

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 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30pm to 1pm.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

29th Sunday of the Year - 16 October 2022 -

Your prayers are requested for Recently Deceased:

Tom Quinn, Hanna Matthews,
Mairead Donnelly

Anniversaries:

Ann McPadden, Michael & Rosalind McWilliams, Mary McNally, Mary Sweeney, Meta Hopkins, Sean McKenna, Brian Cullen, Terence Mulligan, Tess McKillen, Seamus McGivern, Kevan Hughes, Joseph Hall, Cecilia Walsh, Alice Hall, Annie McElroy, Mary McMahan.

For more details on the different notices please go on to the parish website:

www.bangorparish.com

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

www.bangorparish.com

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Holy Hour in St Comgall's Donaghadee - every 2nd Sunday in the month @ 2.45pm

A meeting for **all Lectors (Readers) NEW & OLD** will take place in St Comgall's Church, Brunswick Rd on **Monday 17th October at 7.00pm**. This will be a short meeting to assign ROTAS for the Weekend Masses and the Daily Masses.

Saint Martha's Guild - St Comgall's Brunswick Road

It is proposed to revive the St Martha's Guild to ensure the regular cleaning of the church on a rota basis. Any parishioner interested in volunteering in this vital service is kindly asked to give his/her name into the Parish Office during office hours 9.30am-1pm or by email: bangor@downandconnor.org

Come and be apart of the Friendship Club Tuesdays at 10am. This week **18th October** we will have the Crime Prevention Unit giving us information about SCAMS and helping us to stay protected online & receiving telephone calls. Everyone at one time or another have been a victim of scams! Let's find out how we can prevent this. All welcome!!!

PRAYING WITH THE ICONS under **The Four Saints** found in 'Parish Today'

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

SUNDAY MASS TIMES THIS WEEKEND

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH, DONAGHADEE

Sunday 16th October @ 9.00am

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Saturday vigil 15th October @ 6.30pm
Sunday 16th October @ 10am & 12noon

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

DAILY MASS NEXT WEEK - 17th - 21st October

Morning Mass: Monday to Friday at 9.30am

A number of Masses including funerals are recorded. These can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

www.churchservices.tv/bangor

Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Monday. Adoration will last from after Morning Mass until **4.00pm**.

TROCAIRE COFFEE MORNING - Welcome all parishioners to our Coffee Morning after both Masses on **Sunday 23rd October** in St Comgall's Parish Centre.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL CLASSES

Sacramental Class for **First Penance & First Holy Communion**. Starting: The first Sunday in **November 6th at 11am** in the Parish Centre.

Cost £40 to include workbooks and supplies.

Only children registered by Friday 28th October 2022 will be accepted this year. Register interest with the Parish Office by email. [giving child's name, class, age, school]

St Vincent de Paul Helpline

077 0367 9384

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

Parish Safe-Guarding Level One - Volunteers Training

for **ALL** Ministers of the Eucharist. **Monday 17 October** in Saint Comgall's Parish Centre at 7.00pm. Booking Form on the Parish Website 'Parish Newsletters' button. **3 forms** of identification (Original & Copies) *more info see page 3.*

PARISH CENTRE – PARISH GROUPS RESTARTING – SEPTEMBER 2022

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS
BRIDGE CLUB at 7.30pm YOUTH CLUB 6.30pm – 8.30pm SAFEGUARDING Training – Level One 10 th October & 17 th October. St Dymphna’s Room at 7pm. Booking essential with parish office.	FRIENDSHIP CLUB at 10.00am IRISH DANCING CLASSES at 6.00pm SENIOR CHOIR Starting 11 th October at 7.30pm	MENCAP Every fortnight at 6.00pm YOUTH CLUB 6.30pm – 8.30pm BADMINTON Every fortnight at 8.00pm	BRIGINI’S (Girls aged 6-10) at 6.30pm IRISH CLASS & CEILI DANCING at 7.00pm
BOOKING OF PARISH CENTRE: Contact Thomas on T: 07305 746 263 or Email: mcmullanthomas481@gmail.com			
If you have a parish group and wish to advertise the times of starting or day in this Parish Newsletter please contact the parish office by email on: bangor@downandconnor.org			

AT A GLANCE – NEWS ITEMS IN THE PARISH AND AROUND THE DIOCESE

To see the fuller details please go to the parish website ‘Parish Bulletin’

SAT 15 OCT - HAIL HOLY QUEEN CONFERENCE 2022 Is Live On Radio Maria Ireland From 2pm Speakers include Fr. Vincent Stapleton, Antonia Moffat, Fr. Brian Mckevitt OP, Katrina Leyden. Radio Maria Ireland can be listened to by downloading the Radio Maria Ireland APP.

