

# 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](http://www.bangorparish.com) Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30pm to 1pm.

## The Most Holy Trinity Sunday – 12 June 2022

**Your prayers are requested for**

**Recently Deceased:** Máire McDonnell  
**Anniversaries:**

Vera McHenry, Gertie O'Mahony, Margaret McClean, Catherine McClean, Paul Fagan, Eddie Hinds, Maureen O'Kane, Carol Murray, Colin McDonagh, John McDowell, Leo McDowell, Kathleen McCann.

### COLUMBANUS COMMUNITY FOLK FESTIVAL

**Bangor 12-19 June.**

Full week of events.

Headline act:

**St Comgall's Parish Centre,**

with Mairtin O Connor trio and

Celtic Storm

**Saturday 18th June.**

Tickets £10 children free with a paying adult. All info on [www.ardscce.co.uk](http://www.ardscce.co.uk)

### BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Evenings only until further notice at 6pm.

Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please register online SIDE BAR under

**'Sacramental Preparation'**



### BANGOR PARISH PODCAST

You can listen to the Parish Podcasts

STATIONS OF THE CROSS by

clicking on the audio files on the website or  
by searching for "Parish of Bangor Podcast"

in the apple or google podcast Apps.

Then subscribe to our channel so that you will receive all the  
latest podcasts straight to your device.

### Bethany Bereavement Support Group

we are here to support and listen.  
Confidential. **075 1085 2157**

### St Vincent de Paul Helpline

**077 0367 9384**

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES THIS WEEKEND

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH, DONAGHADEE

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June @ 9.00am

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Saturday vigil 11<sup>th</sup> June @ 6.30pm

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June @ 10am & 12noon

*Please note that the Covid sanitising regulations have not changed and will  
continue to be strictly observed.*

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### DAILY MASS NEXT WEEK – 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June

Morning Mass: Monday to Friday at 9.30am

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A number of Masses including funerals are recorded.

These can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

[www.churchservices.tv/bangor](http://www.churchservices.tv/bangor)

**Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** has resumed on  
every Monday. Adoration will last from after Morning Mass until  
**4.00pm** with the intention of prolonging it later until 9.00pm as  
heretofore subject to there being sufficient adorers on the rota.

Please let us know if you are interested  
in being part of the evening rota.

### Ards CCE

#### Trad Music Summer Workshops

1st /2nd July St Comgalls Primary School  
Bangor for all abilities and beginners welcome,  
for ages 6-17 years.

More info Niall Mc Clean  
07960072218

### PRAYING WITH THE ICONS

under **The Four Saints** found in  
'Parish Today'

**This is a 9 Page Bulletin  
so please scroll down!**

Full Copy Of The Sunday Missalette Can Be Found On The Parish Website Under "News"



**DOWN and CONNOR**

**DIOCESAN TRUST**

**VACANCY SACRISTAN  
BANGOR PARISH, BRUNSWICK ROAD, BANGOR, BT20 3DS**

A vacancy has arisen for a Sacristan within Bangor Parish, where the responsibilities in the role will include:

✠ The maintenance of the sacristy where the church's liturgical items are kept including vestments, sacred vessels, and books etc.

✠ Ensuring that the sanctuary is set up for mass, other services, baptisms, and funerals, ensuring all the requisite books and sacramental vessels etc. are in place, and that afterwards the sanctuary is cleared, and the church is left secure and tidy.

The terms are based on a permanent appointment requiring 15 hours attendance each week, work pattern to be agreed. Ability to work flexible hours is required from the post holder from time to time.

Rate of Pay - £9.50 gross per hour.

Full details relating to the vacancy can be found on the Diocesan website at:

<http://www.downandconnor.org> clicking on the tab: **JOB VACANCIES**

and on the Community NI website, where terms and conditions relating to the role can also be accessed by way of a Role Profile and Employment Application form. Application packs can also be obtained from the Parish Office.

We welcome applications from anyone who feels they meet the criteria and are interested in playing an active part in the Parish.

**Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

***Down and Connor Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer***

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***Down and Connor Knock Virtual Pilgrimage***

We welcome you to join us for our Diocesan Knock in person/Virtual Pilgrimage **on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022**. The ceremonies will be streamed live on the shrine website [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie) and on Knock Shrine Facebook page. The programme will commence with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at 2.30pm and Mass will be celebrated at **3pm by Bishop Noel Treanor**. Bishop Treanor will also deliver the Homily. The Mass will be followed by the Recitation of the Rosary

You are invited to place a Petition by visiting the Knock Shrine Website and all the Petitions will be before the Altar during the Mass. You may also request that a candle be lit for your intentions, or you may do so in person.

Many regular visitors to Knock with our Diocesan Pilgrimage have expressed a reluctance to travel this year via coaches, therefore, unfortunately, there is very few Parish Groups attending this year. I do hope that we can build this up again in the years to come.

We encourage as many of you as possible to participate and pray that next year we may gather, as a Diocese, in larger numbers in person again at our National Shrine of Our Lady of Knock.

With Every Blessing - Father Vincent Cushnahan, (Diocesan Knock Pilgrimage Director).

**Please find below the link to the Safeguarding Office Spring 2022 E-Bulletin.** Newsletter - available to view on our website <https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/newsletters/>

A special edition of *Sharing the Good News* on the Synodal Pathway. In this issue, we profile Dr Nicola Brady's cover story interview from the June issue of *Intercom* magazine. This special edition also includes a piece on the Day of Prayer on Sunday 5 June which is being offered in thanksgiving for the Diocesan Phase of the Universal Synod. We also invite people to pray for the National Pre-Synodal Assembly taking place in Athlone and Clonmacnoise on Saturday 18 June. Also be available on [www.synod.ie](http://www.synod.ie) and on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).

**LIVING CHURCH: "Come Away and Rest Awhile" CARA RETREAT** Are you a parent of a young person with a disability? Would you like to take some time out to pray, reflect and meet other parents? If the answer is yes we would love you to join us for a parents retreat at: Drumalis Retreat Centre beginning **Friday 24th June**, 6pm until Saturday 25th June, 4pm For information or to register your interest contact: Louise McQuillan Tel: 07922437679 Email: [l.mcquillan@downandconnor.org](mailto:l.mcquillan@downandconnor.org)

### **UNUSED BICYCLES FOR CHARITY**

**The Rotary Club of North Down** supports a Belfast charity, Bike Aid Africa, which collects second hand bicycles of all sizes, repairs and refurbishes them and then forwards them to a country in Africa for use by people of all ages as their only means of transport, e.g. to get to work or go to school. At the end of June, it will be sending a container of bicycles to Madagascar. If anyone has a bicycle no longer in use, please phone Greg McCourt on 07774672445 who will be pleased to collect it and delivery it to this worthy charity.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION IN BELFAST, JUNE 19TH**

#### **Calling All Women!**

Inspired by the Women of Jerusalem who stood at the foot of the Cross, all women are invited to join a Procession of The Most Blessed Sacrament. **Prayer Intention:** Praying for the Faith to return to Ireland. **Where?** St Mary's, Chapel lane, Belfast BT1 1HH - Procession to St Peter's Cathedral, Falls Road. (Refreshments afterwards.) **When?** Corpus Christi Sunday, 19th June, 2:30PM @ St Mary's. First Holy Communion boys and girls (in their white dresses & suits) are also invited. Men also welcome alongside the Procession. Children must be accompanied by their parent/ legal guardian. Tel. Ursula or Paul: 07766663310 / 07850 866843

### **Dear Friend of Columbanus Bangor,**

Just a note to remind you that Ards CCE has planned a wonderful programme for the Columbanus Folk Festival which will take place in **Bangor 12 - 19 June**.

