



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

First Sunday of Advent

27th November 2022, Year A, Psalter Week 1

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

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First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 2:1-5

The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 121:2.4-5.6-9

R/. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to the God's house'

Second Reading: Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rm 13:11-14

Our salvation is near.

Gospel: Gospel according to Matthew Mt 24:37-44

Stay awake so that you may be ready.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Michael Breen and Fr Gerard Cassidy recently deceased, Mary O'Neill whose month's mind it is and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Charlie McLaverty, Rory Gormley, James and Agatha Smyth, Una Merrick, Dermot Byrnes, Angelina Kelly, Margaret Montague, Jack and Sheila Elwood, Aileen McGeown, Mary Murphy, Frank Bryan, Michael J Conlon, Alice McCrory, Pat Benstead, Ralph O'Neill

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

Weekly Collection 20th November: £4059.37

Bishops Commissions Collection: £2066.62



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



- **Advent Morning Prayer:** Monday – Friday during Advent at 7.30am in the Church
- **Woman walking through Advent together:** Wednesdays of Advent, 30th Nov, 7th, 14th, 21st Dec at 7.45pm in 40 Derryvolgie Avenue
- **Day for Life:** 12 noon Saturday 10th December – 12 Noon Sunday 11th December (*see bulletin notice*)
- **Christmas Shoe Box appeal**
Items to be left in The Catholic Chaplaincy by 12th December (*see bulletin notice*)

1st Sunday of Advent

- St Vincent de Paul Appeal at all Masses (*see bulletin notice*)

2nd Sunday of Advent

- New setting of “The Lord is my Shepherd,” composed by Niall Leonard and sung for the first time at the 12 Noon mass.
- Food Bank Sunday (*see bulletin notice*)

3rd Sunday of Advent

- Day for Life (*see bulletin notice for Schedule*)



4th Sunday of Advent

- Bambellini Sunday (Blessing of Christ Child Crib Figures) at the 12 Noon Mass
- Penitential Service: 4pm – 5pm

Annual Mass for Deceased Clergy & Religious

There will be a Mass for Deceased Clergy and Religious who have died during the last three years. All Parishioners, Clergy and Religious throughout the Diocese are invited to join the families of the deceased to offer Mass together with Bishop Noel.

On: **Monday 28th November 2022 at 7.00pm**

In: **St Peter's Cathedral (Belfast)**

The Mass will also be broadcast online at: churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER



After a break of 3 years we can now recommence morning prayer during Advent. Everyone is invited to journey through the Advent season commencing on **Monday 28th November at 7.30am each weekday morning.**

We will, once again, pray the Psalms in the morning office and reflect on the readings for Advent. We will meet in the church and probably in the side chapel, depending on numbers. This has proved to be an excellent way of preparing together for the Christmas season.

Women walking through Advent together

Our **Women's Prayer Group** meets the last Wednesday of each month but for **Advent we will meet weekly for 4 weeks, on 30th November, 7th, 14th and 21st December, at 7.45pm** in No 40 Derryvolgie Ave.

This time of year can be particularly busy and stressful for women so why not come and join us for some quiet, prayerful preparation for Christmas. A time for you to just stop and find space to welcome our blessed Lord and to listen to what He has to say to us.

Everyone is welcome and please don't worry if you can't come every week, you will be remembered in our prayers.

Mary Carson 07718263019

Parish Volunteers - GIFT and Children's Liturgy

Vetting meetings 30 November and 7 December 2022

All Parish Volunteers working with Children in Parish Groups must be vetted. The Parish Safeguarding Committee will be holding vetting meetings in St Brides Parish Hall on Wednesday 30th November from 7pm – 9pm and on Wednesday 7th December from 7pm – 9pm.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Annual Christmas Collection

The annual Collection for St Vincent de Paul will be held on Saturday 3rd/Sunday 4th December 2022 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 this weekend and the coming weeks before Christmas

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

Toy Voucher Collection

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 3rd/4th December**. Vouchers will be distributed to families the week commencing 5th December.



