

# 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

### 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year – 2 October 2022 –

**Your prayers are requested for**  
**Recently Deceased:** Rosemary McGrattan  
**Month's Mind:** Con Naylor  
**Anniversaries:**

Catherine Gavin, Maureen McKenna, Jack McDevitt, George & Mary McMillan, Judith Hewitt, Patrick (Pat) McMahon, Gerard McGarry, Breffni Watson, Fiona McConnell, Mary Fox, P J Cullen.

#### TROCAIRE COFFEE MORNING

Welcome all parishioners to our Coffee Morning after all Masses on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** in St Comgall's Parish Centre.

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

#### DONAGHADEE – ST COMGALL'S CHURCH & BALLYHOLME – MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH

The repairs to St Comgall's Church in Donaghadee have now been completed. It is now time to start on Most Holy Redeemer.

A survey report recommends a staged approach beginning with the roof to make the Church watertight. A new boiler has to be installed. This will be a lengthy process because the Church is treated as a non-domestic building the waiting list for which is much longer than for private houses. An application was lodged a few months ago but to date there is no indication of when gas will be installed.

A hammer test of the external plaster remains to be carried out but as this will involve placing a cherry picker crane in the middle of Sheridan Drive the road will have to be closed to traffic probably on a Sunday. Permission to do this will have to be granted by the civil authorities.

I realise and share the frustration of parishioners about the continuing closure of the Church. Unfortunately, it is not possible to indicate a date for reopening but as soon as I know it will be communicated to parishioners.

Please keep the parish in your prayers and all donations to defer the considerable expense as yet unknown will be gratefully received.

#### SUNDAY MASS TIMES THIS WEEKEND

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH, DONAGHADEE

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October @ 9.00am

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Saturday vigil 1<sup>st</sup> October @ 6.30pm

Sunday 2<sup>nd</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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October

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** takes place 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.

#### 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.

Confirmation Classes will be announced in the coming weeks.

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 10 & 17 October** in the Saint Comgall's Parish Centre at 7.00pm. Choose one night only.

Booking Form on the Parish Website 'Parish Newsletters' button. More info see page 3.

**This is a 10 Page Bulletin so please scroll down!**

## PARISH CENTRE – PARISH GROUPS RESTARTING – SEPTEMBER 2022

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
<b>BRIDGE CLUB</b> Starting 5 <sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm	<b>FRIENDSHIP CLUB</b> Starting 6 <sup>th</sup> September at 10.00am	<b>MENCAP</b> Every fortnight Starting 7 <sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm	<b>BRIGINI'S</b> (Girls aged 6-10) at 6.30pm	
	<b>IRISH DANCING CLASSES</b> Starting 6 <sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm	<b>YOUTH CLUB</b> 6.30pm – 8.30pm	<b>IRISH CLASS &amp; CEILI DANCING</b> Starting 8 <sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm	
		<b>BADMINTON</b> Every fortnight at 8.00pm-9.30pm		

### 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'

**SAT 1 OCT from 10am to 4pm.** Antiques Sale in Holy Family Parish. Come along and support our Parish, at a sale of antiques and collectables in Holy Family Parish Centre, 118-120 Cavehill Road, Belfast,

**SAT 8 OCT from 10.30am to 4.30pm.** 'Liturgy after Covid – Approaches to Liturgy in light of our experience of the Pandemic' A one-day Seminar hosted by Down and Connor Liturgy Commission. St Brigid's Parish Hall, Belfast.

**SUN 9 OCT at 2.45pm.** LEGION OF MARY ANNUAL ROSARY PROCESSION. Please assemble at St John's Church, Falls Road Belfast at 2.45pm. Leaving at 3.00pm processing to St Michael's Church, Finaghy Road North for Benediction. Come and join us...

