

Dear Parishioners,
 Welcome to the new parish bulletin! We have been working on a new Bulletin format to bring news to our Parish Mailing List. We hope this new format is more user friendly and saves the need to download a document each time. We appreciate your feedback.

St Brigid's Parish Bulletin



Sunday 1st December
First Sunday of Advent

Today's Mass Readings

Mass
Times

Confession &
Adoration

Baptisms &
Weddings

Parish
Groups

Anniversary List

Please pray for Jackie O'Doherty and Donal McManus recently deceased, Eileen O'Prey whose month's mind is it and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anne Smyth, Deirdre Smyth, Gary McIlroy, Maria Moloney, Hugh Donnelly, Rory Gormley, Patrick Boyle, Paud Toner, Mary and John McKay, Ann Brennan, Una Cleary, Elizabeth McFadden, Hugh Kennedy, Frank Bryan, Patrick Murphy, Seamus Murphy, John Smith, Brigid Ramsey, Desmond Canavan, Maurice Hale, Sheila and Donal Timoney
May they rest in peace

Food Bank Collection

Nonperishable food items can be donated after all Masses **THIS WEEKEND**. The food weighed in at 328.5 kg for November collection.

Your donations make a big difference to local people in crisis. Thank you for your support.

List of items currently most needed: *Tinned fish; Tinned meat; Tinned vegetables; Tinned fruit; Instant potato; Tinned spaghetti; Porridge oats; Coffee; Long life juice; UHT milk; Jam/Honey/Spreads; Toiletries; Toilet roll; Biscuits; Seasonal items.*



Coffee and Poems

The next Parish Community Association's Coffee and Poems meeting will be on **Wednesday 4th December** after morning Mass in St. Bride's Parish Centre. *All are welcome to come along and join.*

PARISH OFFERTORY COLLECTION

(Total includes Basket Collections, Standing Orders and Dona Donations)

Weekly Collection 24th November: £4567.08

30th Anniversary of the Dedication of the New Church of St Brigid's

To mark the 30th Anniversary of the Dedication of our church of St Brigid, our Bishop will celebrate both 9.30 am and 12 noon mass on Sunday 8th December.

At the 9.30 am mass the Bishop will formally install our new Parish Pastoral Council.

After both masses there will be an opportunity to meet Bishop McGuckian in the Parish Centre at the “**Bread and Soup**” event.



ADVENT PRAYER 2024

For over 7 years we have been gathering together in the side chapel each weekday morning of Advent at 7.30am to pray together using the Psalms and the readings of the Advent season with a short reflection on the gospel.

Over the years many parishioners have found it an excellent way of preparing spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. Many who participate do so for 1-2 days per week, others make it every weekday morning in Advent. Everyone would be very welcome.

We begin on Monday 2nd December and finish on Friday 20th December. We finish before 8am and in good time for those on their way to work. Why not give it a try and allow the readings and reflections of Advent to speak to our hearts?



St Brigid's One World Group

ADVENT BREAD AND SOUP LUNCH

**Sunday 8th December
10am – 1pm
Parish Hall**

We warmly invite you to join us for a simple bread and soup lunch; and make a donation to help people living in abject poverty in developing countries (donations may be gift aided)

Tea, coffee and scones also available



PARISH ONE WORLD GROUP - COMBATting HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN KENYA

St Brigid's One World Group warmly invites all parishioners to meet Sister Mary O'Malley and hear about her work.

**Friday 6th December
Tea and coffee at 10.15 for 10.30am start
St Bride's Parish Hall**

We have been supporting Sister Mary for nearly 30 years. She is a Medical Missionary of Mary working in Kenya on Combatting Human Trafficking which is a horrendous and enormous problem there.

Sister Mary is an amazing woman who is convinced that education is the way out of the extreme poverty which makes people vulnerable to being trafficked and exploited.

and university courses. She also helps people who have been rescued or escaped from trafficking situations and who are always traumatised and often rejected by their own families as a result. She provides them with small amounts of money to start Income Generating Activities, such as selling second hand clothes or making tea at the roadside for workers, and helps with medical care and counselling.

If you would like to find out more, please call or text Rosalie on 07887708788

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MISSIONARIES TO WORK IN ST BRIGID'S PARISH

The Parish Pastoral Council are planning to run an Alpha Course in the Parish starting in February 2025.

We are looking for "missionary type" people to be part of our team to organise this. If you are interested in joining us, you will be most welcome at our next planning meeting **WEDNESDAY 11TH December at 7:30 in St Bride's Parish Hall.**

No previous missionary experiences necessary. Training will be provided!

For more information about ALPHA go to

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNWsW_Ps1Hk



Bring Baby Jesus from your Nativity Crib for a special blessing on Sunday 15th December at 9.30am Mass

At 9.30am Mass on Sunday 15th December, we are having our very own Baminelli 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.

Baminelli Sunday was a tradition started by St John Paul II. Baminelli 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 Baminelli that you have brought from your home. Following the blessing, take your Baminelli 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 15th DECEMBER!

A limited number of baby Jesus' figurines will be available to buy from the GIFT group before Mass at £5.00 each.



Naomh Bríd CLG

Christmas Fair

**Saturday 7th December
from 11am-3pm**

**at Harelquins Rugby
Club, 45a Deramore
Park, Belfast.**

There will be a lovely range of craft stalls with beautiful products including:

- White Fox Candles
- Sól Sliotars
- Limetree Woodcraft
- The Wee Pea
- The Tanbrush
- Sheersense Beauty
- Crafti-Cacti Cooper
- Gamecon Books & Games
- Tuathan (handmade cards as gaeilge)
- Loaf Pottery
- Still I Rise Storytelling
- Ratbags handmade jewellery
- Joe Carberry Photography
- Booksale - 'Lost Gaels' by Peadar Thompson (Merrion Press) – Peadar will be available on the day to sign copies.

In addition to the craft stalls, there will be a range of club stalls selling pre-loved sportswear, Christmas themed gifts, books, toiletries, a drinks tombola and a raffle.

The 'Naomh Bríd' Christmas decorations will be on sale and there will be a selection of festive drinks and nibbles.



All are welcome to join the **Down and Connor Lourdes Youth Team** in **St Bride's Hall on Friday 6th December 7pm** for a Christmas themed quiz to raise essential funds for our 2025 pilgrimage. All are welcome. There will be music, minced pies, mulled wine and plenty of craic on the evening. A suggested donation of £20 for entry is encouraged.



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