



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

First Sunday of Advent

3rd December 2023, Year B, 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: stbrigids@downandconnor.org **Website:** stbrigidsparishbelfast.org

Livestream/Webcam: youtube.com/@stbrigidsparishbelfast



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: Reading from the 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 all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Patrick Boyle, Deirdre Smyth, Maria Moloney, Hugh Donnelly, Susan Martin, Sheila and Donal Twomey, Una Merrick, Maurice Hale, Patrick Murphy, Seamus Murphy, John Smith, Rita and Tommy Foy, Elizabeth McFadden, Paud Toner, Lilian Viola Carty, Joseph Anthony Shevlin, Dolores Murphy, Margaret Yoong, Anne Smyth, Frank Bryan, Ashraf Farag, Roseann McVeigh, Brigid Ramsey

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 26th November: £4771.87



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 each Sunday morning on our Parish Website. *Please visit the link > [Sunday Homilies](#)*

2024 Sunday Missals are available in the church porch to buy at £5 each. Please put the money in the Newspaper basket.

Advent Programme



Advent Morning Prayer: Monday – Friday during Advent at 7.30am in the Church beginning 4th December

Woman walking through Advent together:

Evenings in Advent, Tues 5th, Wed 13th & Tues 19th December at 7.30pm in 40 Derryvolgie Avenue

1st Sunday of Advent (3rd December)

- **Food Bank Sunday** (*see bulletin notice*)
- **The Feast of the Immaculate Conception** Friday 8th December
Mass Times: 9.30am and 7.00pm
- **Our Youth Faith Group** are collecting and donating Gift Bags/Boxes to Utility Street Men's Hostel on 9th December and also collecting for the Shoebox Appeal organised with the Order of Malta and QUB Chaplaincy.

2nd Sunday of Advent (10th December)

- **Day for Life:** 12 noon Saturday 9th December – 12 Noon Sunday 10th December (*see bulletin notice*)
- **Friday 15th December** – St Brides Primary School Carol Service 1.30pm in St Brigid's Church

3rd Sunday of Advent (17th December)

- **Bambinelli Sunday** (Blessing of Christ Child Crib Figures) at the 9.30am Mass (*see bulletin notice*)
- **Parish Penitential Service:** 4pm – 5pm (a number of confessors available)
- **Monday 18th December** – St Brides Primary School Penitential Service



4th Sunday of Advent (24th December)

- Normal Sunday Mass times

Christmas Eve Vigil: 6.00 pm (*Outdoor in Carpark, standing only, come prepared for the weather*)

Christmas Night Mass: 9.00 pm

Christmas Day Mass: 9.30am and 12 Noon

During **Christmas Week:** Tuesday – Saturday Mass at 12 Noon



Food Bank Collection

Non perishable food items can be donated after all Masses **THIS WEEKEND 2nd /3rd December 2023**. The food weighed in at 258.75 kgs for November collection. Thank you for your support.

List of items currently most needed: *Tinned meat; Tinned vegetables; Tinned fish; Pulses; Coffee; Tea; Rice; Long life fruit juice; Cooking sauces; Biscuits; Toilet roll.*



SVP Toy Voucher Appeal

Further to our earlier notice and building on last year's success of giving toy vouchers to families. We would like to remind you, that in order to give families time to buy the toys they require we need to **collect toy vouchers at the latest at the Masses on 2nd/3rd December**.

Vouchers will be distributed to families week commencing 4th December.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support to St Vincent de Paul.

Laudato Deum: Responding to the Challenge of Safeguarding 'Our Common Home'

Join us on **Tuesday, December 5th, at 7:30 pm** in the Parish Centre as we delve deeper into the themes raised by Fr Timothy Bartlett in his presentation on Laudato Deum on November 9th.

We aim to explore how, both individually and collectively, our Parish Community can effectively respond to the challenges posed by Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si' and its recent update, Laudato Deum.

If you are interested in being part of this conversation on how we can address the call to action presented by the Pope then come along on December 5th. Let's discover where this conversation may lead us.

Coffee and Poems



Maureen Boyle, author of three books of poetry, winner of numerous awards, will recite at our next Coffee and Poems on **Wednesday 6th December**. The recital will be after morning Mass in the Parish Centre. Please come along.

Day for Life

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you..."
Jeremiah 1:5

The Parish Pastoral Council have organised a "Day for Life" in St Brigid's Church, beginning at the noon Mass on Saturday 9th December and ending at the noon Mass on Sunday 10th December.

It is a day of prayer that our society will respect, protect, love and serve life from the moment of conception until its natural end.
Everyone in the parish is invited to make a special effort to play a part in this day.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Joseph, Saint John Paul II, Saint Maximilian Kolbe and Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta intercede for us.

"...inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life"
"abortion and euthanasia are crimes which no human law can claim to legitimise"
Saint John Paul II

"War begets war, violence begets violence. May God have mercy on us."
Pope Francis

Gaza/ Israel conflict; 15,000+ deaths (many children) – 1.7m Gazans out of 2.3m displaced.

Ukraine/Russia War; 500,000+ casualties.

Approximately a quarter of the world's population, two billion people, are currently living in conflict areas, in conditions that create risks of **human trafficking**.

27.6m trafficked persons – USA a top destination, among largest consumers of **child sex, a \$150 billion per year business**.

According to World Health Organisation, **every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions - one baby every two and a half minutes.**

10 million preborn babies aborted in Britain since 1967 – 1 in 4 pregnancies end in abortion.

