



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

Second Sunday of Advent

5th December 2021, Year C, Psalter Week 2

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

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

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Reading from the Prophet Baruch Bar 5:1-9
God means to show you splendour to every nation.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125

R/. What marvels the Lord has worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading: Reading from letter of St Paul to the Philippians Ph 1:4-6.8-11
Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Gospel: Gospel according to Luke Lk 3:1-6
All mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Deirdre Smyth and Pat McBrearty recently deceased and Kathleen Shaughnessy and David Fleming whose Month's Mind it is and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: James Patrick Byrne, Mary Jo Doran, Rita Lavery, Maurice Hale, Mary Murphy, Paud Toner, Desmond Canavan, Frank Bryan, John and Kathleen Megahey, Patrick and Roseann McVeigh, Marie Louise Lavery, Dolores Murphy

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.

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
Please contact the Parish Office

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 28th November: £3277.40

Thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Mass arrangements will be published at a later date.

Lay Dominicans

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 6th December at 7.45pm** in **St Bride's Hall**. New members welcome!

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Wednesday 8th December

Mass Times: 9.30am and 12 Noon

Day for Life Schedule

Day for Life will begin at 12 Noon Mass on Saturday 4th December and end with 12 Noon Mass on Sunday 5th December

Saturday 4th December

12 Noon: Mass

12.30pm – 5pm: Confession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary on the hour and Silent Prayer

5pm – 5.30pm: *Closed for Sanitation*

6pm: Vigil Mass with Speaker on Life

Sunday 5th December

9.30am: Mass with Speaker on Life

10.30am – 12 Noon: Silent Prayer

12 Noon: Mass with Speaker on Life

Confessors: Saturday 4th December

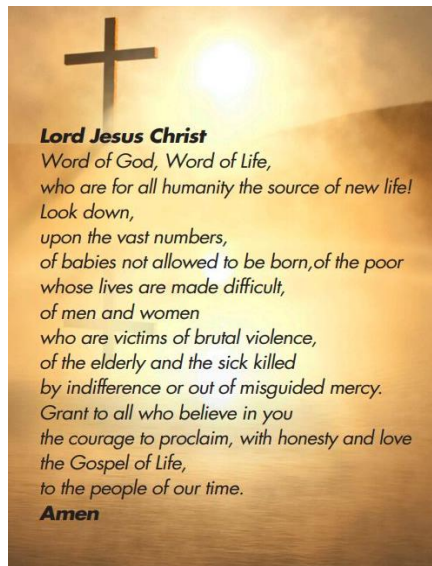
12.30pm- 1.00pm: Fr Dominic McGrattan

1.00pm – 2.00pm: Redemptorist Father from Clonard

2.00pm – 3.00pm: Fr Dominic McGrattan

3.00pm – 4.00pm: Fr Paul Armstrong

4.00pm – 5.00pm: Fr Eddie O'Donnell



According to World Health Organisation, every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day.

Wednesday 27th October 2021, 54th anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act. Since then 9,789,238 babies aborted in England, Wales and Scotland – in 2020 more than one baby lost to abortion every two and a half minutes.

At the end of 2020, there were 82.4 million forcibly displaced people in the world, double the 2010 figure.

Among them are 26.4 million refugees (cross national boundary), around half of whom are under the age of 18.

According to the latest report on forced labour by the International Labour Organisation, an estimated 40.3 million victims are trapped in modern-day slavery.

Legal abortions in the Republic of Ireland: 15 in 2017, 32 in 2018, 6,666 in 2019, 6577 in 2020. In Northern Ireland, 1345 abortions have taken place since March 31, 2020.

Bills which aim to legalise assisted dying have been introduced both in Westminster and the Dail.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Collection

Toy Voucher Collection

SVP will collect Toy Vouchers at Masses on 4/5 December.

Vouchers will be distributed to families during week commencing 6 December.

Annual Collection

The annual Collection for St Vincent de Paul will be held next weekend (Saturday 11th /Sunday 12th December) after all masses.

Gift Aid will add a significant amount to what you contribute at no cost to you. Gift Aid Envelopes will be available and distributed along with Standing Order forms on 4th and 5th December.

