



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

Second Sunday of Advent

10th December 2023, 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: youtube.com/@stbrigidsparishbelfast



Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 40:1-5.9-11
Prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

R/. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Second Reading: Reading from the letter of St Peter 2 Pt 3:8-14
We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.

Gospel: Gospel according to Mark Mk 1:1-8
Make his paths straight.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Gary McIlroy and Kathleen MacAllister recently deceased, Anne Marie McCrum who's month's mind it is and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Paul Connolly, Paul Trainor, Karen and James Kane, Michael McElhenny, Mary Moore, Kevin Sharkey, Marie Louise Lavery, John and Kathleen Megahey, David Peace, Desmond Canavan, Olga Goan, Hugh Kennedy, Patrick Mullaney, Deirdre Lavery, Vera O'Neill, George Kinder, Mary Jo Doran, Patrick Copeland, Thomas Coyle, Florence McGeown, Rita Laverty, Mary and Matthew Neil, Bridget and John Graham, Sheila and Michael Pullicino, John Matthew and Brigid John, Joseph and Anna Cherian

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 3rd December: £6820.48

Monthly Collection 3rd December: £3491.10



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](#)*

Advent Programme

2nd Sunday of Advent (10th December)

- **Day for Life:** beginning 12 noon Saturday 9th December until 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 will be at 12 Noon



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

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.

(See Schedule below)

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; 6,924 abortions since March 2020

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

Lay Dominican Meeting

The next meeting of the Lay Dominicans will be on **Monday 11th December at 7.45pm in Parish Centre**. All newcomers welcome without any commitment!

Women's Prayer Group

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 13th December at No40 Derryvolgie Ave at 7.30pm** and our last night is on Tuesday 19th December. Join us and take an hour out of this busy time to spend in preparation for Christmas. Everyone most welcome.

Money transfer to the only Catholic Parish in Gaza

Many parishioners very kindly included a donation with the November List of the Dead. This year these donations amounted to **£2315**, and are used at the Parish Priest's discretion. Given the tragic situation in Israel and Gaza, this year those funds have been transferred in total to Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa of Jerusalem, who is the Apostolic Administrator of the Holy Land, including Gaza. Sincere thanks to all who made a donation in November.

Fr Eddie O'Donnell

Parish Penitential Service

Sunday 17th December at 4.00pm

Seven Confessors available

"Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace".

Pope Francis

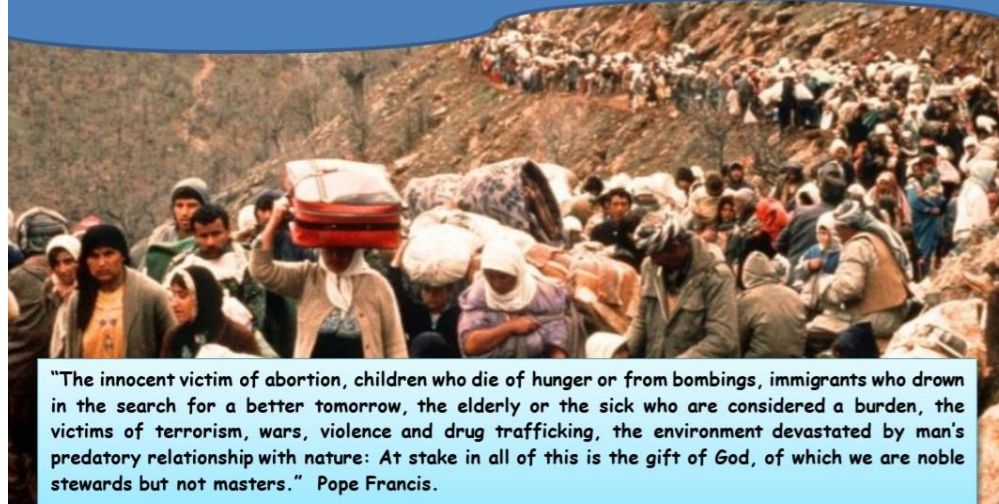
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - Catholic Chaplaincy QUB

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University Belfast will host its ever-popular Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in **St Malachy's Church, Alfred Street, Belfast this Sunday 10 December at 6pm**. The Chaplaincy Choir, Canticle, will provide music and song, with readings from members of the University community. Festive refreshments will be served afterwards. A retiring collection will be taken up by QUB Order of Malta for the Holy Family Maternity Hospital in Bethlehem. **Everyone is welcome.**

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.

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 Bambinelli 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.



Bambinelli Sunday was a tradition started by St John Paul II. 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, 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 Bambinelli that you have brought from your home. Following the blessing, take your Bambinelli 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.

Down and Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima 2024

Spiritual Directors Fr G McCloskey, Fr M Graham, Canon S Gilmore

From 20th August 2024 for 7 Nights £799 per person sharing direct return flights from Dublin to Lisbon afternoon flights.

20KG bags included. Return airport transfers in Fatima. 7 Nights Hotel Avenida. Full board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day. Guided tour of the Sanctuary & Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary. Optional: Travel Insurance & Single Supplement.

For further information please contact: Joe Catney 07776 425 631/02890714001

DEADLINE FOR DROP OFF: MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER

The Order of Malta QUB, St Mary's Liturgy Group and SU, and The Catholic Chaplaincy QUB invite you to support this year's

Shoebox Appeal

*in association with
Belfast Homeless Services*

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

Please leave shoeboxes under the Christmas Tree at St Mary's University College Students' Union, 191 Falls Road, Belfast



For more information email: catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk