

# 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.

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER, 7 & 8 May 2022 – Vocations Sunday

### Your prayers are requested for Recently Deceased:

Margaret Galway  
James Cunningham

**Anniversaries:** Maura McPadden, James McMahon, Mon O'Driscoll, Sarah O'Kelly, Vera Magennis, Monica McDermott, Kathleen O'Neill, Sarah McGarry, Maureen Craig, James McQuillan, Charlie Heron, Williams Hudson, Mary Herron, Jean O'Kane, William Hudson.

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

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

**For Bookings contact:** Joe Catney  
028 9071 4001 / 07776 425631

**Pilgrimage Directors:** Fr G McCloskey PP 028 4484 1208 & Fr Sean Gilmore PP

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES THIS WEEKEND

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH, DONAGHADEE

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> MAY @ 9.00am

ST COMGALL'S CHURCH BRUNSWICK ROAD

Saturday vigil 7<sup>th</sup> May @ 6.30pm

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> MAY @ 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 – 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> MAY

Morning Mass: Monday to Friday at 9.30am

*[may be changed at short notice due to a funeral]*

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We have a number of Masses including funerals recorded.  
These can be accessed when you click on the link below:

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

**Solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** has resumed from **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022** and on every Monday thereafter.

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.



### BANGOR PRAISH PODCAST

You can listen to the Parish Podcasts  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS by

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

*in the apple or google podcast Apps.*

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

### Bethany Bereavement Support Group

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

### St Vincent de Paul Helpline

**077 0367 9384**

### Obligation to attend Sunday/Holyday

**Mass:** With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, it is encouraging to see a return to a fuller liturgical life in our parishes. Thankful that we can once again gather as communities of faith, the Irish Bishops have announced that attending Mass on Sunday and Holydays of Obligation will from Easter Sunday (17th April 2022) once again be deemed an essential expression of faith. As always, those whose health is vulnerable or who are unwell will not be under any obligation to attend Mass.

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

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

## UPDATE ON INVESTIGATION WORK AT MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH, BALLYHOLME

A Condition Report on the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer has been received and discussed in depth by the Parish Finance Committee.

Several examinations remain to be carried out, including a hammer test to discover the true state of internal and external plasterwork but preliminary work to weather proof the building will be undertaken as soon as possible.

The reports on the roof, the electrical system and the need for a new boiler call for considerable expenditure.

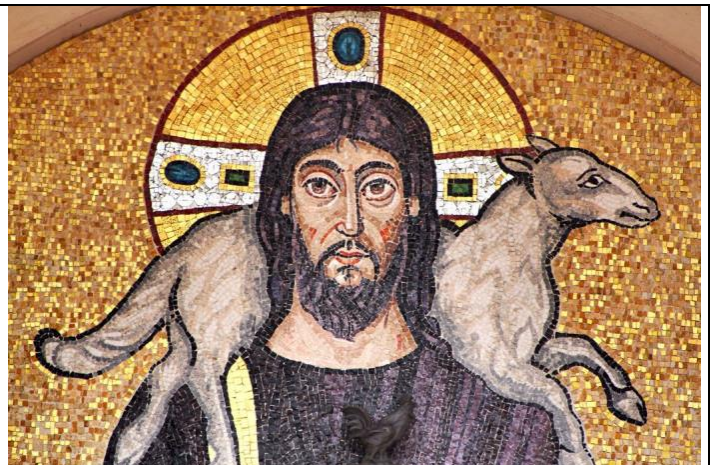
With the parish having suffered a 30% drop in income and finding itself in deficit the problem of how to finance the necessary repairs to MHR and the other parochial properties is very difficult to solve. The full extent of the financial difficulties of the parish will be detailed in the annual financial report which is being prepared for distribution to parishioners in the near future.

In the meantime, if you have not collected your parish envelopes for this year please contact the parish office. Use of these envelopes will allow the parish to collect valuable Gift Aid.

Everyone is experiencing financial worries at this time so I know that you will understand the parish's need to maximise income and to make any economies necessary.

When more detailed information is available it shall be communicated to parishioners.

As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people. **Sunday 8th May 2022** is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. It is also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The Lord asked his disciples to ***"Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest"*** (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Pray also for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.



### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest and to bless all who strive to listen to your voice.