SUN 16 OCT - CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY QUB – GOLDEN JUBILEE MASS. The Catholic Chaplaincy warmly invites you to join them for their Annual Dedication of Studies Mass. Bishop Noel Treanor will celebrate the special Mass **at 8pm** in the Chaplaincy’s Corpus Christi Chapel, 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast.

THU 27 OCT – BELFAST JESUIT CENTRE, A series of 4 afternoon sessions led by Scripture Scholar Kieran O’Mahony OSA. 2.00pm-4.30pm, light refreshments provided. Register: belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com

SAT 12 NOV at 12noon. A series of workshops for Cantors will take place during the coming year. We begin the first workshop, in association with the Schola Cantorum, on Saturday, 12 November, in St Paul’s Church Mullingar, beginning at 12noon and ending at 2.00pm.

Knock Shrine - Daily Masses continue to be broadcast at 12 Noon and 7.30pm, with Rosary at 7pm. For further details, please see www.knockshrine.ie

Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre

Friday, 4 November (5pm) - Sunday, 6 November (2pm) CHURCH ABUSE: A UNIQUE BETRAYAL - *A call to listen, a call to action, a call to change.*

Tobar Mhuire Retreat and Conference Centre
 For further information on any of the courses or booking please telephone 028 4483 0242 or send a direct message on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/tobarmhuirepassionists>

Directed Retreat
 Sunday pm, November 13 – Friday am, November 18 - Charge: £495.00 (full board)

Refresher Days for those in Ministry
25th – 27th October: open to everyone engaged in ministry. Charge: £250:00 per person (full board)

The Positive Ageing Roadshows on:
 Wednesday 19 October 2022, 11am- 2pm, Comber Leisure Centre. Register by Wednesday 12 October 2022, 12noon
See details on page 6.

THU 20 OCT - STORMONT ROSARY FOR LIFE - Please join Precious Life for a special Candlelight Rosary for Life at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, (meeting at main gate entrance on Upper Newtownards Road) at **7.00pm**

BAPTISM REGISTRATION
 Please register online SIDE BAR under ‘Sacramental Preparation’

Full Copy of The Sunday Missalette can be found on The Parish Website Under “News”

JOB VACANCIES IN DOWN AND CONNOR DIOCESE..... more info see page 5

PARISH NOTICES
<p>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.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>What is RCIA? RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a process to introduce the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church to individuals who wish to learn more about Catholicism, including the opportunity, if they wish, to become Catholic through the Sacraments of Initiation. RCIA is a time of teaching, formation and conversion to come to know, love and develop a relationship with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>How do I sign up for RCIA? Have a conversation with Fr Gunn...</p> <p><i>See page 8 for more details.</i></p>

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. 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.

Storehouse North Down update

Due to the economic situation and the approach of winter we are seeing an increase in requests for hampers. We were giving out between 30 and 40 hampers per week. This has now increased to between 40 and 50 per week.. From February to the end of August we have given out 788 hampers helping approximately 2000 people. It is only by your support that we can supply help to those in need. Thank you for your support and generosity.

We are often asked what we need. Here is a list of items we are always short off.

Cooking oil; Tins of chunky chicken, stewed steak and minced steak; Snacks such as Ravioli, Macaroni, Meatballs; Tins of custard; Long life milk; Tins of meals for rice eg chilli con carne, chicken curry, etc; Packets of noddles, pasta in sauce etc; Cleaning sprays; Washing up liquids; Shampoos, shower gel and deodorants for both men and women; Washing powder; Liquid soap.

SUN 9 Oct at 6.30pm in Ballycrochan Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee Male Voice Choir are holding a service in support of Storehouse North Down. It will be a wonderful night of praise. If possible please support them.



