



# Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

27<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Year B, Psalter Week 1

**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](mailto:stbrigids@downandconnor.org) **Website:** [www.stbrigidsparishbelfast.org](http://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

### PARISH OFFERINGS

**Weekly Collection 20<sup>th</sup> December:** £6264.00

*Thank you for your continued generosity and support.*

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

### Parish Office Closure Times Over Christmas

The Parish Office will be **closed** from 1.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd December until Sunday 3rd January. The office will **reopen** again at 9.00 am on Monday 4th January 2021.

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**First Reading:** Reading from the book of Genesis Gn 15:1-6,21:1-3  
*Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 104:1-6.8-9

*R/. He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.*

**Second Reading:** Letter to the Hebrews

*The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.*

**Gospel:** Gospel according to Luke Lk 2:22-40

*The child grew, filled with wisdom.*

### Anniversary List

**Please pray for** Sarah Mellon and Annette McCourt recently deceased, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Noleen McLoughlin, Pat McAlister, Joseph Fahey, Eileen McCrory, George Kinder, Brigid Monaghan, Winifred Brannigan, Gertie Mallön, Frances Mallön, Deidre O'Kane, Eammon Gilleece, John Matthew and Brigid John

*May they rest in peace*

### Christmas Week Masses

**St Stephen's Day 12.00 noon and 6.00 pm (Vigil)**

*Saturday 26th December*

**Holy Family 9.30 am and 12.00 noon**

*Sunday 27th December*

**Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th December**

Mass will be held at 9.30 am

**New Year's Eve 6.00 pm**

*Thursday 31st December*

**World Day of Peace 12 noon**

*Friday 1st January 2021*

### The Diocese of Down & Connor Directory 2021

Up-to-date Diocesan information plus the full liturgical calendar for 2021 is available in Church Entrance **Cost £4.00**. Please put money in the Paper Box.

## Christmas Message 2020

### “Christmas at Home”

*Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.”* Matthew 1:20

On 8th December 2020, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter “With a Father’s Heart”, dedicating the year ahead under the patronage of St Joseph. The scriptures recall how, in the most difficult of personal circumstances, Joseph took Mary into his home, welcomed the Christ-child as his own and courageously became their guardian. In Joseph, Mary and Jesus witnessed the tender love of God.

Christmas 2020 is a very different Christmas for everyone. Families and parishes across the world are not able to celebrate in the normal way. For some, this will be a Christmas celebrated at home. Sacrificing much in the pursuit of health and wellbeing, others will spend this Christmas in isolation, unable to join those they love. Like Mary and Joseph, exiled to protect the newly born Christ child, many have been compelled to change their plans at the last minute because of evolving circumstances.

And yet the light of the Christ-Child can still illuminate the hearts and hearths of all this Christmas bringing joy and hope.

This experience will certainly evoke in many of us a nostalgia for the memories of Christmas in previous years, recalling those who were with us in the past, family celebrations and gatherings, Christmas carolling, Vigil Masses and prayers around the crib.

At the same time, the 2020 Christmas experience will cast light on and reveal so much that we have taken for granted. Over this past year, we have all learned to draw upon new sources of creativity and resourcefulness. This Christmas there is the potential to experience and strengthen further our homes as cradles of faith and prayer within our parishes and Christian communities. Just as with the wise men from the East, there is wonder and joy to be experienced – namely, to identify afresh and appreciate anew the personal qualities of those closest and most familiar to us.

So, let us celebrate Christmas at Home. In our homes, let the Christ-child take center place. Over this festive season, I encourage you to join our parish communities online and to pray for one another, for your families and friends. Let us pray also for our health care workers and for all front-line staff as they selflessly and tirelessly continue to care for our sick throughout the Christmas season. And we could use the methods of communication available to us to reach out and connect with those we love and especially those living on their own.

May the blessing of this Christmas Season bring hope and joy into your hearts and homes.

**+Noel Treanor**

**Bishop of Down and Connor**

## GIFT – Caring and Connecting this Christmas

A HUGE thank you to all our brilliant young people who came forward to join in our outreach initiative this Christmas.

