

# 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.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

## 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year – 23 October 2022 –

### Your prayers are requested for Recently Deceased:

Mary Lees, Rita Allen, Sarah Thompson, Ollie McKittrick (Bermuda)

### Anniversaries:

Bernadette McAnulty, Betty Naylor, Teresa Keaveney, Mary Magill, Molly Monaghan, Barry Armitage, James McGivern, Mary & Daniel Donnelly, Jack & Marie Hamill, Desmond Duncan, Thomas & Helena McCullough, Christina McCullough, Jack O'Driscoll.

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES THIS WEEKEND

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH, DONAGHADEE

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October @ 9.00am

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Saturday vigil 22<sup>nd</sup> October @ 6.30pm  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October @ 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 – 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October

Morning Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 9.30am

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### Requiem Mass Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 10am, Mary Lees

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** takes place every Monday. Adoration will last from after Morning Mass until **4.00pm**.

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

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

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

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

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**Holy Hour** in St Comgall's Donaghadee – every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month @ 2.45pm

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

### PARISH SACRAMENTAL CLASSES

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

Cost £40 to include workbooks and supplies.

**Due to spaces - only children** registered by **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October** will be accepted this year. Register interest with the Parish Office by email. [giving child's name, class, age, school]

### 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](mailto:bangor@downandconnor.org)

**Come and be apart of the Friendship Club Tuesdays at 10am.** All welcome!!!

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

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

LINK FOR: 

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

**St Vincent de Paul Helpline**

**077 0367 9384**

**Bethany Bereavement Support Group**  
we are here to support and listen.  
Confidential.  
07740-286738

### BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Please register online SIDE BAR under '**Sacramental Preparation**'

This is a **8** Page Bulletin so please scroll down!

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

**PARISH CENTRE – PARISH GROUPS RESTARTING – SEPTEMBER 2022**

<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>THURSDAYS</b>
<b>BRIDGE CLUB</b> at 7.30pm  <b>YOUTH CLUB</b> 6.30pm – 8.30pm	<b>FRIENDSHIP CLUB</b> at 10.00am  <b>IRISH DANCING CLASSES</b> at 6.00pm  <b>SENIOR CHOIR</b> Starting 11 <sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm	<b>MENCAP</b> Every fortnight at 6.00pm  <b>YOUTH CLUB</b> 6.30pm – 8.30pm  <b>BADMINTON</b> Every fortnight at 8.00pm	<b>BRIGINI'S</b> (Girls aged 6-10) at 6.30pm  <b>IRISH CLASS &amp; CEILI DANCING</b> at 7.00pm

**BOOKING OF PARISH CENTRE:**  
 Contact Thomas on T: 07305 746 263 or Email: [mcmullanthomas481@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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'

**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](mailto:belfastjesuitcentre@gmail.com)

**FRI 28 OCT - TAIZÉ PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS -** You are warmly invited to Taizé Prayer Around the Cross on from 8 - 9pm in Holy Family Church, Limestone Road.

**SAT 29 OCT BEGINNING EXPERIENCE:** The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Booking essential. To find out more, contact Phil: 02890 207645 or Marie 07896119669 or email [belfastbe@yahoo.com](mailto:belfastbe@yahoo.com)

**FRI 4 – 6 NOV MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The International Hotel, Cork Airport, Info/ Booking - [www.marriageencounter.ie](http://www.marriageencounter.ie)

**SAT 12 NOV at 12noon.** A series of workshops for Cantors will take place during the coming year. In association with the Schola Cantorum 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](http://www.knockshrine.ie)

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**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.*

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**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**

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

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**The Positive Ageing Roadshows on:**

Friday 28 October 2022, 11am- 2pm, Kircubbin Community Centre  
 Register by Friday 21 October 2022, 12noon  
*See details on page 6.*

**PARISH NOTICES**

**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.**

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**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?**

Have a conversation with Fr Gunn...