Follow these links for more information about ACCORD NICMCS:

<http://www.4ni.co.uk/c/1763/accord-ni-catholic-marriage-care-service-belfast>

<http://www.4ni.co.uk/c/40788/accord-ni-catholic-marriage-care-service-crossgar>

<http://www.facebook.com/accordmarriagecare>

<https://www.bangorparish.com/the-parish-today/the-columban-sisters/>

LINK FOR: 

Sr Maura's PRAYING TOWARDS... SUNDAY REFLECTIONS on the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

Parish Safeguard Training for Level One Volunteers –

Monday 17th October at 7.00pm

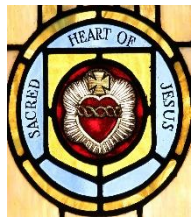
For ALL Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: please find the booking form on the parish website under the 'Parish Newsletters' button (*front page of website*) and return to the Parish Office Email.

In keeping with Diocesan policy, it is now necessary for all Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to be vetted and attend safeguarding training. Please bring **3 forms** of identification one of which must include a photograph. This could be a current and valid passport, a driving licence and a utility bill and bank or building society statement. Please endeavour to attend this important meeting. Places limited to 12 per night. Booking essential. Bring Originals and Copies to the meeting please.



BANGOR PARISH PODCAST

You can listen to the Parish Podcasts Praying with the Icons 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.



29th Sunday of the Year – 16 October 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

Prayer Online: Come and join us at... 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 Scripture, Mother Teresa, 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, Videos of Reflective Prayers during Adoration. Come and join us and be part of the local prayer movement online!

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

CALENDAR OF SAINTS DAYS

OCTOBER 2022

Friday 14th October

The Dedication of St Peter's Cathedral

Wednesday 19th October

Saints John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues & Companions

Saturday 15th October

Saint Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church, Virgin

Saturday 22nd October

Saint John Paul II, Pope

Sunday 16th October

29th Sunday of the Year

Sunday 23rd October

30th Sunday of the Year – WORLD MISSION COLLECTION

Monday 17th October

Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr

Monday 24th October

Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Tuesday 18th October

Saint Luke, Evangelist

Thursday 27th October

Saint Otteran, Monk



**DOWN and CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST
VACANCY - PASTORAL RENEWAL and FAITH DEVELOPMENT WORKER
3 YEAR FIXED TERM CONTRACT - LIVING CHURCH OFFICE**

We are seeking to recruit into the role of Pastoral Renewal and Faith Development Worker within our Living Church Office. We see this as an exciting and challenging opportunity in the life and mission of the Church. The post holder will be required to support the Director of the Living Church Office, and work as part of a team to implement Diocesan Initiatives in pastoral renewal, evangelisation and faith development.

The terms are based on a 3 -Year Fixed Term Contract, working 35 hours per week, work pattern to be agreed.

Salary: Will be considered within the range of £27,500 to £32,500 gross per annum – commensurate upon experience.

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 and [nijobs.com](#) websites, where terms and conditions relating to the role can also be accessed by way of a Role Profile and Employment Application form.

We welcome applications from anyone who feels they meet the criteria as presented and are interested in playing an active role within the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Tuesday 18th October 2022

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

- Online at www.trocaire.org.
T: 0800 912 1200 (NI)
- By post:
Trócaire, 50 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI).

Special Belfast Pilgrimage to Fatima at Easter 2023 ex Dublin, Departing Wednesday (Holy Week) 5th April 5 nights. Full Easter ceremony and tour of Lisbon. Optional tour to seaside on Easter Saturday. Contact James Treacy 0035361921470

Free draw: Win a trip to Medjugorje with the Irish Centre Win one week's all included package trip to Medjugorje for one person. This includes 7 nights B&B, return airport transfer and flight (up to €300 flight & luggage value). To be in with a chance to win go to our website www.med-irishcentre.com For more details tel. 00353 1443 4510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

**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: 1st 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.



Catholic Chaplaincy QUB – Golden Jubilee Mass

The Catholic Chaplaincy warmly invites you to join them for their Annual Dedication of Studies Mass, which this year takes place on the 50th anniversary of the opening of their landmark site at the heart of the Queen's campus. Bishop Noel Treanor will celebrate the special Mass on **Sunday 16 October at 8pm** in the **Chaplaincy's Corpus Christi Chapel, 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast**. The Chaplaincy Choir, Canticle, will provide music and song and refreshments will be served afterwards. Current students and staff are especially welcome, as are alumni, friends and all who support the Chaplaincy's important work with students.

