

Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

Feast of The Holy Family - 31 December 2017

World Meeting of Families on 21-26 August 2018, Dublin

Icon of the Holy Family
Description of the Icon continued.

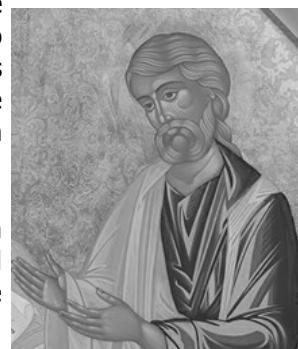


On the left, we see Mary. Look at the colours of her clothes. Her undergarment is blue, the colour of our humanity, as we inhabit this big blue marble that is the earth and look up at the blue of the sky.

She is clothed by a garment of red, the colour of blood, the colour of life. In icons it stands for the colour of Divinity, of God's life. We remember how the Angel Gabriel said to Mary that she would be clothed with God's power: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" [Luke 1:35]. Often we see the adult Christ represented with these same colours but in the reverse order. We see some stylised stars on her outer clothing, symbolic of her virginity both before and after giving birth to Jesus, a reminder to us that, as the Creed tells us: Christ, born of the Holy Spirit and of Mary, is both true God and true man.

Note how her hand is wistfully held up to her face. This is a 'quotation' from the icon of 'Our Lady assuage my sorrow'. It hopes to communicate to us how Mary our Mother knows the heartache, the worries and burdens all parents experience with their children. As our Mother, she makes our trials her own concern. With her other hand, Mary is also "*Theotokos*" – directing us and showing the way to Jesus, her Son.

On the right we see Saint Joseph, her husband. In icons of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, he is shown presenting and holding up in his hands a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, the offering of the poor as a thanksgiving to God. Here he presents us instead with *the* offering to be made in thanksgiving to God the Father: Jesus, who is the "Lamb of God" [cf. John 1:36]. Hence there is no need for us to see a Passover lamb on this family table as the true Lamb is there before us [cf. 1 Corinthians 5:7]



The gesture of Joseph's hands can also be interpreted as letting Jesus go. St Joseph echoes for us the responsibility and dilemma of every parent, wanting to nurture and protect their child whilst at the same time letting them be free to become all they can be in God's eyes.

Both Mary and Joseph are turned toward and bow to Jesus – who is here shown as a boy around twelve years old. They surround him with their love and care, but they do not smother him, they do not impose themselves. Both leave him space to be who he truly is.

Consider becoming a volunteer – Get involved be part of the experience!!

Apply to volunteer at www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Volunteer

More information will be posted on our parish website www.bangorparish.com
under World Meeting of Families.

Sunday Mass Times this week:

Bangor: Vigil 6.30 pm,
10.30 am, 12.30 pm.
Donaghadee: Sun 9.30 am.
Ballyholme: 11 am.

Holywood: Vigil 6.30 pm;
10 am and 12 noon.

Newtownards: Vigil 6.30 pm; 11.30 am.

Comber: 10.00 am.

Weekday Mass Times:

Bangor: Mon 12 noon, Tues - Thurs 9.30 am.
Friday as announced.
Ballyholme: As announced.

Confessions: Sat 5.30 pm.

Baptisms: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2pm.
Contact the Parish Office during office hours to register.
4 week's notice must be given.

Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday at the 10.30am Mass in St Comgall's
Bangor for primary school children.

Your prayers are requested for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Mairead Paul, Arthur Watson, Harry Skehin, Colette McAlister, James and Martha McGreevy, James McGarry, Kiera Browne-Saint, Sarah Helena McConville, Mick Monaghan, Joseph Donaghy.

The second collection next Sunday is the monthly stipend in support of your priests.

A Mass for World Day of Peace will be said on Monday, New Year's Day, the Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God in St Comgall's Church, Brunswick Road at 12 noon. This will be the only Mass in the Parish.

Diocesan Directory 2018
Now available for sale at £4 in the Repository or the parish office.

A copy of the Icon for the World Meeting of Families, a gift from the Irish Bishops, is available for those families who didn't get one on Christmas Day.