**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](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 14 October 2022, 11am- 2pm, Bangor Elim Church. Register by Friday 7 October 2022, 12noon. *See details on page 6.*

**Coastal Rosary for Faith & Life in Ireland** - On **Sunday October 9th**, the annual Coastal Rosary will take place at **2.30pm**. Join thousands of people from around Ireland to pray the Rosary for Life and Faith at our coasts, grottos, rivers, churches, and other suitable places. Simply sign up a Rosary location at [www.coastalrosaryireland.ie](http://www.coastalrosaryireland.ie)

**SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER - DAY FOR LIFE 2022 – CARING FOR THE OLDER PERSON**

## 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.*

**JOB VACANCIES IN DOWN AND CONNOR DIOCESE..... more info see page 4**

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

**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.

### **SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER - DAY FOR LIFE 2022 – CARING FOR THE OLDER PERSON**

*Day for Life* is celebrated annually by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness of the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. This year's *Day for Life* will be celebrated in Ireland on **Sunday 2 October** on the theme 'Caring for the Older Person'.

We invite people to think again about the value and worth of older persons in families and in society, and to make practical choices to build bridges between the generations. We call for people and parishes to devote quality time, energy and creativity in caring for the older persons in our communities. We invite engagement in political debate on providing adequately resourced care of older persons so that no-one feels like a burden in our society.

Saint Joachim and Saint Anne – Pray for us! To read the pastoral message for Day for Life in full, visit [www.councilforlife.ie](http://www.councilforlife.ie)

### **PRAYING WITH THE ICONS**

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

### **BAPTISM REGISTRATION**

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

<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 10<sup>th</sup> & Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm – Choose one night only.**

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 or bank or building society statement. Please endeavour to attend this important meeting. Places limited to 12 per night. Booking essential.

## JOB VACANCIES IN DOWN AND CONNOR DIOCESE

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



### 1. 'EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER'

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the recruitment of an Executive Support Officer, to join the Down and Connor Diocesan Trust team based at 75 Somerton Road, Belfast, BT15 4DE. You will be required to provide a full portfolio of support to the Bishop of Down and Connor, Senior Clergy and the Management Team, by way of expert secretarial, clerical, administrative and diary management services.

If you are an individual with excellent communication skills and the ability to deal with sensitive and confidential matters in a professional manner, then we see this as a unique opportunity to join the Down and Connor Diocesan Trust Team.

The terms are based on a permanent appointment for 35 hours per week. Monday to Friday from 9.00am – 5.00pm; additional out of hours may be required from time to time.

Salary: Will be considered within the range of £27,000 to £30,000 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 Thursday 6th October 2022**

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### 2. DIOCESAN ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER X 2

An opportunity has arisen within our Finance Team to recruit two Diocesan Assistant Finance Officers, who will be required to provide guidance on financial accuracy, internal controls, and regulatory compliance across the Parish network. We see this as an exciting and challenging opportunity to play an integral part of the Diocesan Finance Team, where the role holders will have responsibility for delivery of annual Parish Statutory accounts, on-site audit support and training across our Parishes.

This is a hybrid role to be based at the Curia Office, 75 Somerton Road, Belfast, BT15 4DE, but you will also be required to work across the Parish Network, along with an element of Homeworking.

The terms are based on a permanent appointment for 35 hours per week. Monday to Friday from 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Salary: Will be considered within the range of £25,000 to £35,000 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.

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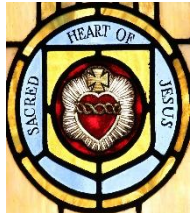
**Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Thursday 6th October 2022**

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#### 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.



## 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year – 2 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!

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

#### SEPTEMBER 2022

#### Monday 26 September

Saints Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

#### Tuesday 27 September

Saint Vincent de Paul

#### Wednesday 28 September

Saint Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyrs

#### Thursday 29 September

Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

#### Friday 30 September

Saint Jerome, Priest & Doctor

#### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Year

#### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Blessed Columba Marmion, Priest

#### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Saint Francis of Assisi, Priest

#### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Saint Bruno, Priest

#### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Our Lady of the Rosary



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>

**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).

**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

**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.

**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)

**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:

- Wednesday 5 October 2022, 11am- 2pm, Queen's Hall, Newtownards  
Register by Wednesday 28 September 2022, 12noon
- Friday 14 October 2022, 11am- 2pm, Bangor Elim Church  
Register by Friday 7 October 2022, 12noon
- 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](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).