Inspire, in the hearts of men and women, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### MARIAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church, You know, the struggles, doubts and obstacles that those who are discerning a vocation face. As you gave your "yes" to the Lord's call assist those your Son is calling to answer Yes to the divine call, as you did at the invitation of the angel. Amen

### PRAYER TO DISCOVER YOUR VOCATION

Lord, You formed me in my mother's womb and have loved me into being. You have made me to know you, To love you, and to serve you, And thereby to find and fulfil myself. Since I will do what you want of me, I ask that you send your Holy Spirit to me; that I may discern what you want of me and that I may have the courage to follow the path you are calling me to follow And to follow it with all my love, with all my mind, And with all my strength, right to the end. Amen.

### BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Evenings only until further notice at 6pm.  
Wednesdays and Thursdays.  
Please register online SIDE BAR under  
'**Sacramental Preparation**'



The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. **BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** is offering a programme of bereavement support in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast on two Saturdays (May 28 and June 25.) Booking essential. To find out more, contact Phil: 02890 207645 or Marie 07896119669.

### PRAYING WITH THE ICONS

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

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

### PASTORAL COMMUNITY

There will be a **training session** for new and returning Readers/Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers in Saint Patrick's Parochial Hall, Newtownards on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May**.  
Registration: 9am duration 9.30am to 12.30pm.  
Anyone wishing to serve as Lector or Eucharist Minister is invited to contact the parish office as soon as possible.

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### LOUGH DERG RE-OPENS

**Lough Derg welcomes Pilgrims again with a full Pilgrimage programme this summer**

Three Day Pilgrimage: 1st June - 15th August. Booking advised. Concessions available for students, seniors and groups.  
One Day Retreats and guided Pilgrim Path experience: dates in May and late August through September. Booking essential.  
All booking information at [www.loughderg.org](http://www.loughderg.org), email [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org) or telephone 0(0353) 71 9861518.  
*Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co Donegal, F94 N289.*

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

## CALENDAR OF SAINTS DAYS

### MAY 2022

#### Thursday 5 May

Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice, Religious

#### Friday 6 May

First Friday

#### Saturday 7 May

First Saturday

#### SUNDAY 8 MAY

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Vocations Sunday

#### Tuesday 10 May

Saint Comgall, Abbot

#### Thursday 12 May

Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs

#### Friday 13 May

Our Lady of Fatima

#### Saturday 14 May

Saint Matthias, Apostle

#### Sunday 15 May

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

#### Monday 16 May

Saint Brendan, Abbot

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

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

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

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

**The Women of Faith Conference 2022** is LIVE on **Radio Maria Ireland** on **Saturday 7th May** from 2pm. We are blessed to have the following speakers. Sister Consilio (Cuan Mhuire), Wendy Grace (Catholic Speaker) Fr. Freddy Warner, SMA, Sister Susan Evangelist (Sister of Mercy) Dr. Edward Sri (Scripture Scholar).

Radio Maria Ireland is accessible by:

1. Going online at [www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie)

**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 wishes to thank you for your tremendous response to our Annual Appeal, on the theme of "Impossible Choices" Through your generosity St Comgall's Conference were able to assist over 150 families in the month of December, and Most Holy Redeemer Conference Ballyholme provided assistance to 108 families and individuals over the same period To include those donations enhanced by Gift Aid, the Appeal raised over £10,000. We thank you on behalf of the Society, and on behalf of those we assisted.

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. 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.

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES**

For all children not attending Catholic Schools.



#### **1<sup>ST</sup> PENANCE & HOLY COMMUNION**

Classes to be held in the Parish Centre on

Sunday mornings at 9:15am.

Please register by contacting the parish office by email stating the Child's(rens) Name(s), Primary School, Year Group and Age.

**CONFIRMATION 2022** - Confirmation Classes continue in the Parish Centre every Sunday morning @10.30am-11.45am.

Please register by email to the parish office Email: [bangor@downandconnor.org](mailto:bangor@downandconnor.org)

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

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

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

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

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



**Please prayer for all the children making their First Holy Communion in the Month of May! That Our Most Blessed Mother Mary will intercede in their young lives and bring them closer to her Son, Jesus Christ.**



Dear Father and all parishioners of the Parish,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the decision to kindly grant us the permission to visit Your parish. We heartily thank the Lord for Your and Your parishioners' hospitality and precious help during the visit of our sisters. We do appreciate all your efforts, concern, assistance and kind heartedness greatly.