You can also donate online through your bank to SVP St Brigid's Conference
DANSKE BANK Account No: 41024701 Sort Code: 950132

We have in the past also collected money for Heating and if you wish to provide for this purpose please put your donation, cash or cheques made payable to St Brigid's SVP and placed in an envelope marked Heating, to provide heat for a family over the winter. The rapid increases in cost of heating will leave many families unable to heat their homes, so any amount towards this would be most welcome

Christmas Homeless Shoebox Appeal

The Catholic Chaplaincy, together with the Order of Malta at Queen's, is supporting this year's Christmas Shoebox Appeal for Belfast Homeless Services. Every year, individuals and families experiencing homelessness face the festive season alone. QUB students want to reach out and offer concrete supports. We appeal to you to give a small gift offering some hope to those who are struggling.

We ask that you wrap a shoebox, including some or all of the times listed below, and anything else you think might be helpful:

Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Soap, Shampoo, Body Wash, Sanitary Products, Deodorant, Sweets, Chocolate, Gloves, Scarves, Hats



Boxes can be left securely at the Catholic Chaplaincy QUB, 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, before 10 December in time for distribution before Christmas. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile initiative!

AS ANOTHER CHRISTMAS APPROACHES, HUNGER AND POVERTY CONTINUE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ...

PLEASE HELP BY SUPPORTING THE PARISH THIRD WORLD GROUP

This year, again, we cannot hold the Advent Bread and Soup lunch in the Parish Hall.

We need to raise funds to support our beneficiaries in Africa, Asia and South America where the spread of Covid 19 has made the survival of the poor more difficult than ever.

You can donate by electronic transfer to Bank of Ireland - Account Number 68825172, Sort Code 90-22-07 (If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your donation, please insert your name, house number and post code in the Reference Box when making the payment.)

If you prefer to pay by cheque or cash, please phone or text Kevin on 07525634440.

If you would like to set up a new Standing Order or amend the amount of an existing one, you can do it directly online with your bank using our account details above or phone or text Kevin on 07525634440 to arrange this.

Religious **Christmas cards** and **Christmas Gift Cards*** are available. We can deliver these to you. Please phone Kevin on 07525634440

**Proceeds from our Christmas Gift Cards will support the work of the Daughters of Charity providing food and a small income for poor families in Kenya - live chickens for eggs and seeds for planting vegetables.*



All of the money we receive goes directly to the beneficiaries we support. None of it is used for administrative expenses.

Bambinelli Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday - a day to rejoice in the Lord. During his pontificate, St John Paul II chose this day to start a new Advent tradition which he called "Bambinelli Sunday". Bambinelli 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, after the Angelus, 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.

On Sunday 12th of December, we will have Bambinelli Sunday at St. Brigid's. At the Vigil and Sunday Masses, we will bless your figures of Baby Jesus that we encourage you to bring with you to Mass from your home crib. Following the blessing, take your Bambinelli home, gift wrap it and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift your family opens on Christmas, when you place your Baby Jesus in the crib - this celebration is especially enjoyable for the children of the parish, young and old!



DON'T FORGET YOUR BABY JESUS ON 12th DECEMBER!

CHRISTMAS FROM QUEEN'S
THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
AND ST BRIGID'S PARISH BELFAST
present
**A FESTIVAL OF
NINE LESSONS
& CAROLS**
The Catholic Chaplaincy QUB
Sunday 12th December 5pm
Tickets via Eventbrite

Livestream available at:
Facebook.com/CatholicChaplaincyQUB
ChurchServices.tv/QueensBelfast

Tickets Sold out

Although Tickets are sold out for this event, the Festival will be streamed online on the Chaplaincy Facebook and on Church Services

The Synod on Synodality: Preparing to journey together

Pope Francis has called the entire People of God to journey together! This invitation isn't just for Bishops or Clergy it is an invitation to every Baptised person – all the People of God. The Synodal process invites each one of us - the People of God - to recall that we journey together as a community of faith. As we walk on our journey of faith we are called to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and to one another.

On this second week of Advent, we reflect on John the Baptist; a voice calling in the wilderness. There are many people who feel that their voice is in the wilderness and isn't heard by the Church. This week let us prayerfully look around our Parish Community and reflect on whose voice may not be heard and how we might accompany people on their faith journey with the compassion, love, and mercy that Jesus asks of us. This week we encourage you to pray with this prayer:

Lord, this Advent, give me a welcoming heart. Let me be open to the messengers of your word, especially to those whom at first glance I might resist, for they are your prophets today urging me to change my way of thinking and living.



Guidelines for attending Mass in St Brigid's

- **Face Coverings must be worn 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;
- 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;