



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

First Sunday of Advent

29th November 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 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](#)

Please Note: The Office will be closed to the public from 27th November to 11th December. Please phone or email to get in touch with the Parish Office.

PARISH OFFERINGS

Weekly Offering 22nd November: £4857.75

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3.15-16.18-19

R/. God of hosts, bring us back; Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: First letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 1:3-9
We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

Gospel: Gospel according to Mark Mk 13:33-37

Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Brendan Smith recently deceased, Jo Cullen and Ray McDermott whose months mind it is, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Una Merrick, Conor Kerr, Mary And John McKay, Charlie McLaverty, Liam McKenna, Mary Murphy, Teddy Brennan, Patrick and Margaret Montague, Paud Toner

May they rest in peace

Lockdown, 27th November – 11th December

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

Link: stbrigidsparishbelfast.org/links

Monday - Friday: 9.30 am

Saturday: 12 noon and 6.00 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 12 noon

When the lockdown restrictions are lifted, mass will return to normal times.

N.B. There will be a Parish Programme for masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This will be published at a later date.

Mass will also be streamed from the Chaplaincy at QUB

Morning Mass: 8.15 am

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Sunday Mass: 8 pm

Evening Mass: 5.15 pm

Tuesday and Thursday

Mass will be live on Facebook, YouTube and Church Services **Link:** gubcatholic.org/live

Donation Envelopes

From Friday 27th November, St Brigid's Church will be closed for the two-week circuit breaker. **Donations for SVP, 3rd World Group and The Foodbank** can still be returned through the Parish Office (No40 Derryvolgie Avenue) by posting them into the letterbox which will be checked and emptied regularly.

Offertory envelopes may also be left into the letterbox or held onto until the church reopens again.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity during these difficult times.

Advent Carol Service

This year, because of the pandemic situation, we are unable to have a Parish advent Carol Service in the Church. However, St Brigid's and the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queens have co-operated to produce 'online'

"Nine Lessons and Carols"

Filming is now complete and is presently being edited. We will publish links to our Carol Service in the run up to Christmas.

Coffee and Poems – on Zoom

We have now had two very successful sessions of Coffee and Poems on Zoom.

The next one will be on **Wednesday 2nd December at 10.30am** and everyone is welcome - please feel free to forward this invitation to any of your contacts.

It is an opportunity for some to read a favourite poem – or one of their own compositions – and for others to enjoy listening.

If you have already registered, we will be contacting you with the zoom details by Monday 30 November - check your spam if you don't hear from us!

If you haven't yet registered but would like to come along (or would like some more information) please send an email to coffeeandpoems1@gmail.com and we will send you the details.

If you haven't yet experienced communication by Zoom please don't be shy.

- It doesn't require you to 'join' anything or to sign up to any contracts;
- It is secure;
- It is free;
- The invitations to each session will come to you from coffeeandpoems1@gmail.com
- You can take part through any smartphone or iPad/tablet or laptop or desktop computer;
- You don't have to speak – you can just enjoy listening!

GIFT - Our youth "Caring and Connecting" this Christmas.

We are really missing getting together with our young people on Sunday nights. We hope they are all well and coping with the challenges they face at this time.

We know that many people in our Parish regardless of age are feeling lonely and sad; disconnected from our wonderful parish community.

This Christmas the young people from our Parish GIFT programme would like to send out a message of love, hope and connection. They wish to deliver a GIFT package and a handwritten note and Christmas card to anyone in the Parish that is finding it hard, especially those shielding and therefore housebound. In order to do this, **WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Can you please send into the Parish Office the name and address of anyone you think would welcome this gesture from our young people. Please make sure you have their permission, and they are happy for you to share their details. We will also need your details too!

Please note the nomination can be any age and you can send in more than one.

We will match a GIFT young person to one of the nominated people. There will be a commitment by the young person to pray especially for their nominated person during Advent.

On the 4th weekend in Advent the young person from GIFT will deliver their gift and note to the home of their designated person. The gift will be left off at the door and if possible, a socially distanced chat can take place. If your nominated person cannot come to the door, please bring this to our attention.

We have suffered such disconnection from one another since March. It would be wonderful to make some connection across all age ranges in the run up to Christmas. Please do join in.

If you are not on the already established GIFT WhatsApp groups and would like to join in please do not hesitate to get in touch. We had such fun with the GIFT chain of connection earlier in lockdown. The young people as ever, were inspirational.

If you who would have been attending GIFT 1 in January for the first time, please do feel free to join in. We hope to get you together at sometime in 2021. If you did not register for GIFT 1 you can download a registration form from the Parish website and leave it into the office. No 40 Derryvolgie Avenue.

Thank you.

Mary Carson (mary-carson@hotmail.com / 07718263019)

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.

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### **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



## **Society of St. Vincent De Paul Annual Christmas Collection**

The annual collection of St. Vincent De Paul will be held on **Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th December 2020 after all Masses.**

Gift Aid Envelopes and Christmas Toy/Gift Appeal donations can be returned to the Parish Office while the church is closed during the 2-week 'circuit breaker'. You can also **donate online** through your bank to: **SVP St Brigid's Conference DANSKE BANK Account Number: 41024701 Sort Code: 95-01-32**



## **Christmas Homeless Shoebox Appeal**



The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's, together with the University's Order of Malta branch, is supporting this year's Christmas Homeless Shoebox Appeal. Every year, individuals and families experiencing homelessness face the festive season alone. QUB students want to reach out and offer concrete supports. We appeal to you to give a small gift and some hope to a homeless person (or someone struggling and at risk of becoming homeless).

**We ask that you decorate a shoebox or gift bag for either a male or female (adult) and include items such as:**

**Gloves, Socks, Toothpaste/brush, Sanitary items, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Sweets, Tinned food, Christmas card** and anything else you can think of that might be helpful.

Boxes can be left securely at the Catholic Chaplaincy QUB, 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast during opening hours (see [qubcatholic.org](http://qubcatholic.org)) **before 5 December** in time for distribution before Christmas. We thank you for your support of this worthwhile initiative.

*\*(Remember to wrap the box and lid separately so we can add extra items to boxes) \**



### **No Third World Advent Bread and Soup this year - but hunger and poverty continue in developing countries...**

The Parish Third World Group would normally be getting the pots of delicious soup ready for the Advent Bread and Soup lunch this Sunday!

We are sorry that this Parish event cannot take place in 2020. It has always been very enjoyable and has raised much needed funding.

Despite, and because of, the pandemic, we continue to try to support our beneficiaries in Africa, Asia and South America where the spread of Covid-19 has made the task of helping the very poor to even survive much more difficult than ever.

If you would like to make a donation, set up a Standing Order or buy religious Christmas cards or Christmas Gift Cards\* (we can deliver to you) please see our **website [www.stbrigids3wg.com](http://www.stbrigids3wg.com) or phone Kevin on 07525634440**

\*This year proceeds from our Christmas Gift Cards will support the work of the Daughters of Charity to help provide food and a small income for poor families in Kenya - live chickens for eggs; seeds for planting; and goats for milk and manure to grow vegetables.