As part of the programme, FoCB Events Committee is organising two events:

**Columbanus Boat Trips** on Sunday 12 and Sunday 19 June - £20 pp  
Song, music and storytelling aboard a boat on Bangor Bay

**Columban Way Walk** on Friday 17 June - £6 pp.

The 6 km walk will start in Comber Square at 9.30am, move on to Scrabo Tower where light refreshments will be served and onward to Movilla Abbey in Newtownards. Along the way, expert guides will inform you about Columbanus and Finnian. A bus will transport you back to Comber to pick up your car. (See attached photograph. Thanks to FoCB member David Irwin of Compass Coach for promoting us on his bus!)

For further information on both events and to book online, please visit: <https://ardscce.co.uk/>

**Knock Shrine** - Daily Masses continue to be broadcast on the Knock Shrine website and Facebook page at 12 Noon and 7.30pm, with Rosary at 7pm. Sunday Mass is broadcast at 12 noon, Rosary at 2.30pm and Mass at 3pm. For further details, please see [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie)



**Pilgrimage to Fatima – 2022,  
Down and Connor Diocese  
8 - 15 SEPTEMBER 2022  
| 7 NIGHTS**

Led by Bishop Noel Treanor D.D.  
Pilgrimage directors: Fr G. McCloskey PP  
and Fr Sean Gilmore PP - Return flights  
from Dublin to Lisbon - Coach from  
Belfast to Dublin airport - 7 nights at  
Hotel Avenida - Breakfast, lunch and  
dinner each day - Airport transfers -  
20kg check-in bag per person - Free  
travel insurance up to 79 years. **£689**  
per person sharing.

**For Bookings contact:** Joe Catney  
028 9071 4001 / 07776 425631  
**Pilgrimage Directors:** Fr G McCloskey  
PP 028 4484 1208 & Fr Sean Gilmore PP

**Bethany Bereavement Support  
Group** we are here to support and  
listen. Confidential. **075 1085 2157**

**Mass is Live Streamed and can be  
accessed via the Parish Website**

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

**CLONARD NOVENA**

In Honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

**15<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

**'Let us dream' Pope Francis  
All welcome in Church or Online**

**For more information:**

**[www.clonard.com](http://www.clonard.com)**

**Novena Times:**

Mon to Sat: 7am, 9.30am, 11.30am, 4pm, 6pm 8pm

Sun: 7am, 9.30am, 11.30am, 1pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm



**CALENDAR OF SAINTS DAYS**

**JUNE 2022**

**Thursday 9 June**

Saint Columba (Colum Cille), Abbot & Missionary

**Friday 10 June**

Saint Ephrem, Deacon & Doctor of the Church

**Saturday 11 June**

Saint Barnabas, Apostle

**Sunday 12 June**

The Most Holy Trinity

**Monday 13 June**

Saint Anthony of Padua

**Tuesday 14 June**

Saint Davnet, Virgin

**Saturday 18 June**

Blessed Virgin Mary

**Sunday 19 June**

The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi

**Monday 20 June**

The Irish Martyrs inc Bishop of Down and Connor Blessed  
Conor O'Devany

**Tuesday 21 June**

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

**Prayer Online:** Come and join us at... [www.soulparemission.com](http://www.soulparemission.com) Who are we? We are a new interactive prayer website created by Jacinta Crockford DipTH, Spiritual Director living in Down and Connor. What's on offer? A variety of PDF meditations on Mother Teresa, St John Paul II, Ignatius Spirituality to name but a few. Lots of content to Dive into! There you will find - Podcasts on Faith, Friendship & Knowledge; Rosaries, Prayers and Marian Consecration. Come and join us and be part of the prayer movement online!

**Saturday at 8.30pm** – Prayerful Reflections during Live Eucharistic Adoration. Meditations on the Catholic Internet TV – Shalom World.org Just click on the following link to access this time of prayer. [www.swprayer.org](http://www.swprayer.org) Please be assured that I will be including all the parishioners and their families during these live intercessory prayers.

**St Anne's P.S. Summer Fun Day**

Sunday. June 12, 1-4pm - A fun day for everyone! Bouncy obstacle course, tombola, BBQ, toys "Bazaar" and a great raffle with restaurant vouchers, family days out and much more. There will also be face painting and lots of games such as Hook-a-Duck, Beat-the-Goalie, Roll-a-Coin, Hi-Lo cards, Hoop-La and many more. Auction at 2pm, Raffle at 3pm. Free entry. Everyone welcome. Would you be able to help look after a stall, or help serve teas? If you can, please contact the school 9188 3619 or email [jhennessy542@c2kni.net](mailto:jhennessy542@c2kni.net).