**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

**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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**SAT 1 OCT from 10am to 4pm.** Antiques Sale in Holy Family Parish. Come along and support our Parish, at a sale of antiques and collectables in Holy Family Parish Centre, 118-120 Cavehill Road, Belfast, 10am- 4pm. A varied selection of antiques and collectibles will be on sale, and refreshments will be served.

**SAT 8 OCT from 10.30am to 4.30pm.** 'Liturgy after Covid – Approaches to Liturgy in light of our experience of the Pandemic' A one-day Seminar hosted by Down and Connor Liturgy Commission. St Brigid's Parish Hall, 38 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6FP. Registration 9.30am. Seminar 10.30am to 4.30pm.

The Diocese of Down and Connor Liturgy Commission warmly invites clergy, permanent deacons and those in liturgical ministry, in particular Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and members of Parish Pastoral Councils in the Diocese of Down and Connor to attend this Seminar. The cost is £10 per person and tea/coffee will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch. To help with seating and other arrangements it will be helpful to have approximate numbers and so if you plan to attend, please contact Malachy McKeever by e-mail at [liturgy@downandconnor.org](mailto:liturgy@downandconnor.org)

**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)

**SUN 9 OCT at 2.45pm.** Legion of Mary Annual Rosary Procession. Please assemble at St John's Church, Falls Road Belfast at 2.45pm. Leaving at 3.00pm processing to St Michael's Church, Finaghy Road North for Benediction. Come and join us... *"There is no problem, no matter how difficult, that the rosary can't solve"* Sister Lucia, Fatima.

**SUN 9 OCT at 2.30pm.** COASTAL ROSARY FOR FAITH & LIFE IN IRELAND - Join thousands of people from around Ireland to pray the Rosary for Life and Faith at our coasts, grottos, rivers, churches, and other suitable places. Simply sign up a Rosary location at [www.coastalrosaryireland.ie](http://www.coastalrosaryireland.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.

**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)



## 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!

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.



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

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

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## AID TO THE CHURCH

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

### SUBSCRIBE TO THE MIRROR

#### Catholic Bible Commission of Pakistan

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN) SPOKE TO FATHER EMMANUEL ASI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLE COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED IN 2002, ABOUT THE SITUATION OF CHRISTIANS IN HIS COUNTRY, AND HIS APOSTOLATE IN PAKISTAN. FATHER ASI IS A PRIEST IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LAHORE AND SPOKE ABOUT THE SACRED NATURE OF THE BIBLE FOR THE FAITHFUL.**

By Carlos Rosas-Jiménez



A Bible in Pakistan. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

*On September 30, the Church celebrates the memory of **Saint Jerome**, a doctor of the Church who translated the Bible into Latin. September is the month of the Bible, and the Church recalls Saint Jerome's profound conviction that "he who does not know Holy Scripture does not know Christ".*

*Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) spoke to **Father Emmanuel Asi**, executive director of the **Catholic Bible Commission of Pakistan** since it was founded in 2002, about the situation of Christians in his country, and his apostolate in Pakistan. Father Asi is a priest in the Archdiocese of Lahore and spoke about the sacred nature of the Bible for the faithful.*

Father Emmanuel  
**What is life like**  
Pakistan is an  
million, 97% of  
minorities,  
majority of the  
for those who,  
religious  
**But the**

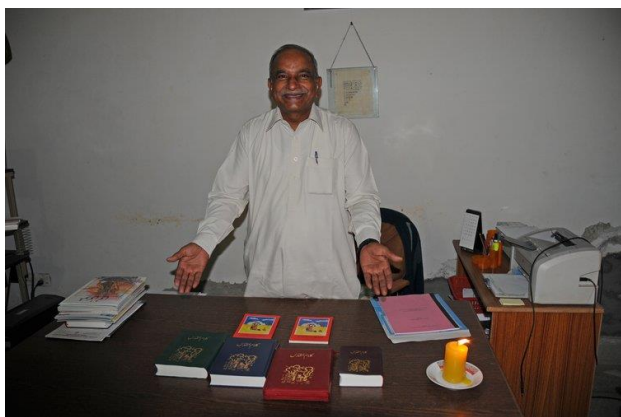


Asi. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)  
**for Christians in Pakistan?**

Islamic Republic with a population of 230 which are Muslims. The remaining 3% are including Hindus, Christians and Sikhs. The 1.5 million Christians are Catholic. Life is difficult like Christians, do not follow Islam. There is no freedom.