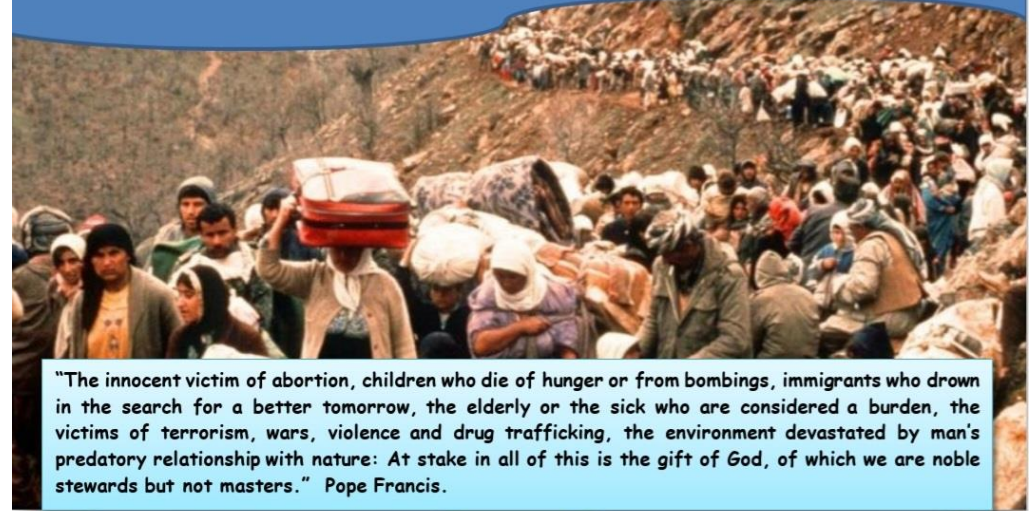
Legal abortions in the Republic of Ireland: 15 in 2017, 8,156 in 2022 (1 in 7 babies) Northern Ireland; 4,136 abortions since March 2020

More than **350 million people** around the world have a **legal right to die**.

DAY FOR LIFE

SATURDAY 9TH TO SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

The Parish Pastoral Council has organised a "Day For Life" in St. Brigid's Church, beginning at the Noon Mass on Saturday 9th December and ending at the Noon Mass on Sunday 10th December. It is a day of prayer that our society will respect, protect, love and serve life from the moment of conception until its natural end. Everyone in the parish is invited to make a special effort to play a part in this day.



"The innocent victim of abortion, children who die of hunger or from bombings, immigrants who drown in the search for a better tomorrow, the elderly or the sick who are considered a burden, the victims of terrorism, wars, violence and drug trafficking, the environment devastated by man's predatory relationship with nature: At stake in all of this is the gift of God, of which we are noble stewards but not masters." Pope Francis.

Saturday 9th December

Mass at 12-Noon.
Confessions after Mass.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
from 12.30pm to 5.00pm.

1.00pm and 2.00pm Rosary

3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary
4.00pm and 5.00pm Rosary

Confessions from 5.00pm to 5.30pm.

6.00pm Vigil Mass with focussed Homily.

Sunday 10th December

Mass at 9.30am
with focussed Homily
and Prayers of Intercession.

10.30am to 12-Noon
Silent Prayer and Reflection.

Mass at 12-Noon
with focussed Homily
and Prayers of Intercession.

St Brigid's One World Group



Christmas Gift Cards now available

Make a donation in lieu of a present to a friend or relation at Christmas time this year.

Your gift will provide food for some of the poorest people in the world whose suffering has been made even worse as a result of the rocketing prices of basic commodities

Please text/ring Kevin on 07525634440

Donations can be made to Account No 68825172 Sort Code 90-22-07

FOCOLARE MOVEMENT 1943-2023

80th Anniversary Celebration

We welcome you to join us for a thanksgiving mass to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Focolare Movement.

Venue: Holy Family Parish Church (226-228 Limestone Road)

Date: Thursday 7th December at 12.00 noon

(Mass will be followed by a light celebratory lunch.)

All are welcome to come and if you are unable to join us in person, the mass will be streamed online at www.holy-familyparish.com/webcam/

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

The Order of Malta QUB, St Mary's Liturgy Group and SU, and the Catholic Chaplaincy QUB invite you to support this year's Christmas Shoebox Appeal in support of Belfast Homeless Services.

Suggested items for male and female include: **Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Soap, Shampoo, Body wash, Sanitary products, Sweets, Chocolate, Gloves, Scarves, Hats, Deodorant**

Please place your items in a wrapped box or in a bag and leave it under the Christmas tree at **St Mary's University College Students Unions, 191 falls Road by Monday 11th December**. Thank you for your kindness and support. For more info, contact catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk

Bring Baby Jesus from your Nativity Crib for a special blessing on Sunday 17th December at 9.30am Mass

At 9.30am Mass on Sunday 17th December, we are having our very own Baminelli Sunday at St. Brigid's. Fr O'Donnell along with the Gift Group are inviting all our wonderful children and young people with their families to bring their figures of Baby Jesus to Mass from their home crib for a very special blessing.

Baminelli Sunday was a tradition started by St John Paul II. Baminelli is the Italian word that means, "Little Baby Jesus". Pope John Paul II invited all the Romans to come to St Peter's Square with the Christ Jesus from their home crib, everyone held up their baby Jesus and he blessed them. The children especially enjoy this tradition, which both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued.

During 9.30am Mass, Fr O'Donnell will bless the Baminelli that you have brought from your home. Following the blessing, take your Baminelli home, gift wrap it, place it under your tree and save it for Christmas Day. Let this be the first gift your family opens on Christmas, then you place your Baby Jesus in the crib. A gift of the presence of Christ in your home this Christmas. The celebration will be especially enjoyable for the children of the Parish, young and old! We hope that you can join us for this beautiful tradition.



DON'T FORGET YOUR BABY JESUS ON 17th DECEMBER!

A limited number of baby Jesus' figurines will be available to buy from the GIFT group before Mass at £5.00 each.