**The Society of St Vincent de Paul** offers practical and confidential help to those in need throughout the North Down Area. We know it can be hard to ask for help but please, if you need help call us on **our Helpline: 077 0367 9384.**

To help us to help others you can make direct payments to Conferences Bank Account.  
St Comgall's, Allied Irish Bank. Sort Code 93-82-03. A/C No is 25302098.  
Most Holy Redeemer Ballyholme, Allied Irish Bank. Sort Code 93-82-03. A/C No. 06885061.

Donations can also be made to SVP Giving Page at [www.svp-ni.co.uk](http://www.svp-ni.co.uk). If you are a UK income tax payer please consider Gift Aiding your donation, which will enhance your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. Gift Aid forms are available on the Parish website, or on request, via SVP Helpline number, as above.

The Society is always on the lookout for new Members, and if you are interested and can spare a few hours per week please speak to a Conference Member, or leave your name and contact number on the Helpline and we will return to you promptly. You will be warmly welcomed and full training will be given.

***We can now accept donations of Good quality furniture –  
please call our Helpline or speak to a member of the Society.***

### STOREHOUSE NORTH DOWN

Storehouse continues to help **St Vincent De Paul** provide non-perishable food for those in need. **Non perishable foodstuff donations, for Storehouse, have recommenced. Donations can be left in the receptacle in the Bishops Porch at the rear of the Church** or Storehouse welcomes donations of foodstuff at their premises, 12 Balloo Avenue, Bangor on Mondays and Thursdays between 10.00am to 3.00 pm. Cash donations are also very acceptable.

**Knock Shrine** - Daily Masses continue to be broadcast on the Knock Shrine website and Facebook page at 12 Noon and 7.30pm, with Rosary at 7pm. Sunday Mass is broadcast at 12 noon, Rosary at 2.30pm and Mass at 3pm. For further details, please see [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie)



**LOUGH DERG THREE DAY PILGRIMAGE** runs Wed 1st June until 15th August (Sat 13th Aug is final day to begin the Pilgrimage). Admission €80 | Booking advised | Concessions available for students, seniors and groups. All booking info, including organised parish groups available at [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org), email [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org) or telephone 0(0353) 71 9861518. *Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co Donegal, F94 N289*

**CANA 1,2,3 – Retreat for Couples:** Rediscover the meaning and fun in your marriage, your family life, and your commitment to each other. Experience the 7 thematic days of the CANA Week over three weekends through April, May & June. Including Talks, Testimonies and most importantly of all, Time to share with each other as a couple and with other couples. other couples. Contact details: Brian & Lisa Harmon 041 6851563, 086 8386725 or 0879080023 [info@canaireland.org](mailto:info@canaireland.org) [www.canaireland.org](http://www.canaireland.org)

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2022:** Full board in hotel: 5 nights (13-18 July) from £685. For further information contact the Pilgrimage Office on (028) 9077 0162 email: [lourdes@downandconnor.org](mailto:lourdes@downandconnor.org) or visit [www.downandconnor.org/Lourdes](http://www.downandconnor.org/Lourdes)

#### **ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK. 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2022**

Fully guided pilgrimage with overnight stay in The Knock House Hotel. Bus leaves Saint Patricks Church Donegal Street. Total cost £140. For more information and to book a place please Contact Sally on 02890 247587

#### **KNOCK ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE 2022 Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration**

#### **Calling ALL ADORERS of the Blessed Sacrament in DOWN & CONNOR**

National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June (Corpus Christi weekend) leaving Belfast City Centre: Jury's Hotel at 6.15 am.

Cost £22, bring a packed lunch. **Contact** Harriet 07812098991 or Maureen 07745093530 to inquire or book a seat. For more information click on the link below.

[www.eucharisticadoration.ie](http://www.eucharisticadoration.ie)

*Copy of the poster on the Parish Website under 'News'*



**"The Morning Star Shines On Us" - Four Reflective Wednesday afternoon sessions with Sr Magdalen Lawler  
SND hosted by Drumalis via Zoom in June (8, 15, 22 & 29 June from 2 pm – 3:30 pm)**

Sr Magdalen Lawler invites us to join her via Zoom for four afternoons in June as she reflects on the paintings of Sieger Koder. The suggested offering to attend the series is £40 per person. To register, please email [katrina@drumalis.co.uk](mailto:katrina@drumalis.co.uk) or phone 028 28272196/28276455 (Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm)

**An Irish Pilgrimage Guide to the Holy Land** is a new book by Michael Kelly, Editor of *The Irish Catholic* newspaper which explores the places associated with the life of Christ. Michael, who has led many pilgrimages to the Holy Land, says he hopes the book can also act as an 'armchair retreat' for people who cannot travel to the Holy Land bringing the Gospel to life for them. It is available now from all good bookshops, [www.columbabooks.com](http://www.columbabooks.com) or by calling 00353.1.687.4096 price €16.99/£14.99

**Accord** is recruiting interested people to assist in the provision of Marriage Preparation Programmes.

Application forms are available by contacting [info@accordni.com](mailto:info@accordni.com)

Selections will take place in June of this year with training commencing in September.

This year Accord is celebrating 60 years supporting couples and families.

Please contact us for any support you may need [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com)

**QUB Chaplaincy Golden Jubilee Ball**

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University will celebrate its Golden Jubilee with a Gala Ball in Belfast City Hall, to take place on Friday 10 June at 7pm. A drinks reception will be followed by a four-course dinner with wine, and dancing to live band MOJO. The evening promises to be the highlight of this year's social calendar, giving Queen's Chaplaincy alumni, across generations, a wonderful opportunity to catch up and share memories with old friends. Tickets are priced at £80 (plus online booking fee) and can be secured by following this link: <https://fixr.co/event/catholic-chaplaincy-qub-golden-gala-tickets-384378624> There is a limited number of tickets available for current students at the subsidised rate of £50 and can be reserved by contacting Chaplaincy directly at [catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk](mailto:catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk) Dress Code: Black Tie

**The Most Holy Trinity Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022**



**Lord Jesus, you have said, 'Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.'** I come to you in faith and trust, in love and hope. Let me know your closeness to me and your care for me and for all who are dear to me.

**My intention:** Hear my prayer (*mention intention*); grant what I ask, and may I always trust that in all that happens in life, you will be close to me as my friend, guide and saviour. And so, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.

**Penitential Act:** I confess to the almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**PRAYERS AT HOLY COMMUNION**

**Spiritual Holy Communion Prayer**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and  
I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you have already come,  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.

*composed by Saint Alphonsus Liguori*

**ANIMA CHRISTI**

**Prayer to the Most Holy Redeemer**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, embolden me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesus, hear me.  
Within your wounds hide me.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
From the evil enemy defend me.  
At the hour of my death call me  
and bid me to come to you,  
that with your Saints I may praise you  
for age upon age. Amen

**TRÓCAIRE** thank you for your help. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org).
2. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI)
2. By post to Trócaire, 50 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI).

**Bangor group of Alcoholics Anonymous** has restarted our Open Meetings. Open Meetings are, as the name suggests, open to everyone and anyone who wishes to know more about alcoholism, how it effects the individual and how they can recover. Bangor AA Open Meetings, The last Friday of the month, every month. Doors open at 8pm for an 8.30pm start. **Bangor Community HUB**, Hamilton Road, Bangor. BT20 4LF.

**South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust Carer Support Service**  
**Are you an unpaid carer who cares for a family member or friend?**

You are invited to come along to the Carer Support Service Carer Hub in Bangor.

**When:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month

**Where:** North Down Community Wellbeing Hub, Main Street

**Time:** 10.30 – 1pm

No need to book, just call in at any time during the morning for carer information advice and guidance. Join us for tea/coffee and scones, we would love to meet you.



