



# Saint Brigid's Parish

*Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast*

## First Sunday of Advent

28<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Year C, Psalter Week 1

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

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

**Email:** [stbrigids@downandconnor.org](mailto:stbrigids@downandconnor.org) **Website:** [stbrigidsparishbelfast.org](http://stbrigidsparishbelfast.org)

**Livestream/Webcam:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCECKga\\_N93kdxngxRJMuvUw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCECKga_N93kdxngxRJMuvUw)

## First Sunday of Advent

**First Reading:** Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah Jer 33:14-16  
*I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 24:4-5.8-9.10.14  
*R/. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

**Second Reading:** Reading from letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1 Thess 3:12-4:2  
*May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness when Christ comes.*

**Gospel:** Gospel according to Luke Lk 21:25-28.34-36  
*Your liberation is near at hand.*

## Anniversary List

**Please pray for** Gemma Conroy whose Month's Mind it is and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Charlie Laverty, Rory Gormley, Teddy Brennan, Lillian Carty-Viola, Patrick Murphy, John Smith, Seamus Murphy, Tim McCall, Charlotte Mullin, Mary and John McKay, Una Merrick, Sheila and Donal Twomey, Susan Martin

**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

Please contact the Parish Office  
[stbrigids@downandconnor.org](mailto:stbrigids@downandconnor.org)

### 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 21st November:** £3644.00

**Bishops Commissions Collection:** £2693.75

*Thank you for your continued support.*

## The Synod on Synodality: Preparing our hearts and minds

Pope Francis has invited every Diocese around the world to participate in the Universal Synod on Synodality. This Synod is a process of journeying together.

The starting point of this journey begins with our own personal prayer and reflection. "Prayer opens hearts. It opens the ear to a listening that is more than hearing and makes us attentive to the action of the Spirit in our lives." (Cardinal Grech) In your prayer this week we ask that you pray for the success of our synodal journey and that you take time to reflect on the needs of the people in your community. This week we encourage you to pray with the prayer used at the Second Vatican Council.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Collection

### Toy Voucher Collection

Further to our earlier notice and building on last year's success of giving toy vouchers to families, which then the opportunity to buy toys for their children. We would like to remind you, that in order to give families time to buy the toys we intend to **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 on **Saturday 11th/Sunday 12th December 2021** 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

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

### Coffee and Poems

**- continuing via Zoom on Wednesday 1 December 2021**

The monthly Coffee and Poems meeting will continue on Zoom on Wednesday 1st December at 10.30am

Everybody is welcome to join us - to read a poem or just listen to others!



If you have already registered for this, the Zoom link will be circulated by Sunday 28th November. If you do not receive the link or would like to join, please email

[coffeeandpoems1@gmail.com](mailto:coffeeandpoems1@gmail.com)

## Support the Food Bank with funds this Christmas

St. Brigid's is part of the South Belfast Foodbank.

**A money church door collection will take place this weekend 27th/28th November.**

Unfortunately, as the Coronavirus pandemic continues we are unable to have a collection of food. The South Belfast Foodbank still continues to operate. The number of people referred are on the rise. The Food bank relies on donations to help support people facing a crisis within communities. Without your goodwill, the food bank would really struggle to operate.

This is your chance to make a difference in your local community.  
Thank you for your support which is needed more than ever.

*Pope Francis says the food distributed by food banks is "an initial, tangible gesture of accompaniment on the path of liberation"*

### Celebrating the Sacrament of Penance – Confession.

Many parishes, during the pandemic, felt obliged to suspend "Confessions" because of the lack of facilities judged safe for both penitent and confessor. While we in St Brigid's have continued to have four periods of "Confessions" each week, nevertheless, there is an impression abroad in the parish that Confessions have been suspended in St Brigid's. We are aware that many parishioners are anxious about celebrating the sacrament, because of the time-lapse, and also because of anxieties concerning social distance. In St Brigid's we no longer use the traditional confession box, but have a confession room which meets coronavirus safety regulations. **To facilitate parishioners, particularly as we are preparing for Christmas, we will provide an opportunity for confession throughout the afternoon of Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30 – 5.00pm.** This period coincides with the "Day for Life" and will be accompanied by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and Rosary (see Day for Life Schedule for more details)

### Confessors: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December

**12.30pm- 1.00pm:** Fr Dominic McGrattan

**1.00pm – 2.00pm:** Redemptorist Father, Clonard

**2.00pm – 3.00pm:** Fr Dominic McGrattan

**3.00pm – 4.00pm:** Fr Paul Armstrong

**4.00pm – 5.00pm:** Fr Eddie O'Donnell

## Day for Life Schedule

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

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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\*

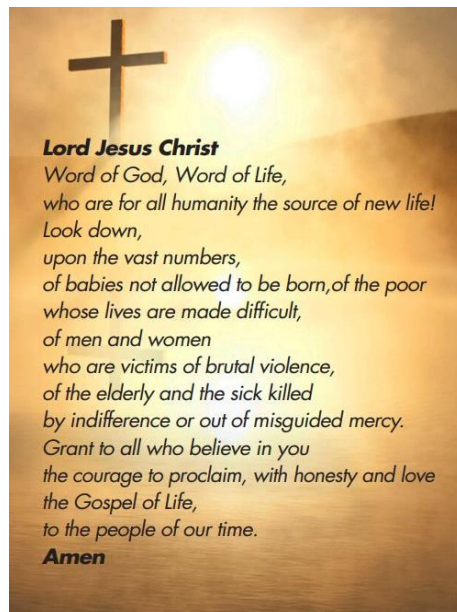
**6pm:** Vigil Mass with Speaker on Life

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am:** Mass with Speaker on Life

**10.30am – 12 Noon:** Silent Prayer

**12 Noon:** Mass with Speaker on Life



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 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 54<sup>th</sup> 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**.

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER!**

## **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!