedding feast of the Lamb.

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During Lent we will be praying the **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** in the 3 Churches of Bangor Parish on alternate Sundays in Lent at **4.30pm**. We would like to invite 6 families to carry the cross for each of the stations during the read mediation in each of the Churches. If you would like to be involved please contact the parish office during office hours. The dates are as follows:

Time: 4.30pm **Dates:** 18th, 25th Feb; 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March

Week 1 & 4 – 18th Feb & 11th March – St Comgall's Church, Brunswick Road

Week 2 & 5 – 25th Feb & 18th March – Most Holy Redeemer, Ballyholme

Week 3 & 6 – 4th March & 25th March – St Comgall's Church, Donaghadee

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In this, the year of The World Meeting of Families, can we draw your attention to the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, displayed on the poster here in the church. He says:

"How much better our family life would be if we used the words
Please, Thank you and I'm sorry."

It is short, simple and thought-provoking. It is taken from his book **Amoris Laetitia – The Joy of Love**. During the holy season of Lent we are going to take a quote from the text on each of the six Sundays of Lent. We hope they also will be relevant and inspiring. More information about the World Meeting of Families will be made available in the parish bulletin in the weeks to come.

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: Mon, Tues and Thurs 9.30 am.
Ash Wednesday 1pm and 7.30pm.
Friday as announced.

Ballyholme: Ash Wednesday 9am.

Confessions: Sat 5.30 pm.

Baptisms: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2pm.
Four weeks notice required. Register online at
www.bangorparish.com

Your prayers are requested for:

Recently Deceased:

Veronica Mallon
Patricia Haltof nee O'Hara

Anniversaries:

Agnes Magee, Bert Cassidy,
Mathew Kangirathingal, Sid Stalford,
Leo Gribben, Kathleen Dorrian-Brown,
Eileen Bell, David Carlin,
Deirdre and Fiona Clarke.

*The second collection this Sunday
is for the Development Fund.*

Perpetual Adoration

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

Lent 2018

Wed 14 February is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent, it is a Day of Fast and Abstinence. Ashes will be distributed during the Masses which are 1pm and 7.30pm in St Comgall's Church, Bangor and 9am in Most Holy Redeemer, Ballyholme.

Trocaire 2018

"Love...it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails" (1 Cor 13-4-7)

When you donate to Trocaire you're not just giving. You're directly helping struggling communities in their fight for justice. The injustices faced by the world's poorest people are many and can only be tackled with your help. Trocaire Lenten boxes are available at the back of the church.

Take on the Trocaire Romero Family Award. Step 1: Log on to www.trocaire.org/romeroaward and register your family for the Award.

Trocaire and Traidcraft will be holding a sale next weekend 17/18 Feb. Tea and coffee will be served after Masses on Sunday.

Diocesan Vocation Weekend

Drumalis Retreat Centre, Fri 16 -Sun 18 Feb 2018. To attend this retreat or for further info contact: Fr Kevin McGuckien 9061 4567, or email: k.mcguickien@downandconnor.org

27th Divine Mercy National Conference Sat 17 Feb

Theme: Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid. (MT14:27). Entrance fee for Sat is €30. It is hoped to organise a bus from Portaferry (Cost and times will follow). Contact Jean Byers 427 2 8781.

Lenten Pioneer Pledge

Many people choose to abstain from alcohol during Lent. Why not take this opportunity to help yourself or someone you know with an alcohol or drug problem by offering your sacrifice for freedom from addiction? Please consider taking the short term Lenten Pledge and make a difference to someone's life. Register your pledge with local Pioneers and say the daily prayer "I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink until the end of Lent.

The Knights of Columbanus

This year's Lenten retreat will be held in St Marys Greencastle on Mon 26 Feb at 7.30 pm. The retreat will be led by our Provincial Chaplain, Fr Andrew, and I would encourage you all to try and make what is one of our Area's annual retreats. All are welcome.

Lourdes 2018: The Diocesan Pilgrimage (11-16th July 2018) are currently seeking nurses (on the NMC live register - working in any area) to join the volunteer staff. For more info email lourdes@downandconnor.org or telephone the Pilgrimage Office 9064 6040. Subsidised fare for nurses £520.

Parish Ministry

Are you aged between 14 and 18? Would you like to become more involved in your Parish? One way is to become a junior Minister of the Word. Training and support will be provided. If interested please leave your name and contact details at the Parish Office (9146 5522) during office hours or chat to Josh Hall (07921917026) or James McAllister (07751851444).

The Bethany Bereavement Support Team wish to recruit new members. A training course will start on Thurs 22 Feb at 7.30pm in the Good Shepherd Centre, Belfast. If interested or require further info phone Geraldine 075 1085 2157 or Claire 075 5788 2183.

Rally to "Save the 8th" – a massive pro-life Rally will be held in Dublin on Sat 10 March. Join thousands from across Ireland in support of the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution that protects unborn babies. Coaches travelling to the Rally from towns across NI. For further details contact the Rally for Life Committee on 9027 8484 or click on www.rallyforlife.net

Today is World Day of the Sick

A Torchlight Rosary Procession for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes will be held in the Grotto, St Mary's Chapel Lane, Belfast starting at 8 pm. All welcome.

St Joseph's Young Priests Society

The latest addition of The Sheaf, the quarterly magazine of the Society, is available at the back of the church along with leaflets explaining the work of the Society. Please take a copy.

Beginning Experience is offering 'a weekend away for a lifetime of change' at Drumalis Larne, Fri 2 – Sun 4 March. To find out more, contact Phil: 02890 207645 or Marie 07896119669 or email bebelfast@hotmail.com. Support group continues Wed evenings at 8pm in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave, Belfast.

One Family-One Common Home"

Re-inhabiting the Earth Spring Conference – Fri 23 - Sun 25 Feb 2018.

For further details or to book a place contact Drumalis 028272196/28276455 (Mon- Fri, 9am–5pm) Booking forms can also be downloaded from www.drumalis.co.uk

Bangor Parish

7 Day Trip to Brittany and Normandy

From June 25th to July 1st joining the one day St Columbanus International Meeting in **St Coulomb June 30th.**

The cost is 895 euro pp sharing, all breakfasts and dinners included, 3 nights Lisieux, 3 nights St Malo. Day trips include; Places associated with St Therese, Mont St Michel, Dinard and more. (Courier: Kieran Troy who has led Bangor groups in the recent past). As there is great demand for hotel space in Brittany in this period prompt booking would be highly recommended.

Details on the parish website, church notice board and from the Parish Office.

Could you provide love, fun and security until adulthood for a child who is unable to live with their birth parents:

Belfast HSC Trust together with South Eastern HSC Trust is holding an information evening, "Til I Grow Up", on Thur 22 Feb, 7-9pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Shawsbridge. The event is open to members of the public to inform them about the need for foster families for a number of children until they reach adulthood. It is necessary to register for the event, call 9504 0057 or email mairead.sloan@setrust.hscni.net. We would love to hear from you!