Certificate in Christian Thought – Adult Faith Development Programme *Two-year, part-time course, now enrolling for 2022-2023 intake* The Certificate in Christian Thought invites you to learn, reflect and discuss aspects of spirituality, theology and scripture at a greater depth. It is possible to do the course for personal development solely and/or to complete the written assignments required by St Mary's University College, which validates the course.

For further information, please email maura@drumalis.co.uk or phone Drumalis during office hours 02828 276455/02828 272196

Positive Ageing Month

Age Friendly Ards and North Down, in partnership with Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and the Public Health Agency (PHA), will deliver several roadshow events for older people across the Borough in October.

The roadshow events will bring together a range of organisations that will provide information on community safety, home safety, how people can prepare for the winter and how they can keep active. The events are being run as part of "Positive Ageing Month", which is celebrated every year in October, and is a month-long campaign of events and activities that promote positive ageing as well as celebrating the contribution older people make to their communities.

The Positive Ageing Roadshows will take place on:

- Wednesday 19 October 2022, 11am- 2pm, Comber Leisure Centre
Register by Wednesday 12 October 2022, 12noon
- Friday 28 October 2022, 11am- 2pm, Kircubbin Community Centre
Register by Friday 21 October 2022, 12noon

Attendees must register at least one week before their chosen event and are encouraged to attend by themselves or with a friend. Everyone is welcome. To register, email your contact details (and those of your friend, if applicable) to agefriendly@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk. Please also advise if special assistance is required or if you have any dietary requirements. Alternatively, call 0300 013 3333 (ext. 40336) or 07741 103277 (Mon-Fri, 9.30am - 10.30am only).

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

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)

SAT 15 OCT - HAIL HOLY QUEEN CONFERENCE 2022 Is Live On Radio Maria Ireland From 2pm on Saturday 15th October. Speakers include Fr. Vincent Stapleton, Antonia Moffat, Fr. Brian Mckevitt OP, Katrina Leyden. Radio Maria Ireland can be listened to by downloading the Radio Maria Ireland APP, Saorview Channel 210 or listen live at (01)4373277

THU 20 OCT - STORMONT ROSARY FOR LIFE - Please join Precious Life for a special Candlelight Rosary for Life at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, (meeting at main gate entrance on Upper Newtownards Road) at **7.00pm** on Thursday 20th October to commemorate all the lives lost to abortion since 2020. For more information contact Precious Life on 02890278484 /07592280522.

THU 27 OCT – BELFAST JESUIT CENTRE, A series of 4 afternoon sessions led by Scripture Scholar Kieran O'Mahony OSA. 2.00pm-4.30pm, light refreshments provided. Register: belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com

FRI 29 OCT - TAIZÉ PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS - You are warmly invited to Taizé Prayer Around the Cross on Friday 28th October, from 8 - 9pm in Holy Family Church, Limestone Road. This is an opportunity to take time out to pray with the beautiful Taizé chants, to be still and to be refreshed. Everyone is very welcome, please come along and bring your friends. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gathering Space.

FRI 4 – 6 NOV MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND Friday 4th November - Sunday 6th November 2022. The International Hotel, Cork Airport, Info/ Booking - www.marriageencounter.ie

SAT 12 NOV. A series of workshops for Cantors will take place during the coming year. We begin the first workshop, in association with the Schola Cantorum, in St Paul's Church Mullingar, beginning at 12 noon and ending at 2.00 p.m.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE: 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 three Saturdays (**October 29** and November 26.) Booking essential. To find out more, contact Phil: 02890 207645 or Marie 07896119669 or email belfastbe@yahoo.com

Tobar Mhuire Retreat and Conference Centre

For further information on any of the courses or booking please telephone 028 4483 0242 or send a direct message on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/tobarmhuirepassionists>

Directed Retreat

Tobar Mhuire invites individuals, seeking to take time out to rest, reflect and be refreshed through private prayer, to a residential directed retreat in a calm and reflective atmosphere with Timothy Ray (Tobar Mhuire's writer-in-residence, an Ignatian spiritual director and author of eight books on Celtic spirituality).

