



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st August 2021, Year B, Psalter Week 2

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

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

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Livestream/Webcam: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCECKga_N93kdxngxRJMuvUw

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Reading from the book of Exodus Ex 16:2-4.12-15

I will rain down bread for you from the heavens.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 77:3-4.23-25.54

R/. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Second Reading: Reading from St Paul to the Ephesians. Eph 4:17.20-24

Put on the new self that has been created in God's way.

Gospel: Gospel according to John Jn 6:24-35

He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Tom Esmonde and Sarah Brennan recently deceased, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Thomas McCloskey, Anne O'Kane, Tony McGauran, Hugh McAlinney, Ronnie Huston, John and Mary Skehan, Jerome Skehan, Therese Kelly, Joe Verzin, John McCann, Patricia Blackburn, Peter McGlone

May they rest in peace

Bulletin Notices

Bulletin Notices should be with the Parish Office by **12 noon on Thursday** to be included in the weekend bulletin. Thank you.

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

The Liturgy

Sunday Mass

Saturday: 6.00 pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 9.30 am
12.00 noon

During the summer period mass times will remain presently as they are.

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

Baptisms

Please contact the Parish Office

stbrigids@downandconnor.org

Marriages

At least 6 months' notice required prior to date of Marriage.

Please contact Fr O'Donnell

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday 7.30 pm – 8.00 pm

PARISH OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Weekly Collection 25th July: **£3648.00**

Thank you for your continued support.

NOTICE: Father O'Donnell will be away from Saturday 31st July until Sunday 8th August. **Fr Paul Armstrong** will be covering Mass at the normal times. *(There will be no confessions during this period)*

Emergency calls will be directed to the Parish Secretary from Saturday 31st July until Sunday 8th August. Please call 02890 665409 and follow the directions.

Statement by the Northern Catholic Bishops on the direction of the Secretary of State to introduce abortion services to Northern Ireland

The decision last week by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis MP, to direct the NI Executive and Department of Health to make abortion services available in Northern Ireland by 21 March 2022, is gravely disquieting. It is the latest in a line of decisions by the current Westminster Government which we believe threaten the fragile balance of relationships at the heart of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

Sadly, some of our local political parties seem content to welcome this unilateral move by Westminster on an issue which is of fundamental importance to local voters, while rightly challenging such unilateral impositions on other issues.

With many others, from a wide range of moral, philosophical and religious backgrounds, we have consistently held that the right to life of every person, irrespective of stage of development or ability, is the prior and essential right of all other human rights. Our shared search for peace is driven in no small part by our collective rejection of the brutality and demeaning of human dignity that occurs when the right to life is diminished in any way. Thankfully, we live in an age when sensitivity to the preciousness and fragility of all life on our planet, even in its most microscopic forms, is better understood and appreciated. The failure to extend this sensitivity and care to our own fellow human beings in the womb, as well as to mothers in pregnancy will, we believe, one day be seen as a grave moral blindness on the part of this generation and a profound dereliction of our responsibility to uphold the most basic human right of all - the right to life.

In unilaterally imposing this direction on the local Northern Ireland Assembly to provide abortion services, it is as if the Westminster Government, and those local parties who have supported them, believe the answer to the issue of providing compassionate care for a woman and her unborn child in pregnancy can be framed simply and exclusively as a "healthcare issue". Absent from the discussion however are the thousands of unborn children, who have no legal protection and whose humanity is excluded from the political equation. It is for this reason that the argument for the protection of all human life can never be abandoned or referred to human rights experts alone. Westminster has imposed an unjust law. Christians, and all people of good will, can never stand silently by and fail to raise their voices at any attempt to ignore completely the fact that unborn children are human beings worthy of protection.

As our society prepares in coming months to engage in the ultimate expression of democratic participation - the election to our local Assembly - we encourage all Catholics, and those share our view on the inviolability of all human life, to reflect

carefully on the issues raised by this succession of unilateral impositions by the Westminster Government. We encourage everyone who believes in the equal right to life and compassionate care for a mother and her unborn child to ask local candidates and political parties to explain their position on these interventions and on this most fundamental of all issues.

Re: Face Coverings

The NI Executive Office has made the following announcement regarding the wearing of face coverings in Churches:

"The requirement for the wearing of face coverings in places of worship, during acts of worship, will be moved from regulations into guidance only. Face coverings will still be legally required when entering and exiting the building and will be strongly advised whilst singing or moving around the premises." Effective from 6.00pm on 27th July.

Until further notice the following must be observed in St Brigid's Church.

- Face coverings **must** be worn by all while entering and exiting the Church – **this is a legal requirement.**

In the interests of the common good and for everyone's well-being

- face coverings continue to be worn by all within the Church.
- Priests, deacons and extra-ordinary ministers should continue, for their own protection, to wear face masks when distributing Holy Communion.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Guidelines for attending Mass in St Brigid's

- **Face Coverings** are mandatory when entering and exiting the church and should be worn throughout services.
- Current seating occupancy of the church is **275**
- Observe social distancing and use the sanitizer at the Church Entrance;
- Take a seat and remain there until the end of Mass; children must remain with their parents, and in the seat, at all times;
- Do not sit beside anyone who is not a member of your household;
- For those who wish to receive Holy Communion, remain in your seat and Holy Communion will be brought to you; Holy Communion is to be received in the hand;
- When leaving the Church follow the instructions and leave according to the indicated "One-way" system;
- Anyone with cold-like symptoms or coughs must not enter the Church;
- Those with underlying health issues are advised to remain at home;
- Toilet facilities are not available;