Our sisters are incredibly grateful for the donation collected in your parish which will allow us to continue our outreach services and programs for orphanage children with psychophysical deficiencies, for people who were led astray by the rough and tumble of life (the homeless, drug and alcohol addicts, ex-prisoners and the less able) including food, shelter and clothing distribution.

Let us assure you that You are always welcome here at St. Elisabeth Convent.

With deep gratitude and love in Christ,

**Sister Olga and sisters of St Elisabeth Convent**

### Cemetery Sunday 2022

After two years of the blessing of the graves by Bishop Treanor alone, we are delighted to welcome families back to pray for their loved ones who lie at rest in the Belfast cemeteries. Milltown Cemetery - Sunday 8th May. // City Cemetery - Sunday 15th May. // Hannahstown Cemetery - Sunday 29th May. All ceremonies are at 3pm.

Sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously to the recent **Special Collection for Ukraine**. Nationally, this collection has raised to date over **€3.25 million**. The war in Ukraine, and the terrible suffering which has resulted, has seen a tremendous outpouring of compassion and generosity from our parish communities. Your contributions will bring much-needed relief to those in the region whose lives and livelihoods have been devastated. The funds raised will be used by the international Catholic Church agency, Caritas Internationalis, which is currently operating on the ground in Ukraine and its surrounding areas. We continue to keep the people of Ukraine in our thoughts, praying for peace and an end to this appalling humanitarian crisis.

### **Columbanus Book Launch** **(Columbanus and Identity in Early Medieval Europe: *Formation and Transition*)** **Saturday 14 May 2022**

**1.30pm - 3.30pm**

**St Comgall's Primary School, Brunswick Road, Bangor**

#### **Background**

The 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Columbanus, the renowned leader in the spread of Christianity across Europe, was widely celebrated in the three principal centres of his monastic foundations: Bangor in Northern Ireland, Luxeuil-les Bains in France, and Bobbio in Italy. These three centres were chosen by the Committee Scientifique de l'Europe for the launch of a major educational project: organising three academic conferences involving academics from across Europe who were invited to deliver papers on their research related to the work and influence of Columbanus.

The overall brief '**Making Europe: Columbanus and his Legacy**' was launched at the initial meeting held in University College Galway in Ireland in March 2010. Research was commissioned and the sites at Annagry (France) and Cleenish (Co Fermanagh) were excavated and examined. Each conference had its own outputs and research and three volumes, one representing each conference, are now published.

The book will be presented by **Conor Newman**, senior lecturer in the Department of Archaeology, NUI Galway, who will talk about the project, from inception to publication, alongside some of the discoveries and achievements. Four French colleagues who were involved in this project will also be travelling to Bangor to attend this event.

- Books of Volume 3 will be sold for £15.00 with proceeds being donated to the Ukrainian Red Cross Appeal.
- A light lunch will be served at 1.30pm. After the talk, there will be an opportunity to ask questions.
- Car parking is available at the back of St Comgall's Parish Centre
- As Covid continues to circulate in our community, attendees are requested to take a lateral flow test before coming to the launch.
- If you wish to attend, please RSVP to: [tourism.admin@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:tourism.admin@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

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

**Trócaire** will be hosting a special Spring Gala Concert at **Clonard Monastery**, Belfast at 7.30pm on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May**, with performances from Margaret Keys, The Priests and St Dominic's Girls' School Choir. Tickets are free of charge but donations will be gratefully received on the night of the concert with all donations matched by the UK government in support of the 2022 Lent Appeal. To reserve tickets, visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search 'Clonard Concert Belfast', email [info@trocaire.org](mailto:info@trocaire.org) or call 028 9080 8030.

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



## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Vocations Sunday

**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

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

My names is Lewis Boyd and I'm a widowed volunteer with Care for the family (<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/>) There are a number of different branches in this supportive organisation and I'm connected to WYS Widowed young support. <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/support-for-you/family-life/bereavement-support/>

We are running a support day on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May in Dundonald Elm Church** (Kindly granted) The day will be facilitated and run by CFF trained volunteers who are all widowed.