These retreats will include daily liturgy, one-to-one spiritual conversations with your spiritual director, and opportunities for communal faith-sharing and enjoying the hospitality, environs and grounds of Tobar Mhuire.

Sunday pm, November 13 – Friday am, November 18

Charge: £495.00 (full board)

Refresher Days for those in Ministry

COME ASIDE AND REST A WHILE for clergy and those in ministry facing ever increasing stress and pressure to deal with heavier workloads and expectations. Tobar Mhuire will host a series of three day short breaks to invite clergy and those in ministry to take time out to rest, reflect and be refreshed.

These residential experiences will include an input each day (see below), an opportunity for individual/group reflection as and if desired, good food, shared prayer and a chance to enjoy a good walk!

These days will be facilitated by Timothy Ray, Tobar Mhuire's writer-in-residence, the author of eight books on Celtic spirituality, and an Ignatian spiritual director.

Inputs will be based on the theme of the *Three Pillars of the Spiritual Life*, exploring three practices which support and sustain a dynamic spiritual life: interior calmness (remaining mindful of the consequences of one's daily actions), reflective vigilance (learning the patterns of God's activity in one's life), and active contemplation (becoming contemplative while involved in one's daily life).

25th – 27th October: open to everyone engaged in ministry Charge: £250:00 per person (full board)



What is RCIA?

RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a process to introduce the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church to individuals who wish to learn more about Catholicism, including the opportunity, if they wish, to become Catholic through the Sacraments of Initiation.

RCIA is a time of teaching, formation and conversion to come to know, love and develop a relationship with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

How do I sign up for RCIA?

The first step is to request a conversation with Fr Gunn PP T:028 9146 5522. We are facilitating one to one meetings on RCIA with the help of Sr Maura Gallahue in Bangor Parish.

When and where does RCIA meet together in the Diocese?

We meet Thursday nights from 6.30 - 8.00 pm at St Mary's Hall, Chapel Lane, Belfast BT1 1HH from October to May. The start date for the programme is Thursday 6th October 2022. For registration form: E: rcia@downandconnor.org

What is the format of the sessions?

The sessions begin with prayer, followed by teaching, question and answer and small group discussion and concludes with prayer.

What is the cost for attending RCIA?

There is a minimal cost to you to attend RCIA. Resources are provided by the diocese.

May I bring my spouse/fiancé to the sessions?

Yes, you may. We encourage your spouse/fiancé to attend the sessions with you.

If I have been baptized in another church, do I need to be baptised again?

In most cases, you do not need to be baptised again. The Catholic Church requires that you were baptised with water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We will need a copy of your baptismal certificate or other proof

of baptism from the church where you were baptised. Proof of baptism may include a letter from the church, a copy of the membership record indicating that you were baptised, etc.

I was told I need a sponsor who is a baptised and confirmed Catholic, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church. What if I don't know anyone who could do that?

Don't worry about it. We have people who volunteer to fulfil the sponsor role.

Do I have to attend every session?

Our desire is to have you attend all sessions. RCIA is certainly a place where you will learn about what the Catholic Church believes and teaches; however, it is much more than that. It is a process of getting to know Jesus Christ and growing together in community. RCIA is a process of conversion to a life with Christ. This process takes time and commitment on your part.

How many sessions can I miss?

RCIA is a building-block process and each session builds on the one before. However, we realise that there may be situations which would cause someone to be unable to attend. Therefore, absences are handled on a case-by-case basis. If you must miss a session, arrangements can be made to provide you with a copy of the notes from that session.

Can a Catholic attend to learn more about their faith?

Yes, we have had many people do this in the past and would love to have you join us to learn more about your Catholic faith!

Dear Friend,
It's still September, but it is never too early to prepare for Christmas, am I right? The choice of gifts for loved ones is always a responsible and exciting moment.

We wish to help you prepare in advance for this joyful day.



WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE IN CHRIST,
SR ANASTASIA AND THE SISTERS OF ST ELISABETH CONVENT

Our Convent's Online Christmas Market is now open, you will find wonderful Christmas items for all your friends, family members, and loved ones. You can follow the link below and order the gifts now so we can deliver them in time for the holiday.



All the Christmas products represented on our website are made by hand with prayer and love!

With each purchase of our beautiful Christmas gifts, you support our ministries that serve the poor, sick, homeless, and lonely people. Every item purchased at the Online Market is a donation towards one of the Convent's ministries.

AID TO THE CHURCH

<https://www.acnireland.org/n-donate>

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MIRROR

Catholic school in Lebanon stays on mission

FOR MANY CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON TECHNICAL SCHOOLS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT, AND A STABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR LOCAL FAMILIES. FACED WITH ONE OF THE WORST FINANCIAL CRISES THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN, THE FOYER DE LA PROVIDENCE, IN SIDON, HAS DONE EVERYTHING IT CAN TO STAY AFLOAT AND BE TRUE TO ITS MISSION. IT HAS SUCCEEDED, THANKS TO HELP FROM ACN BENEFACTORS.

By Filipe d'Avillez



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Fr. Hanna Kanaan with school teachers. (Credit: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/Aid to the Church in Need)

When **Fr. Hanna Kanaan, a member of the Catholic Melkite Salvatorian order**, called a meeting with all the families who had their children enrolled in the Foyer de La Providence, in Sidon, Lebanon, parents feared the worst.

Fr. Hanna Kanaan with students in the technical school. (Credit: Ismael

Martínez Sánchez/Aid to the Church in Need)

For decades the institution, which **includes an orphanage, a school for children with special needs, a technical school, and a training centre for teachers** from other parts of the country, has been the only one of its kind in southern Lebanon. But **parents were well aware of the crushing financial crisis** that has sunk the country's economy over the past few years. How could they not be? Many of them had found themselves unable to meet their obligations, including the school fees.



"The cost of educating a disabled child is around 6,000 dollars a year. Since the beginning the Salvatorian order covered a third of the cost, but families still paid 4,000 dollars", Fr. Hanna explains.



Fees are paid in Lebanese Pounds, however, which suffered a 20-fold devaluation due to the economic meltdown. **"Those families who can still afford it do pay the tuition, but with the devaluation this now amounts to only 300 dollars, while our costs remain as high as before",** the priest explains.

What the Salvatorians told the parents during the meeting, however, came as a surprise. **"Yes, the situation was dire, we said, but we guaranteed that we were never going to close the school.** Instead, we would continue to support the families. This gave them much peace of mind. **No students have been kicked out for not being able to afford the fees."**

Fr. Hanna Kanaan in the technical school. (Credit: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/Aid to the Church in Need)

Teachers have also been protected. "Over these three years, nobody has been fired for lack of funds. We have 82 teachers, and even though the number of students has declined by about 25%, they have all been kept on. **In fact, we raised the salaries 40% and now pay for transportation for them to get to work.** As for the specialists who look after the disabled children, we raised them 100% and include transportation as well".



Of course, the money has to come from somewhere. **The Salvatorians have reached out to all those who might be able to offer help, including ACN.** The pontifical charity approved the application and provides money to help cover teachers' salaries and purchase fuel to keep the generator running.

The Foyer de la Providence is one of 19 Catholic technical schools that receive this aid in Lebanon, with some also obtaining help to buy materials for their workshops. In this case, however, the importance of the school goes beyond giving students the best opportunities to succeed in life. Sidon used to be a majority Christian area, but in recent years the city itself has almost been emptied of this community. Those who remain are mostly concentrated in villages in the surrounding countryside.

Fr. Hanna Kanaan in a classroom. (Credit: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/Aid to the Church in Need)

Many, like Fouad, who studies electrical engineering, would like to stay on, to preserve the Christian presence in the region which is mentioned in the Bible as having been visited by Jesus, but he feels the odds are stacked against him. Already he needs to work every morning and can only attend classes in the afternoon. **"Things are going from bad to worse.** We don't know how much longer we can survive here", he says. Were the school to close, there would be nothing holding him back.

Aid to the Church in Need is a key part of this mission, and its support for the technical school is crucial to provide the stability for many Christian families to remain in this part of Lebanon.