Bangor Parish 7 Day Trip to Brittany and Normandy

From June 25th to July 1st joining the one day St Columbanus International Meeting in **St Coulomb June 30th.**

The cost is 895 euro pp sharing, all breakfasts and dinners included, 3 nights Lisieux, 3 nights St Malo. Day trips include; Places associated with St Therese, Mont St Michel, Dinard and more. (Courier: Kieran Troy who has led Bangor groups in the recent past).

As there is great demand for hotel space in Brittany in this period prompt booking would be highly recommended.

Details on the parish website, church notice board and from the Parish Office.

Grateful thanks to parishioners for their donations for flowers for the Sacred Heart and Our Lady Statues.

Trocaire Global Gifts

We sold £2,360 of the global gifts. Thanks to all the parishioners who purchased these.

Welcome Rota for January

6.30 pm Mass
Madeline de Bernardo, Dymphna Lillie
10.30 am Mass
Pauline Andrews, Joe Drew
12.30 pm Mass
Sarah Donaghy, Anne Rea

Holy hour and Exposition
in St Comgall's Church, Donaghadee on Sunday 7 January at 2.45pm.
Everyone welcome

Storehouse North Down

Thank you for all your support during 2017 without your help families in Bangor would go hungry. May we remind you that our work goes on and our monthly collection of food will take place next Sunday as usual. Tinned and dried food only and cleaning products.

**St Columbanus' College, Bangor
Open Evening**
Tuesday 9 January 7pm.

Catholic Schools Week 2018

Sunday, January 28 marks the start of Catholic Schools Week.

As well as school-based activities, there will be a parish mass in Bangor at 9.30am for "Grandparents Day" on Wed. Jan 31 with all schools represented.

Living Youth – World Meeting of Families - Volunteering

Living Youth is leading a Youth Group from the Diocese of Down & Connor to Dublin this coming summer to volunteer at the World Meeting of Families Congress and to attend the Papal Mass. The trip will be from 22-26 August 2018 and will be for those aged 16-25, cost will be £100 per person. We expect places to fill quickly so to register your interest please email Living Youth @ info@livingyouthni.org with your name, contact number, parish and dob or contact us directly on 9023 2432.

Marian Prayer Group meet every Thurs evening for 1hr at 6.30pm in St Comgall's Church, Brunswick Road. Rosary for the Unborn, Reflection, Music, Petitions and Divine Mercy Chaplet. All ages welcome.

Support for the Bereaved

If you need to talk to someone about your bereavement, a member of the Bethany Bereavement Support Group can be contacted on the Confidential mobile number: 075 1085 2157.

Can you spare 1 HOUR a week?

Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed at 45p per mile. Contact Siobhan McGlone at 028 82251116/07702338930 or at smcglone@redcross.org.uk

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock - Open Morning

For Year 7 Pupils and Parents, Sat 13 January 9.15am – 12.30 pm. Principal's Address 9.30am and 11 am. Prospective Year 13 students are also welcome.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in this parish on Tuesday 17 April 2018 at 5pm.

NI Blood Transfusion Service

The next blood donation session will be held in St Andrew's Church Hall, Clondeboye Road, Bangor on Tuesday 9 January from 1.30-4pm and 5.15-8pm.

The Emerald Ball at Titanic, Belfast will take place on St Patrick's Day, 17 March 2018. The evening will commence with drinks at 7pm, followed by a superb four course dinner at 8pm. There will be a high-end luxury ballot and dancing to a live band. Dress is formal and monies raised will support the D&C Lourdes Pilgrimage for the Sick. Tickets £60 pp are available from the pilgrimage secretary, Sinead 9064 6040 or the Drumbo Parish office 9081 2238.

Children's Liturgy

Only children for whom consent forms have been filled out can be permitted to take part in the Children's liturgy. Consent forms are available at the back of the church and in the parish office. The Children's Liturgy is open for children in primary school P1 to P7.

Fatima Special 2018

12 July - 19 July £629 per person, full board/ensuite, free coach transfers, Spiritual Director. Contact Rita O'Neill 9062 3186 or 079 3485 0000.

Accord Catholic Marriage Care Service

Belfast: Tel No. 028 9033 9944
Email address
accordbelfast@btconnect.com