



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

Forth Sunday of Advent

20th December 2020, Year B, Psalter Week 4

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

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



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

Mass Times

Sunday Mass

Saturday: 6 pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 9.30 am & 12 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

1 months' notice required

Please contact the Parish Office

Marriages

6 months' notice required.

Please contact Fr O'Donnell

PARISH OFFERINGS

Weekly Collections (3 weeks): £14,753.41

December Monthly Collection: £3188.00

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Sign up to our
Electronic
Mailing List
[Click HERE](#)

Parish Office Closure Times Over Christmas

The Parish Office will be **closed** from 1.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd December until Sunday 3rd January. The office will **reopen** again at 9.00 am on Monday 4th January 2021.

Forth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Reading from the book of Samuel 2 Sm 7:1-5.8-12.14.16
The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5.27.29
R/. I will sing for ever your love, oh Lord.

Second Reading: Second Letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 16:25-27
The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

Gospel: Gospel according to Luke Lk 1:26-38
Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Robert Bunting and Maureen Falls recently deceased, Bernadette Flanagan and Matt Salters whose months mind it is and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Paul Trainor, Karen and James Kane, Marie Nicholas, Mona McDonnell, Brian Smyth, Declan O'Neill, Margaret McCarthy, Carol Walls, Michael O'Brien, Emmie Delaney, Dick and Molly Herbert, Brigid Carty, Jim McAuley, Michael and Sheila Priliccino, Jack Lavery, Annie Patton, John Campbell, Laurence McAllister, John Gibbons, Peter Nichol, Paddy Kerr, Mary Rose Lundy (nee Hetherington)

May they rest in peace

CHRISTMAS MASS BOOKINGS

During these exceptional times, the decision has been made to introduce a **booking system** to allow our Parishioners to book for our **Indoor public Masses** on **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day** both in St Brigids and the Chaplaincy.

Bookings will **open from 2.00 pm on Sunday 20th December** and **close at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 22nd December**. You can book up to 6 per pew - please only book for your family whom you will be seated with.

You will receive a confirmation email when you book please show this on our phone to the Stewards when you arrive or print off a copy of your ticket.

To Book your ticket please go to our **Parish Website > The Liturgy > [Advent and Christmas](#)** and click on which Mass you would like to book. You will then be redirected to **Eventbrite** to book your place. Links will also be posted onto our Facebook Page also.

Parishioners who is not computer literate or have trouble accessing the internet can contact the Parish office for assistance.

(No bookings for our Outdoor Christmas Eve Masses at 6.00 pm & 7.30 pm)

Mass Times During The Christmas Season

(Please see additional Bulletin notice below in relation to attending Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses in St Brigid's and The Chaplaincy)

Christmas Eve

St Brigid's **6.00 pm and 7.30 pm** (Outdoors in the carpark)
9.00 pm (Indoors and on Livestream)

Chaplaincy QUB **5.00 pm and 7.00 pm**
(Not suitable for children, will be Livestreamed)

Christmas Day *(All indoors and on Livestream)*

St Brigid's **9.30 am and 12.00 Noon**

Chaplaincy QUB **10.00 am**



St Stephen's Day **12.00 noon and 6.00 pm (Vigil)**

Saturday 26th December

Holy Family **9.30 am and 12.00 noon**

Sunday 27th December

Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th December

Mass will be held at 9.30 am

New Year's Eve **6.00 pm**

Thursday 31st December

New Year's Day **12 noon**

Friday 1st January 2021

Wishing the Parishioners of St Brigid's all the Blessings of the Christmas Season and a very



Happy New Year!



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Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

GIFT – Caring and Connecting this Christmas

A HUGE thank you to all our brilliant young people who came forward to join in our outreach initiative this Christmas.

Last Saturday a stream of young people and volunteers came to the Parish hall to pick up their candles, cards and letters for their visit this afternoon. They each wrote out to their designated person to inform them of their visit and including a commitment to pray especially for them this Christmas. All in all our young people will be seeing 70+ members of our Parish who have been sheltering or bereaved since lockdown.

Please keep them all in your prayers as they let "their little lights shine". We were all so uplifted by them last Saturday afternoon....quite possibly stepping out of their comfort zone to try and make a difference. WELL DONE to you all. We are very proud of you. THANK YOU.

We wish all of our GIFT family, past and present, all the peace, joy and happiness of this very special time. Happy Christmas.

Hopefully, we will be together again before too long.

Mary and Breige.

ST BRIGID'S: ART & ARCHITECTURE

At the beginning of the year the Parish Pastoral Council produced a book entitled "St Brigid's: Art & Architecture", to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the new church.

This book is available to purchase from the Parish Office, an ideal gift this Christmas. (£5 per copy)



The Diocese of Down & Connor Directory 2021

Up-to-date Diocesan information plus the full liturgical calendar for 2021 is available in Church Entrance **Cost £4.00**. Please put money in the Paper Box.