**the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion", and that every religious denomination "shall have the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions." So what is going on?**

On paper we are allowed to do everything, we have rights; but in practice, in politics, in social life, in academia, in the workplace, there is lots of discrimination and difficulties for our youth – especially those who want to study at university, or who are looking for work. You can do whatever you like within the Church, you have full freedom for that. You can run your schools, your institutions, your parishes, your community, conduct any programme, print bibles and books. But as soon as you go out into society, into the street, the office, the workplace, that is where the difficulties and discrimination begin.



ACN financing for the print of the Catholic Urdu Bible. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

### **What is the biggest challenge for Pakistani Christians?**

The main challenge is to remain faithful and be brave in everyday life. We have a great blessing, which is the fact that most of our people are young. Around 65% of the people that go to church are under 40. That means that the Church is very much alive. But our main problem, our main challenge, is education, because the educational levels in Pakistan are very low, and illiteracy is rampant. On the other hand, the Christian population continues to grow, and this is another challenge: how to reach people? The bishops want to open new parishes. We have enough priests and vocations, so we will have enough

priests in the future, that is not the problem. The difficulty is in opening new parishes, building parish houses, and reaching the people.

### **How does the Bible Commission spread the Gospel message in Pakistan?**

Over the past 20 years, since the Catholic Bible Commission was founded, we have done much to bring the Word of God closer to the people, and the people closer to the Word of God. This is our mission. People want to listen, they want to read God's Word. We have a variety of programmes for people to participate in. For example, we have one called "Hundred Thousand Friends of the Bible", with people from all over Pakistan who have their own Bible and like to read it for at least five minutes a day.

Last year, in November, we put audio readings of the Bible online for people who cannot read. That way people could listen to the Word of God. We also have the Bible for Children, and the YouCat Bible, printed in Urdu, thanks to ACN. We have printed 70,000 Bibles.

Bible reading supported by the Catholic Bible Commission. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

We also have Bible Marathons in all our dioceses, with 2000 participants around the country. Over a period of 127 hours the Bible is read out in full, non-stop, day and night. People have been every enthusiastic and spiritually touched by this programme.

### **Could you give us an example of how the Bible has changed people's lives?**

I have many testimonies. There was one person who was illiterate, he couldn't read. When I spoke to him, he said: "I want to read the Bible, but I cannot read". So, I told him that in the Bible there is a special blessing for those who touch the Word of God. I said to him: "every day you should touch a page of the Bible, each word of the Bible. Go line by line, line by line, and obtain this blessing with your fingers, because it is written in the Bible that there is a blessing for those who touch the Word of God". The plan was that every day he would open the Bible and run his fingers over some lines. He did so, and two and a half years later he came to see me. He was so excited and moved! He told me: "I received many blessings, much conversion and change in my life. I touched the whole Bible". And so, I gave him a certificate, because we give out certificates to people who read the whole Bible.

### **Would you like to convey a final message to ACN and its benefactors?**

I would like to thank people from all over the world, people from ACN, and all those who provide us with financial aid, and who support us with your prayers. I ask them to keep helping, especially Pakistan. In the name of our people: Please, keep helping us as much as you can! No matter how critical the situation, no matter how bitter the reality, we must keep our hope in God alive. Only hope can give us a new life. In our language we use this term when a woman is pregnant, we say that she is "Umeed (امید)", that she is "with hope", as she will be bringing new life into the world. Hope is what makes you be fruitful and multiply.