The event is advertise on Eventbrite via the link below.

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/widowed-young-support-day-tickets-300706881377?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/widowed-young-support-day-tickets-300706881377?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1)

**'Theology in a Conversation about Hope'** (6pm, Thursday 19th May 2022).

'Theology in a Conversation about Hope' is the title of Dr Cornelius Casey's talk that will open Loyola Institute's Festival of Theology at Trinity College Dublin. This free Public Lecture should be of interest to all involved in the 'Building Hope' initiative of the Dublin Diocese. A two-day conference will follow, for those who want to go further and develop 'new thinking about how Theology, learning and culture' interact. Further information available on our website [loyola@tcd.ie](mailto:loyola@tcd.ie) or phone Helen at 01/8964791.

The Advisory Committee on Church Music are hosting an hour long live webcam gathering on **Friday, 13 May, 7.30 p.m. – Breathing New Life Into The Parish Music Programme** for choirs, cantors and all involved in the music ministry in your diocese. The Advisory Committee are committed to supporting and nurturing the music ministry as we emerge from Covid-19 and move into a 'new normal'. The gathering will be live from the oratory of the Redemptoristine Sisters, St Alphonsus Road, Drumcondra. It will be recorded and placed on their website: [www.rednuns.com](http://www.rednuns.com) so that those involved in the music ministry can participate on the night or access later.

**The Irish Church Music Association** are resuming their Summer School in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare on Thursday, 14 July and Friday. 15 July. They resume their 'in person' Summer School with two days of workshops this year. Dr John O'Keeffe, and Ronan McDonagh will be guest presenters on Thursday, 14 July.

**Issue 74 of *Sharing the Good News*** for circulation to parishes for use in newsletters, parish mailing lists, as well as on websites and social media pages. The March issue is attached in PDF and image (jpeg) format to optimise sharing online. The current issue can also be linked to and downloaded from the home page of [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie).

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

1. Online at [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org).
2. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI).

Donations to Ukraine will go to support our partner, Caritas Poland, who are working on the border. Poland has received 400,000 refugees from Ukraine over the past week and volunteers from Caritas Poland are providing food, blankets, hygiene kits and other essentials to people at the border as they arrive. We are already working in partnership with Caritas Poland and have supported their response in Yemen. We are now also extending financial support to their work on the Polish/Ukrainian border to support those arriving from Ukraine.

We will continue to engage with Caritas Europa to identify how Trócaire can best support the local Caritas organisations in their response.

Please note, however, that the Trocaire Lent boxes cannot be used to collect money for Ukraine and donations made to Ukraine will not be matched by UK Aid Match as the scheme is specifically tied to our Lent campaign.

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

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

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

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

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

**Time:** 10.30 – 1pm

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



**GREETINGS FROM DROMANTINE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**  
**NEW WORKSHOPS 2022 - BOOKINGS NOW OPEN**

**NO VISIBLE SCAR**

*Comfort for those bereaved during the pandemic*  
 Friday, 20 May (5pm) - Sunday, 22 May (2pm)

**ALONE TOGETHER**

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

**THE LONG GOODBYE**

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

**WHEN IT IS DARKEST**

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

**CHURCH ABUSE: A UNIQUE BETRAYAL**

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

**Workshop Facilitator: Father Hugh Lagan SMA**

Fr Lagan is a priest with the Society of African Missions and a chartered clinical psychologist. He has led retreats, workshops and trainings internationally on psychological and spiritual well-being, positive change, trauma, mental health and resilience. Please contact Jacinta or Louisa to reserve your place: TEL: 028 (048 from ROI) 3082 1964 EMAIL: [admin@dromantineconference.com](mailto:admin@dromantineconference.com)

**LOYOLA INSTITUTE:** The Festival will open at 6pm on **Thursday 19th May 2022** with a Public Lecture by the inaugural Director, Prof Cornelius Casey, entitled 'Theology in a Conversation about Hope'.

The Conference Festival will continue on Friday and Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> May. The Conference will be held in the JM Synge Theatre, Arts Block, Trinity College Dublin.

**We would like to invite you to avail of the 'Early Bird' special for €60 euro available until the 15th April.**

This includes lunch on Friday and Saturday, and tea/coffee each day.