*See page 8 for more details.*

**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](mailto:maura@drumalis.co.uk) or phone Drumalis during office hours 02828 276455/02828 272196

**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.

#### 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.

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

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



**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.facebook.com/accordmarriagecare>

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



#### **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.

**Special Belfast Pilgrimage to Fatima at Easter 2023** ex Dublin, Departing Wednesday (Holy Week) 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.med-irishcentre.com) For more details tel. 00353 1443 4510 or email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com)



### 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year – 23 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](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 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!

### CALENDAR OF SAINTS DAYS

## OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2022

#### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Saints John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues & Companions

#### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Saint John Paul II, Pope

#### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year – WORLD MISSION

#### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

#### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Saint Otteran, Monk

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Saints Simon & Jude, Apostles

#### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Saint Colman, Bishop

#### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Year

#### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November

ALL SAINTS DAY

#### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

ALL SOULS DAY – Commemoration of all the faithful departed

**Norms for Indulgences at the Commemoration of ALL SOULS.** From twelve O'clock noon on 1 November until midnight on 2 November, all who have confessed, received Holy Communion and prayed for the pope's intentions (One Our Father, One Hail Mary, or any other prayer of one's choice) can gain one plenary indulgence by visiting a church or oratory, and there reciting one Our Father and the Apostle's Creed. This indulgence is applicable only to the souls of the departed. Confessions may be made anytime within the week preceding or the week following 1 November.

The faithful who visit a cemetery and pray for the dead may gain a plenary indulgence applicable only to the Holy Souls on the usual conditions once per day from 1 to 8 November. (For conditions see above).

Indulgences are granted through the ministry of the Church. See Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC, 1471-9, 1498) for a fuller explanation.

**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.



**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:

- 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](mailto: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).

**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).

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

**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 28 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.

**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](mailto:belfastbe@yahoo.com)

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**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)

**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)

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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

### Pope endorses ACN Rosary campaign

**“ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY” TAKES PLACE ON 18 OCTOBER. POPE FRANCIS ASKS THAT PARTICIPANTS ESPECIALLY REMEMBER ALL COUNTRIES THAT SUFFER FROM WAR AND MISERY.**

By Filipe d’Avillez & María Lozano

A boy in Syria praying the Rosary. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)



Pope Francis, after the Angelus prayer on 16 October, called on children all over the world to join the international prayer campaign **“One million children praying the Rosary”**, promoted by pontifical charity Aid to the Church in Need.

Children in South Sudan taking part in ACN’s Rosary campaign. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

**Pope Francis** said: **“On 18 October**, the foundation Aid to the Church in Need is promoting the event ‘One million children praying the Rosary’, for peace in the world. **To all**

**the boys and girls who will be participating, thank you!”**

The origins of the prayer initiative “A million children praying the Rosary” date back to the year 2005 when a group of children were praying the Rosary at a local shrine in the Venezuelan capital Caracas, and the adults who witnessed the scene were reminded of the words of **Padre Pio**: **“When a million children pray the Rosary, the world will change.”** Since then, the campaign has spread rapidly and become a worldwide phenomenon.



This year, ***Aid to the Church in Need*** is once again inviting parishes, kindergartens, schools and families to join in the annual prayer initiative **“One million children praying the Rosary”**. **The purpose of this prayer campaign is to ask for peace and unity throughout the world**, while encouraging children and young people to trust in God during difficult times, according to the international president of ACN, **Cardinal Mauro Piacenza**.



Children in Poland taking part in ACN’s Rosary campaign. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

“Looking around at all the wars and wickedness, the persecution, disease and fears that weigh upon our world, people might well ask, ‘Is God really in control?’”, writes Cardinal Piacenza, in his

text inviting people to participate in the initiative.

“Yes, He is”, Cardinal Piacenza responds, **“but we must also reach out for His outstretched hands and cling to Him. God has reached out to us, through Mary (...).** We believe that if we faithfully recite the Rosary together, then the holy Mother of God will lead us all as one great family into the loving arms of our heavenly Father”.

The ACN **webpage offers free materials** for those praying in parishes, schools, children’s groups and families. The free information pack contains instructions on how to pray the Rosary, short meditations for children on the Mysteries of the Rosary and an Act of Consecration to Our Lady for children.



### **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 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022. For registration form: E: [rcia@downandconnor.org](mailto: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!