**GREETINGS FROM DROMANTINE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE NEW WORKSHOPS 2022 - BOOKINGS NOW OPEN** - Please contact Jacinta or Louisa to reserve your place: TEL: 028 (048 from ROI) 3082 1964 EMAIL: [admin@dromantineconference.com](mailto:admin@dromantineconference.com)

**ALONE TOGETHER**

*Finding our way back to connection*  
Saturday, 18 June (9.30am - 4.30pm)

**THE LONG GOODBYE**

*Practical advice for caregivers of people living with dementia*  
Friday, 19 August (5pm) - Sunday, 21 August (2pm)

**WHEN IT IS DARKEST**

*Understanding suicide*  
Saturday, 24 September (9.30am - 4.30pm)

**CHURCH ABUSE: A UNIQUE BETRAYAL**

*A call to listen, a call to action, a call to change*  
Friday, 4 November (5pm) - Sunday, 6 November (2pm)

**A Prayer by Telephone**

The Sisters of Mercy "Bethany" 34 Point Road, Dundalk Welcome any person who may wish to request prayer, especially during these difficult times. All requests are confidential. **Tel:00353429331602 9am – 9pm Daily - One of the sisters will be happy to Listen and Pray with you**

**A JOURNEY OF FAITH, HOPE AND JOY WITH ST PATRICK....**

Come and be refreshed on ancient paths in the cradle of Christianity in Ireland. Poor Clares Sr Martina Purdy and Sr Elaine Kelly will lead you on an amazing five day pilgrimage that includes guided walks to sites associated with St Patrick in County Down. Stay in Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre, visit with monks along St Patrick's Way, and capture the joy of the first Christians in Ireland. From £798 all inc meals, transport, activities. Details [www.saintpatrickcentre.com](http://www.saintpatrickcentre.com) or call centre Downpatrick 02844 619000

Please see link below for more details.

[Saint Patrick Centre – Welcome to the Home of Saint Patrick](#)

The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. **BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** is offering a programme of bereavement support in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast on two Saturdays (June 25.) Booking essential. To find out more, contact Phil: 02890 207645 or Marie 07896119669.

**Do you or somebody you know suffer from addiction?**

Addiction to Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling, Pornography, Food, Internet etc. steals life from so many people. Please come to the shrine of Matt Talbot in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sean Mc Dermot street, Dublin, on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm, and join our annual national pilgrimage to pray for the miracle of freedom from all these addictions. For more information, visit [www.matttalbotprayersociety.com](http://www.matttalbotprayersociety.com) or contact [vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com](mailto:vita@matttalbotprayersociety.com) (028) 71262894

**On Fire!** A two day Conference for Catholic adults to regenerate the spirit of evangelisation in the UK

**9-11 September 2022 SPEAKERS FROM:** The Benedictines / The Dominicans / Aid to the Church in Need / CAFOD / Society of St Vincent de Paul / Catholic Voices. **TRAINING WORKSHOPS BY CATHOLIC VOICES**  
**CONFERENCE COST - £110 PER PERSON, INCLUDES:** Talks and workshops / Lunch on Saturday and Sunday / Buffet dinner on Saturday / Teas and coffees **ACCOMMODATION AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGES** B&B from £33 per person, per night Hurry! Bookings for rooms close end of May **Open to all Catholics aged 18+ Venue:** Durham University Teaching and Learning Centre, DH1 3LS **Details:** <https://youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk/event/on-fire-conference>  
**Email:** [rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk](mailto:rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk)

# Becoming a Fisher of Men

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ISSUES FACED BY THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA IS THE VAST DISTANCES THAT NEED TO BE COVERED. THERE ARE SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH PRIESTS TO VISIT EVERY COMMUNITY REGULARLY. ROLISSON KNOWS THIS BETTER THAN MOST, HAVING GROWN UP IN THE AMAZON. HE IS DETERMINED TO BECOME A PRIEST AND HELP MINISTER TO THE FAITHFUL IN THE AMAZON.