Heating Donations

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

*SVP Christmas Cards will be available from **THIS WEEKEND***

Thank you sincerely for your continued support.

Food Bank Collection

Non perishable food items can be donated after all Masses on **3rd/4th December 2022**. The food weighed in at **310kg for November** collection. There will be no foodbank collection on the 1st January 2023.

Thank you for your support.

List of **items currently most needed**: Tinned fish; Tinned meat; Tinned vegetables; Tinned fruit; Pulses; Long life juice; Instant potato; Jam; Coffee; Long life milk; Toiletries.

ST BRIGID'S ONE WORLD GROUP



Our Parish Third World Group has been in existence now for more than 32 years. The name has served us well with most people associating the term Third World with developing countries in Africa, South America and Asia.

However his term has become outdated and can be construed as being insensitive – indeed a number of parishioners and others have made this point to us and we have listened to their views.

We have therefore decided to change our name to Saint Brigid's One World Group

We will adopt our new name with immediate effect although it will not formally change until April 2023 to allow us time to take the necessary regulatory and administrative steps. *Until then cheques should continue to be made payable to St Brigid's Third World Group and electronic donations to Account No: 68825172 Sort Code: 90-22-07.*

Thank you for your continuing generous support for our beneficiaries.

St Brigid's One World Group - Bread and Soup lunch

Many thanks to everyone who attended the Bread and Soup lunch last Sunday.

It was a great success with a good turnout after both Masses, a definite buzz of chat and much praise for the scones and soup!

We raised £3,912 plus £838 gift aid - a total of £4,750.

This reflects the on-going generosity of our parishioners and, of course, it enables us to continue to help our beneficiaries in the context of rising prices and need.

Short Book Club

Our next face to face session has been brought forward by one week to avoid being too close to Christmas. It will now take place on **Wednesday 14 December** in **St Bride's Hall** at **10:10 am** after morning Mass. The book for this month is **The Human Factor** by **Graham Greene**. All are welcome to come and join the craic - especially if you haven't been before.

To join our circulation list please email mmmikemoran@aol.com

Day for Life Schedule

Day for Life will begin at 12 Noon Mass on Saturday 10th December and end with 12 Noon Mass on Sunday 11th December

Saturday 10th December

12 Noon: Mass

12.30pm: Confession and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1pm & 2pm: Rosary on the hour

3pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary

4pm & 5pm: Rosary on the hour

6pm: Mass, focussed homily, prayers of intercession & Speaker for Life

Sunday 11th December

9.30am: Mass, focussed homily, prayers of intercession & Speaker for Life

10.30am – 12 Noon: Silent Prayer and Reflection

12Noon: Mass, focussed homily, prayers of intercession & Speaker for Life

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2022

The Order of Malta QUB 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 in the Catholic Chaplaincy **by Monday 12th December**. Thank you for your kindness and support. For more info, contact QUB@orderofmalta.ie



Stage & Screen... and a touch of Christmas!

Join St. Agnes' Choral Society for an evening of songs from musicals and film, with Christmas music to get us all in the spirit! Sunday 11th December, 7pm, St Anne's Parish Centre, Finaghy BT10 ONE, Tickets £10+fees. Tickets can be booked via this link: shorturl.at/bruWY

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 10th December and ending at the noon Mass on Sunday 11th 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.

"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

"...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

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**.

Since the introduction of abortion in 1967, a staggering **9,900,961 preborn babies have lost their lives to abortion across England, Wales, and Scotland**. In 2020, more than **one baby was lost to abortion every two and a half minutes; 25 lives were ended every hour**.

Over 1 in 4 pregnancies in England and Wales now end in abortion.

By the end of 2021, the number displaced by war, violence, persecution and human rights abuses stood at **89.3 million**.

49.6 million people were living in **modern slavery in 2021**, of which **27.6 million** were in **forced labour** and **22 million** in **forced marriage**.

Legal abortions in the Republic of Ireland: **15 in 2017, 32 in 2018, 6,666 in 2019, 6577 in 2020, 4,577 in 2021.**

In Northern Ireland, 4th May 2022: **2,550 abortions** since March 2020.

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

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