For one day, either Friday or Saturday, the cost is €40.

Further details at [https://www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute/conferences/festivaloftheology\\_homepage.php](https://www.tcd.ie/loyola-institute/conferences/festivaloftheology_homepage.php)

## LIVING CHURCH: "Come Away and Rest Awhile" CARA RETREAT

Are you a parent of a young person with a disability? Would you like to take some time out to pray, reflect and meet other parents? If the answer is yes we would love you to join us for a parents retreat at: Drumalis Retreat Centre beginning Friday 24th June, 6pm until Saturday 25th June, 4pm

For information or to register your interest contact: Louise McQuillan Tel: 07922437679 Email:

[l.mcquillan@downandconnor.org](mailto:l.mcquillan@downandconnor.org)

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## AID TO THE CHURCH

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

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MIRROR

## Supporting sick and retired priests

### WORK BEGINS ON A RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS IN THE DIOCESE OF JAGDALPUR, INDIA.

By ACN Staff



Bishop Joseph Kollamparambil of Jagdalpur blessing the foundation

stone of a future clergy house. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)  
There are 110 priests actively working in the Diocese of Jagdalpur in the state of Chhattisgarh, central-eastern India. Their work is hard and demands great self-sacrifice, for their ministry is in remote and underdeveloped regions and involves travelling long and difficult journeys. **The diocese covers an area of around 15,000 square miles (39,000 km<sup>2</sup>), an area almost the size of the Netherlands or Switzerland. Of the 2.9 million or so inhabitants of the region, only a little over 11,000 are Catholics.** The majority of the

population belong to ethnic minorities.

Construction of Shalom Residence for sick and retired diocesan priests. (Credit: Aid to the Church in Need)

The diocese was established in 1972, and the first priests came here from other regions of India. They belonged to the Syro-Malabar congregation of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate. **Since 1990 there have also been a number of local vocations. At present, there are 15 young men in the major seminary and another 18 in the minor seminary.** They have been inspired by the example of other priests, whom they have witnessed at work since childhood. "People wonder why the priests leave their families and their home regions. They can see that the priests are not looking for any professional advancement but are simply there among them to serve", explains Father Tijo Manjamakkil. **The priests go out and proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to the poor and the marginalised, sharing their hard lives with them and striving to help them, little by little, to improve their lives by being in the words of Saint Paul "all things to all men" (1 Corinthians 9:22).**



Many of these priests, who for many long years have carried the life of the Church in the region on their shoulders, are now old and frail, or sick and worn out by the harsh lives they have endured. They can no longer struggle on in these remote villages but require medical care and assistance. So now **the diocese is building the Shalom retirement home for ailing and retired priests where, after decades of faithful service, they themselves will now be able to receive the help and care they need.**

**Thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, we have been able to contribute €30,000 towards the cost of this project – and now the foundation stone has finally been laid and the building work begun.** To all of you who have helped, our heartfelt thanks!



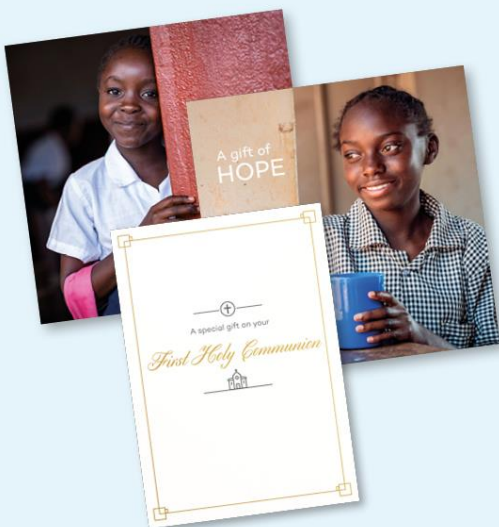
Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals, named after Mary the Mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who believe in our mission.

During the month of May, which is traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, we hope you will join with us to pray for God's continued blessing on our beautiful mission, that through His providence it will always flourish, and more children will see their lives transformed by our nutritious school meals.

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And remember, our wonderful volunteers would love to come to your church or group to talk about our work. To organise a visit, please contact us on [info@marysmeals.org](mailto:info@marysmeals.org) or 0800 698 1212.

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