By ACN Staff

Rolisson praying during Eucharistic Adoration. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

Rolisson Afonso was born in Manaus in the Brazilian Amazon. **His mother was too young to properly look after him when he was born, so he was raised by his devout Catholic grandparents in Santa Isabel do Rio Negro.** Every day, Rolisson would pray with his grandparents, reflect on the Gospel, pray the Rosary and attend Holy Mass on Sunday.

Rolisson would go fishing with his grandfather to help provide food for the family. These trips remain some of his fondest childhood memories. **When he was**



his mistake, but looking at the positive side, he believes that he can now relate to and communicate with young people in a similar situation as he was in as a teenager.



**12, Rolisson told his grandmother that he wanted to become a priest.** He was initially attracted to the priesthood by the vestments worn by the priests. **Sadly, Rolisson fell away from the Faith during his teenage years. His friends teased him for wanting to be a priest, and he dropped the**

**idea.** Looking back, Rolisson understands



Rolisson eventually **moved back to his birthplace of Manaus to further his education and stayed with his mother** and younger siblings. **Rolisson's mother was an Evangelical Protestant.** Ironically moving into a Protestant household enabled Rolisson to reconnect with his Catholic Faith. Rolisson explains more:

**"They would ask me questions about my Catholic Faith, but I wasn't able to answer**

**them. So, I went looking and discovered a community near my house. I became involved and joined a youth group."**



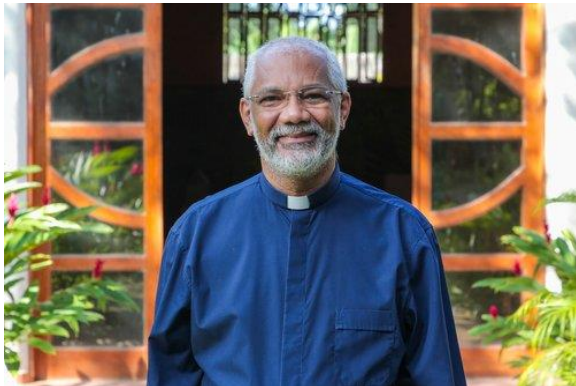


Rolisson continued his studies and later got a job. **The idea of entering a seminary had stayed with him. Growing up in the Amazon, Rolisson knows better than most the difficulties faced by the Church there.** The remoteness and vastness of the area is the most significant issue faced by the Church. There are **simply not enough priests** to cover such vast ground. Rolisson explained how infrequently some communities are visited by a priest:

*"Some of these riverside communities only get visited by a priest once a year, or once a month. He arrives, celebrates Mass and then returns to the city. This is one of the reasons I want to be a priest, to take the sacraments, the Gospel, to these people, to serve their needs."*

Rolisson knew that God was calling him to join the seminary. He made the difficult move to leave a secure well-paying job and entered the seminary. **The Church here is poor and often cannot support seminarians. The support given by ACN to seminaries is vital.**

**Father Zenildo Lima** is the rector of Saint



explains more:

*"Just as **Jesus walked along the margins of the Sea of Galilee**, calling his disciples, who were simple people, to be **fishers of men**, so does he call us, and so does he call the riverside communities to be his disciples and proclaim the Gospel."*



Joseph's Seminary, where Rolisson is in attendance. Father Zenildo believes very strongly in listening to local people and learning from them. This approach has helped **foster many vocations**

**in this part of Brazil**, increasingly from indigenous communities. Father Zenildo looks to the Gospels as to how to foster vocations. He



Rolisson wished to pass his thanks to ACN and our benefactors in supporting the Church in the Amazon:

*"I would like to **thank all the ACN benefactors** for helping us, and ask them to keep doing so, so that we can have more priests for our Amazon, for the whole world, and **continue to take the Eucharist and our pastoral work to furthest reaches.**"*

In the Amazon, the fishers of men need boats just as much as regular fishermen. **On top of supporting seminaries in the Amazon, ACN helps provide the local Church boats and other forms of transportation to reach isolated parishes and communities.**

