



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st October 2023, Year A, Psalter Week 2

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

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Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Reading from the prophet Ezekiel Ezk 18:25-28

When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9

R/. Remember your mercy, Lord.

Second Reading: Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians Ph 2:1-11

In your minds you must be the same a Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Gospel according to Matthew Mt 21:28-32

He thought better of it and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Kathleen Kelly and Virgine Bachera recently deceased, Laura Heaney whose month's mind it is and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Kathleen McGale, Sean McAnulty, Damien and Peter Beirne, John Donaghy, Thomas Kelly, Vincent Fitzpatrick, Maura Hamill, Dan Cullen, Marshall Dorman, Joe O'Neill, Assumpta Meenan

May they rest in peace

The Liturgy

Sunday Mass

Saturday: 6.00 pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 9.30 am
12.00 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

Baptisms

1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month at 1.30pm

Please contact the Parish Office to book

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

(Total includes Basket Collections, Standing Orders and Dona Donations)

Weekly Collection 24th September: £4457.47



Thank you for your continued support

Bulletin Notices and Anniversaries

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



Sunday Homily

Fr O'Donnell's Homily is available to read and listen to this Sunday morning on our Parish Website. Please visit the link > [Sunday Homilies](#)

Youth Faith Group

Our Parish Youth Faith Group recommences this evening **Sunday 1 October from 6.30pm to 8.00pm in St Bride's Hall**. *Everyone over 16 is invited to attend and we look forward to seeing lots of both new and familiar faces. We will have Pizza and soft drinks for all!*



GIFT – Growing in Faith Together

GIFT 5 programme (Year 12) will start back this Sunday, **1st October**, from **6.30pm – 8.00pm in the Parish Hall**. The programme will run for 4 consecutive weeks finishing on Sunday 22nd October.

The first week will be an opportunity for our wonderful young people to reconnect after the summer. We have a fun-filled evening planned, playing games and enjoying delicious pizza.



If you have not been involved in the GIFT programme and would like to join, please get in touch with the Parish Office. We look forward to welcoming all our young people back and meeting our new GIFT members.

*The Parish One World Group is delighted to announce a Table Quiz on **20th October** in the Parish Hall*

7.45 for 8pm start.

Bring your own drinks and snacks!

To book a table or find out more, please phone Kevin on 07525634440

[Even if you haven't got enough people for a team, please come along and we will link you up with others to make up a table.]

Raffle prizes gratefully accepted!

Food Bank Collection

Non perishable food items can be donated after all Masses on the **30th September/1st October 2023**. The food weighed in at 211.7 kgs for September collection. Thank you for your support.

List of **items currently most needed**: Tinned tomatoes; Instant potato; Tinned vegetables; Tinned fruit; Jam; Coffee; tea; Rice; Long life fruit juice; UHT milk; Cooking Sauces; Biscuits.

MEN'S CLOTHING DONATIONS NEEDED!



Vincent's - SVP Shop (138 Ormeau Road) greatly needs **donations of Men's clothing**.

If you can help, please leave off donations to the shop or to get in touch with Vincent's please call: 02890247699

BAPTISM GROUP MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Baptism Group volunteers on Monday 3rd October at 7.30pm in No 40 Derryvolgie Avenue. All current volunteers are invited to attend

Coffee and Poems

The next Parish Community Association's Coffee and Poems meeting will be on **Wednesday 4th October** after morning Mass in **St. Bride's Parish Centre**. *All are welcome to come along and join.*



Parish Safeguarding Training

If you are a volunteer working with children and young people in our parish, you must complete training every three years. The Diocesan Safeguarding Office delivers the training and new sessions are now published and available to book on the Diocesan Safeguarding website.

downandconnorsafeguarding.com/available-training/

All Volunteers must complete Level 1 Training (every 3 years)

All Group Leaders must complete Level 2 Training (every 3 years)

Alpha

The Alpha Course will run for 9 weeks beginning **Wednesday 4th October at 7pm**. The Course will be delivered in Partnership between St. Bartholomew's Church of Ireland, St Brigid's Parish and Fisherwick Presbyterian Church. To Register go to: bit.ly/belfastalpha For more information contact belfastalpha@gmail.com or 02890 666683



Derryvolgie Bridge Club

We will run a beginner class on Monday Evenings. This will be suitable for complete beginners and for those who have not played for some time.

