



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

Third Sunday of Advent

13th December 2020, Year B, Psalter Week 3

Parish Priest: Fr Edward O'Donnell Tel: 028 9066 5409



Parish Office: Tel: 028 9066 5409; (9 am - 1 pm Weekdays)

Email: stbrigids@downandconnor.org **Website:** www.stbrigidsparishbelfast.org

Mass Times

Sunday Mass

Saturday: 6 pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 9.30 am & 12 noon

Weekday Mass

Monday: 7:00 pm

Tuesday: 9.30 am

Wednesday: 9.30 am

Thursday: 9.30 am

Friday: 7:00 pm

Saturday: 12 noon

Confession

Monday: 7.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Friday: 6.30 pm – 7.00 pm

Saturday: 12.30 pm – 1.00 pm &

5.30 pm – 6:00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday 7.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Baptisms

1 months' notice required

Please contact the Parish Office

Marriages

6 months' notice required.

Please contact Fr O'Donnell

Bulletin Notices

Bulletin Notices must be with the Parish Office by **12 noon on**

Thursday to be included in the weekend bulletin. Thank you.

Sign up to our
Electronic
Mailing List
[Click HERE](#)

ST BRIGID'S: ART & ARCHITECTURE

At the beginning of the year the Parish Pastoral Council produced a book entitled " **St Brigid's: Art & Architecture**", to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the new church.

This book is available to purchase from the Parish Office, an ideal gift this Christmas. (£5 per copy)



Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 61:2.10-11
I exult for joy in the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50.53-54
R/. My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: Second Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1 Th 5:16-24
May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.

Gospel: Gospel according to John Jn 1:6-8.19-28
There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Rosena Kelly recently deceased and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Moore, Kevin Sharkey, Dolores Murphy, Canon Hugh Starkey, Olga Goan, James and Kathleen Reid, Margaret McIlhatton, Bridget and John Graham, Mary and Matthew Neill, Mary-Jo Doran, Liz Rice, Mary McLaughlin, Philip O'Brien, Brett Maginn, Margery Gilligan, Vera O'Hara, Paddy, Tilly and Patsy O'Brien, Mary and Michael Lennon, James and Alice O'Brien

*Please pray also for the parents and family of **Baby Joseph McDowell**, whose Anniversary is at this time*

May they rest in peace

Public Masses will resume at 12 noon Saturday 12th Dec

Mass continues to be live streamed from St Brigid's Church each day.

Link: stbrigidsparishbelfast.org/links

Weekday Mass

Monday: 7:00 pm

Tuesday: 9.30 am

Wednesday: 9.30 am

Thursday: 9.30 am

Friday: 7:00 pm

Saturday: 12 noon

Sunday Mass

Saturday: 6 pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 9.30 am & 12 noon

Christmas Masses in St Brigid's Parish 2020

Christmas 2020 will be a quite different Christmas! To avoid the real possibility of increased transmission of Covid-19 this Christmas, please note the following:

- The obligation to attend Mass in person this Christmas has been suspended. Those who are physically frail and / or susceptible to illness, young or old, are strongly advised to remain at home and follow Mass on-line. **Christmas Masses will be streamed at: 9.00pm on Christmas Eve; 9.30am and 12 noon on Christmas Day.** Parishioners can also attend Mass on one of the days over the Christmas season – up to the Feast of the Epiphany, 6th January – thus avoiding the larger congregations.
- There will be eight Masses in the Parish for Christmas: five in St Brigid's, and three in the Catholic Chaplaincy. Those attending Mass at Christmas **must wear face-covering** while in the Church grounds as well as in Church. This is to be scrupulously observed (with legitimate exceptions).
- **Social distancing must be observed, and children must remain always in the company of their parents – no moving about.** Social distancing must not breakdown at the end of Mass – please leave the Church grounds immediately after Mass and avoid gathering in groups. It cannot be emphasized enough how essential it is to observe these norms.
- The Masses in **The Catholic Chaplaincy are: 5.00pm and 7.00pm on Christmas Eve, and 10.00am on Christmas Day.** There is convenient car parking. These Masses are very suitable for older parishioners and those attending Mass on their own. **They are not suitable for family groups and children are not permitted in the Chaplaincy.** The capacity of the Chaplaincy is 120.
- **In St. Brigid's there will be two outdoor Masses in the Church Carpark on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm and 7.30pm.** There will be no cars permitted in the Carpark. There will be no seating - come expecting to stand and come prepared for the weather. Stewards will guide parishioners to a safe place, please co-operate with the stewards.

Face-coverings must be worn, and social distancing strictly observed.

