



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

Second Sunday of Advent

6th December 2020, Year B, Psalter Week 2

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

(Offerings will be counted after the lockdown)

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 40:1-5.9-11
Prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

R/. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Second Reading: Second Letter of St Peter 2 Pt 3:8-14

We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.

Gospel: Gospel according to Mark Mk 1:1-8

Make his paths straight.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Catherine McGeown whose months mind it is, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: James Patrick Byrne, Maurice Hale, Deidre Lavery, Frank Bryan, Jean Rutler, Rita Lavery, Rita Marshall, Patrick Mullaney, Marie Louise Lavery, John and Kathleen Magahey, Roseann McVeigh, Vera O'Neill, Bernard Boyle

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

Monday: 7.00 pm

Tuesday: 9.30 am

Wednesday: 9.30 am

Tuesday: 9.30 am

Friday: 7.00 pm

Saturday: 12 noon and 6.00 pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9.30 am and 12 noon

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

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 full notice below*)
- The Parish and the Chaplaincy have cooperated in producing **“Nine lessons and Carols”**. This will be available on our Parish Website before Christmas.
- A programme of **Christmas Masses** is being prepared.



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 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.

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



£25 will provide goats as 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



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

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.

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

Help protect babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot

Sadly, abortion is currently available in the UK, right up to birth, for babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot. All of these conditions can be corrected.

A cross-party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together to bring forward the Abortion (Cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK.

Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Please visit www.standupandsmile.org.uk to email your MP asking them to support the Bill. It only takes 30 seconds.