For further details or to book a place please contact Diane Greenwood: 07493772768

Irish bishops ask for prayers ahead of attending the Synod on Synodality in Rome

Today, representing the Irish Bishops' Conference, Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick, and Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ of Raphoe, are travelling to attend the 16th General Assembly of the Synod in the Vatican. This Synod on Synodality will be attended by Church representatives from around the world and will sit from 4 – 29 October on the theme: 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission'.

Also in attendance will be Rev Professor Eamon Conway, a priest of the Archdiocese of Tuam, who will serve the Synod as an 'Expert and Facilitator', and Sister Patricia Murray IBVM, in her role as Executive Secretary of the International Union of Superiors General.

As they left Ireland, Bishops Leahy and McGuckian reiterated that the Synodal Process is about conversion and, in light of Pope Francis' comment that 'without prayer there will be no Synod', invited people of faith to pray to God over the coming weeks at daily and weekend Masses, at home, and in religious communities, to intercede for Pope Francis and for all members of the Synodal Assembly.

In an interview with iCatholic.ie, Bishop Leahy expressed the Synod as Spirit-inspired by Pope Francis, but that the Holy Father is "really taking up the great inspiration of the Second Vatican Council; that we are the Church as a people." Bishop Leahy said, "We are *not* primarily the Pope, the bishops and the priests. For too long, maybe, that's been the image that people have had of Church. The Church *is* a people. If you want, the model of the people is Mary, and we are to be this people that radiate, like Mary did, the presence of Christ in the world. But we can only do that in our relationships renewed. That is my great hope out of this Synodal Process."

In terms of his hope for the Synod, Bishop McGuckian reflected that in many ways the process is only a beginning, and will go on throughout our lives. He told iCatholic.ie, "I was excited to see that 'mission' was at the very heart of it. Every one of us wants to see the Church alive, and attractive and beautiful in the world. Many of the people who at these things [faith gatherings] are concerned about faith being passed on to new people. Parents are very concerned, and grandparents are very concerned, that faith will be passed on to their children. That is a big part of the mission of the Church, and outreach. I would love to see us having the beginnings of an experience of communion with Jesus among us, where we will find ways of expressing the truth of the faith in new and powerful ways."

In the context of the challenges that may arise in discussions during the Synod, Ms Julieann Moran, General Secretary of the Irish Synodal Pathway, said, "A huge part of this has got to be trust. The main protagonist, whether we like it or not, in any synodal process, is the Holy Spirit. We might be gathering together to dialogue, and probably argue - it wouldn't be the first or last time at a Church council - to tease it all out. People should be given an opportunity to be able to speak their mind, and speak their truth, but that somewhere in that process through the prayer, through the attentive listening, through the intentional speaking, that the Holy Spirit will guide this process. What is right for the Church in the third millennium will be what will come out ultimately from this process."

This Saturday, Pope Francis will preside over an ecumenical vigil of prayer in Saint Peter's Square to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I; the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, other Church leaders as well as thousands of Christians from different denominations. The vigil is intended to entrust to the Holy Spirit the work of the forthcoming Synod, and will include listening to the Word of God, praise and intercession, Taizé songs and silence.

Thinking of becoming a Catholic?

Most Catholics enter the Church through Baptism as infants and receive the Eucharist and reconciliation (First Holy Communion and Confession) and Confirmation when young. However, there are many people whom become Catholics, or receive the Sacraments they have previously missed, later in life.

They decide for different reasons; -

- Some are already Christians from other traditions attracted by the teaching of the Catholic Church and by the example of individual Catholics they know;
- Some are non-Catholics who have been coming regularly to Mass for years with their Catholic spouse and children. They wish now to become full members of the Church;
- Some have had no previous contact with the Church at all but have this inner calling to discover the truth about the most important questions of life.

If any of the above situations applies to you, and you wish to enquire further, please contact Fr. O'Donnell on 02890 665409 or email: stbrigids@downandconnor.org