Each Mass will be last approximately 35 minutes. Family groups, particularly with children, are encouraged to comes to one or other of these Masses. A sound system will be installed in the grounds.

- There will also be Mass in **St Brigid's Church at 9.00pm on Christmas Eve, and at 9.30am and 12 noon on Christmas Day** – the capacity of the Church is 120. Those unable to get into the church can follow Mass, on their devices from outside.

In the present difficult circumstances, every effort has been made to do what is possible to ensure that the beautiful Feast of Christmas is celebrated in our parish. A risk assessment has been professionally carried out to ensure that the parish adheres to the guidance issued by the Public Health Agency and the NI Executive Directives. With the cooperation of everyone, we can celebrate Christmas safely.

Parishioners from neighboring parishes, while normally welcome to St Brigid's, are asked, in this exceptionally difficult year, to take part in the Christmas Celebrations in their own parishes.



Society of St. Vincent De Paul Annual Christmas Collection

The annual collection of St. Vincent De Paul will be held **THIS WEEKEND** after all Masses.

You can also **donate** online through your bank to: **SVP St Brigid's Conference
DANSKE BANK Account Number: 41024701 Sort Code: 95-01-32**

Food Bank

A big **THANK YOU** to the parishioners of St. Brigid's for your generous donations of **£5,503 and €200** to the South Belfast Trussell Trust Foodbank. This donation will make a huge difference serving our community by supporting families in crisis!

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity you have demonstrated of feeding the hungry, particularly at this time.

Your support is invaluable, thank you again!

Have a lovely Christmas.

St Brigid's Parish and preparation for Christmas

The pandemic has restricted parish life for the last number of months, yet, in spite of all, a great deal of pastoral work has continued. Through the Parish Website and Facebook, we have striven to maintain contact with everyone, and now our Webcam facilities are greatly helping in this endeavour. Many are wondering what this Christmas will be like, so here is a brief outline of the Parish outreach for the Christmas Season.

- The response to the collection for the **Foodbank** has been amazing! To date **£5503 + €200** has been donated. (*notice opposite*)
- **The St Vincent de Paul** Christmas Appeal is underway – again the response is extraordinary. Gifts of money and gift-card vouchers are coming in every day.
- The Parish cooperated with the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queens for the **Homeless Shoebox Appeal**. The parishioners, together with others from the University and the wider community, have left in a huge number of beautifully prepared shoeboxes and gift-bags to the Chaplaincy. The Parish Youth Faith Group prepared 50+ shoeboxes!
- Another initiative of the Catholic Chaplaincy was to prepare **Student Care Packs**. They will be distributed to International Students unable to travel home for Christmas. Some members of our Parish Youth Faith Group helped to pack two thousand Care Packs!
- The boys and girls of our **Parish GIFT programme** (Growing In Faith Together) are writing to and preparing little Christmas gifts for nominated parishioners who have been shielding. (*See previous Bulletin*)
- The Parish and the Chaplaincy have cooperated in producing **“Nine lessons and Carols”**. This will be available on our Parish Website before Christmas. **Launch date: Sunday 20th December at 5pm**
- A programme of **Christmas Masses** is being prepared.



St Brigid's Third World Group Christmas Gift Cards

A donation to St Brigid's Third World Group instead of a Christmas present can be life-changing for some very poor people in Kenya.



£25 will provide goats as a source of income for poor families

£10 will buy seeds for planting to provide a source of income for poor families



£10 will provide live chickens for a poor family for eggs and a small income



To make a donation and obtain a Christmas Gift Card (we can deliver to you) please phone or text Kevin on 07525634440 or email stbrigids3wg@gmail.com

Praying the Mass via Technology

As so many parishioners are joining in live broadcasts of Sunday, and weekday, Mass it might be helpful to consciously think about how we go about participating in them. These suggestions for praying the Mass via technology may be helpful:

- *Dress as you would for Mass*
- *Have your technology ready and be on time.*
- *Turn off any technology that might distract you during the Mass.*
- *If possible, join in the Mass as a family and have a member light a candle before Mass begins, perhaps beside a cross or another sacred image.*
- *Share in the responses, prayers, and gestures of the Mass.*
- *Stand for the Gospel and Our Father; kneel as appropriate if you can; share some sign of peace if you are with others.*
- *Join in the singing.*
- *At the time of Holy Communion, make an act of spiritual communion.*
- *And finally, when Mass is ended go in peace from this prayer to live what you have prayed.*

In these darkest of days, our keeping of Sunday can give us exactly the light, sustenance, and grace we need to carry us through the rest of our week. Sunday is God's gift to us. It is up to us to do the unwrapping.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen