

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday: 7.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Baptisms

1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month at 1.30pm
Please contact the Parish Office to book
(One month's notice required)

Marriages

At least 6 months' notice required prior
to date of Marriage.
Please contact Fr O'Donnell

PARISH OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Weekly Collection 26th January: £4865.57

Thank you for your continued support

St Brigid's GAC Mass of Thanksgiving

Sunday 2nd February at 9.30am

All are welcome to join us for the mass and invite you to wear our Club Colours.

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation. <https://youtu.be/MzMWZHMLXE0>

Printed Invitations will be handed out this weekend at all masses, to register please scan the QR code or visit the Parish Website: stbrigidsparishbelfast.org/alpha



Saint Brigid's Parish

The Presentation of the Lord
2nd February 2025, Year C, Psalter Week 1

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

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

Address: 40 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6FP

Email: stbrigidsparishbelfast@downandconnor.org **Website:** stbrigidsparishbelfast.org

Livestream/Webcam: youtube.com/@stbrigidsparishbelfast



The Presentation of the Lord

First Reading: Reading from the prophet Malachi MI 3:1-4

The Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:7-10

R/. Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.

Second Reading: From the first letter to the Hebrews Heb 2:14-18

It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers.

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

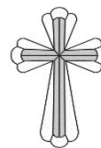
My eyes have seen your salvation

Anniversary List

Please pray for Thomas Deevy recently deceased, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ray Coppard, William Joseph Creen, William Dolan Snr, JJ McDermott, Fiona O'Hare, Anne Howie, Sean Gribben, Jim and Anne Aiken, Peter Lyons, Cornelius Kennedy, Theresa Shevlin, Teresa Devlin, Mary Elizabeth Waters, Dolores Boylan, Patrick Murray, Barry Copeland, Fr William Skehan

May they rest in peace

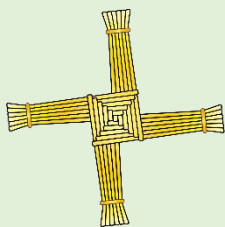
Welcome into the Church and Parish Family:



Ailbhe Sylvie O'Hara, Max McGarry,
Margot McGarry, Margot Porter

who were Baptised in St Brigid's during January.





St Brigid's Day Lecture

Date: Sunday 2nd February

Time: 4.00pm

Venue: St Brides Parish Hall

Speaker: Bishop Alan McGuckian

Theme: Synodality in Mission

Also participating: Nuala O'Loan and Des Dick

Food Bank Collection

Non perishable food items can be donated after all Masses on the **1st/2nd February 2025**. The food weighed in at 106.45 kgs for January collection.

Your donations make a big difference to local people in crisis.

Thank you for your support.

List of items currently most needed: Tinned fish; Tinned meat; Tinned vegetables; Tinned fruit; Instant potato; Tinned spaghetti; Porridge oats; Coffee; Long life juice; UHT milk; Jam/Honey/Spreads; Toiletries; Toilet roll; Biscuits.

The Parish Pastoral Council met on Tuesday 21st January 2025.

Among the items discussed were:

- 'Divine Renovation; From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish', inviting us to determine what we are called to do as a parish and to look at ways of transforming the culture of the Parish Community. To make our parish a more welcoming community
- The Alpha Course which has given a focus to the process of mission and evangelisation in the parish. Sessions will begin again on Thursday, 20th February;
- At each of the weekend Masses, on Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd February and also on Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th February, a speaker will address St. Brigid's congregation promoting the Alpha Experience;
- Printed invitations will be given to parishioners to participate in the programme by registering through the parish website or scan the QR code on the card or by a similar QR code the invitation and on a banner in the front porch;
- Interested parishioners will be encouraged to invite a friend to the sessions;
- Two training sessions for the discussion -leaders will be arranged for those leading group at the course;
- As part of the Jubilee Year Celebrations, there will be a Mass for the Sick of the parish on Tuesday, 11th February;

Coffee and Poems

The next Parish Community Association's Coffee and Poems meeting will be on **Wednesday 5th January after morning Mass in St. Bride's Parish Centre**. *All are welcome to come along and join.*



Michael Longley

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Michael Longley's death. We have many memories of Michael's connection with St Brigid's, and his generosity of time and spirit. His funeral took place on St Brigid's Day, a coincidence, that Michael would say was not a coincidence! In tribute to him, who was not only a great poet, but a true friend, we print his poem, CANTICLE, written for the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University Belfast, in which St Brigid is commemorated.

CANTICLE by Michael Longley

1

*There must have been an oak grove hereabouts,
A stand of elms nearby, tell-tale places,
A celebration of rustling leaves, branches
That intertwine, a communion of saints:
My Derryvolgie canticle begins
With straw crosses plaited for Saint Brigid
And pinned up above everybody's door:
The Virgin Mary's midwife, so they say,
Who, the night before Spring, blesses our rags,
Hallowed with an inextinguishable
Ashless bonfire, her apron embroidered
With lady's-bedstraw, water-mint, thyme,
Her cloak a canopy for mountain hares
Whose undersides turn white at Christmastime:
Custodian of childhood's sticklebacks
She tickles the knowledgeable salmon
At the Minnowburn, at the Giant's Ring
Locates the god of creativity
All eyes beneath the constellations -
Look! Otters string bubbles up the Lagan,
Kingfishers illuminate the towpath.*

11

*It could well have been Brigid's bright idea,
This Chaplaincy, inglenook for peace-makers,
Space for students to take the bread and wine
And make of small talk something sacred -
Putting their minds to eternity they
Have found their way to Elmwood Avenue
And sing their canticles among the trees.*