Christmas Collection 2020

Dear Parishioners,

At the beginning of 2020 no one could have foreseen the difficulties we would have to endure due to Covid-19. While our first thoughts must be with those who have died, and with their grieving families, we think also of the sick and elderly in our care homes and in our hospitals. They, though admirably cared for by hard pressed medical and nursing staffs, are, nevertheless, isolated from their families. Many others have been “cocooned” in their own homes and depending on the goodwill of relatives and neighbours. At the same time, the restriction on the numbers attending our churches – while very understandable – is not without its pain. As priests, we too struggle with all of this, and experience the sadness and frustration of not being able to minister to our parishioners as we would want, yet, we continue to do what is possible in the circumstances.

The pandemic has caused a downturn in the economic situation and once healthy businesses have reduced their staff, or in some cases, closed altogether. Consequently, many families will face this Christmas with greatly reduced, or even no, income. As a result, parish income is greatly reduced, as is the income of priests, who rely entirely on the voluntary contributions of parishioners. Of course, in this time of financial worry, the upkeep of the priests must be secondary to the particular needs of parishioners and those of their families. Nevertheless, if your circumstances permit, we ask that you please keep your priests in mind this Christmas.

The traditional Christmas collection, together with the other collections for the upkeep of priests throughout the year, is, in a spirit of priestly fraternity, “pooled” in a central fund. This fund, administered by an elected committee of priests, is shared in such a way as to ensure that every priest ministering in the Diocese receives the same level of income.

Thank you for your kind support and your constant prayers. We pray, that even in these difficult times, Christmas may be for you a time of blessing.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely

Fr Eddie O’Donnell, Chair,
Priests Welfare Fund.

Committee: Frs Michael Sheehan, Kevin McGuckien, Brendan Hickland, Anthony Curran, Sean Emerson, Patrick Sheehan, Colin Crossey, Joseph Rooney, Michael Spence.

Christmas Masses in St Brigid’s Parish 2020

Christmas 2020 will be a quite different Christmas! To avoid the real possibility of increased transmission of Covid-19 this Christmas, please note the following:

- The obligation to attend Mass in person this Christmas has been suspended. Those who are physically frail and / or susceptible to illness, young or old, are strongly advised to remain at home and follow Mass on-line. **Christmas Masses will be streamed at: 9.00 pm on Christmas Eve; 9.30 am and 12 noon on Christmas Day.** Parishioners can also attend Mass on one of the days over the Christmas season – up to the Feast of the Epiphany, 6th January – thus avoiding the larger congregations.
- There will be eight Masses in the Parish for Christmas: five in St Brigid’s, and three in the Catholic Chaplaincy. Those attending Mass at Christmas **must wear face-covering** while in the Church grounds as well as in Church. This is to be scrupulously observed (with legitimate exceptions).
- **Social distancing must be observed, and children must remain always in the company of their parents – no moving about.** Social distancing must not breakdown at the end of Mass – please leave the Church grounds immediately after Mass and avoid gathering in groups. It cannot be emphasized enough how essential it is to observe these norms.
- The Masses in **The Catholic Chaplaincy are: 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm on Christmas Eve, and 10.00 am on Christmas Day.** There is convenient car parking. These Masses are very suitable for older parishioners and those attending Mass on their own. **They are not suitable for family groups and children are not permitted in the Chaplaincy.** The capacity of the Chaplaincy is 120.
- **In St. Brigid’s there will be two outdoor Masses in the Church Carpark on Christmas Eve at 6.00 pm and 7.30 pm.** There will be no cars permitted in the Carpark. There will be no seating - come expecting to stand and come prepared for the weather. Stewards will guide parishioners to a safe place, please co-operate with the stewards.
Face-coverings must be worn, and social distancing strictly observed. Each Mass will be last approximately 35 minutes. Family groups,

particularly with children, are encouraged to come to one or other of these Masses. A sound system will be installed in the grounds.

- There will also be Mass in **St Brigid's Church at 9.00 pm on Christmas Eve, and at 9.30 am and 12 noon on Christmas Day** – the capacity of the Church is 120. Those unable to get into the Church can follow Mass, on their devices from outside.

In the present difficult circumstances, every effort has been made to do what is possible to ensure that the beautiful Feast of Christmas is celebrated in our parish. A risk assessment has been professionally carried out to ensure that the parish adheres to the guidance issued by the Public Health Agency and the NI Executive Directives. With the cooperation of everyone, we can celebrate Christmas safely.

Parishioners from neighboring parishes, while normally welcome to St Brigid's, are asked, in this exceptionally difficult year, to take part in the Christmas Celebrations in their own parishes.