Last Saturday a stream of young people and volunteers came to the Parish hall to pick up their candles ,cards and letters for their visit this afternoon. They each wrote out to their designated person to inform them of their visit and including a commitment to pray especially for them this Christmas. All in all our young people will be seeing 70 + members of our Parish who have been sheltering or bereaved since lockdown.

Please keep them all in your prayers as they let “ their little lights shine “. We were all so uplifted by them last Saturday afternoon....quite possibly stepping out of their comfort zone to try and make a difference. WELL DONE to you all. We are very proud of you. THANK YOU.

We wish all of our GIFT family, past and present, all the peace, joy and happiness of this very special time. Happy Christmas.

Hopefully, we will be together again before too long.

Mary and Breige.

*Wishing the Parishioners of St Brigid's all  
the Blessings of the Christmas Season and a  
Very Happy New Year!*



## MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE  
54th WORLD DAY OF PEACE

1 JANUARY 2021

### A CULTURE OF CARE AS A PATH TO PEACE

At the dawn of a new year, I extend cordial greetings to Heads of State and Government, leaders of International Organizations, spiritual leaders and followers of the different religions, and to men and women of good will. To all I offer my best wishes that the coming year will enable humanity to advance on the path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations.

The year 2020 was marked by the massive Covid-19 health crisis, which became a global phenomenon cutting across boundaries, aggravating deeply interrelated crises like those of the climate, food, the economy and migration, and causing great suffering and hardship. I think especially of all those who lost family members or loved ones, and all who lost their jobs. I think too of physicians and nurses, pharmacists, researchers, volunteers, chaplains and the personnel of hospitals and healthcare centres. They have made, and are continuing to make, great sacrifices to be present to the sick, to alleviate their sufferings and to save their lives; indeed, many of them have died in the process. In paying tribute to them, I renew my appeal to political leaders and the private sector to spare no effort to ensure access to Covid-19 vaccines and to the essential technologies needed to care for the sick, the poor and those who are most vulnerable.

Sad to say, alongside all these testimonies of love and solidarity, we have also seen a surge in various forms of nationalism, racism and xenophobia, and wars and conflicts that bring only death and destruction in their wake.

These and other events that marked humanity's path this past year have taught us how important it is to care for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society. That is why I have chosen as the title of this year's Message, *A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace*. A culture of care as a way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time.

**To read the rest of Pope Francis's Message – Click [HERE](#)**

## CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines

The question of the use of vaccines, in general, is often at the center of controversy in the forum of public opinion. In recent months, this Congregation has received several requests for guidance regarding the use of vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19, which, in the course of research and production, employed cell lines drawn from tissue obtained from two abortions that occurred in the last century. At the same time, diverse and sometimes conflicting pronouncements in the mass media by bishops, Catholic associations, and experts have raised questions about the morality of the use of these vaccines.

There is already an important pronouncement of the Pontifical Academy for Life on this issue, entitled "Moral reflections on vaccines prepared from cells derived from aborted human fetuses" (5 June 2005). Further, this Congregation expressed itself on the matter with the Instruction *Dignitas Personae* (September 8, 2008, cf. nn. 34 and 35). In 2017, the Pontifical Academy for Life returned to the topic with a Note. These documents already offer some general directive criteria.

Since the first vaccines against Covid-19 are already available for distribution and administration in various countries, this Congregation desires to offer some indications for clarification of this matter. We do not intend to judge the safety and efficacy of these vaccines, although ethically relevant and necessary, as this evaluation is the responsibility of biomedical researchers and drug agencies. Here, our objective is only to consider the moral aspects of the use of the vaccines against Covid-19 that have been developed from cell lines derived from tissues obtained from two fetuses that were not spontaneously aborted.

1. As the Instruction *Dignitas Personae* states, in cases where cells from aborted fetuses are employed to create cell lines for use in scientific research, "there exist differing degrees of responsibility" of cooperation in evil. For example, "in organizations where cell lines of illicit origin are being utilized, the responsibility of those who make the decision to use them is not the same as that of those who have no voice in such a decision".

**To read the full article – click [HERE](#)**