



St. Anne's Parish

Pastoral Community of Derriaghy & Colin

Very Reverend Feargal McGrady, PP

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First Sunday of Advent

3rd December 2017 Year B Psalter 1

Day of Continuous Prayer for Families Wednesday 6th December

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8

This reading from Isaiah should be read as a prayer in the vein of the lament psalms. There are acknowledgements of human fault and sinfulness that have left the people 'like withered leaves in the wind' – but there is a greater sense of the mercy of God, who will act dramatically to restore his people, even to the extent of tearing open the heavens.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 79

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us
and we shall be saved -*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

The thanksgiving at the beginning is a set piece of the Pauline letter and normally gives a hint of some of the key issues to be addressed in the letter. Here Paul gives thanks for the graces that have enriched this community, particularly in the gift of good teachers and leaders. Yet these very leaders have also been the source of divisions, so Paul changes the perspective from one of narrow focus on giftedness to the need for us all to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 13:33-37

A question that governs the entirety of this chapter: *what will be the sign that all is about to be accomplished? (13:4).* For believers waiting for a specific sign is a fools game. Christ exhorts his people rather to an attitude of vigilance and reflection, to discover how the Master might be returning to his house in ways missed by a sleeping watchman.

Recently Deceased

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of:

Patricia Boyle, who died recently

Margaret & Frank Donaghy, James (Jimmy) Diffin, James Kirkwood and Winnie Wilkinson whose anniversaries are at this time and those whose names are in the Book of remembrance. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Celebrating the Liturgy

Weekend Mass Times:

Sat. (Vigil) 6.30pm
Sunday: 10.00am & 12 Noon

Weekdays:

Monday 7.30pm
Tues - Sat. 10.00am

Divine Office:

Morning Prayer: Mon. 10.00am 6 months' notice required
(Followed by Rosary)
Thurs: 10am (followed by Mass)

Confessions:

Saturday after 10.00am Mass
5.30 - 6.15pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Wed. & Thurs. 10.30am – 9.00pm
Sat. 10.30am – 12.00 Noon

Marriage:

6 months' notice required
Please contact Fr McGrady

Baptism:

1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 1.15pm
Contact the parish office to book – One month's notice is required.

St. Anne's Primary School and Nursery Unit – Enrolment

in Nursery Unit and Primary 1 for September 2018.

Nursery - Children born on or between 02/07/14 and 01/07/15 are eligible to apply for a place in a pre-school education provider. Listed below are the dates for the Nursery Unit Open Days. Application forms and the school prospectus will be available from 1st December 2017 from the school office. The closing date for applications for a Nursery place is **Wednesday 10th January 2018, by 12 noon.**

Nursery Open Days - Tuesday 5th December 2017, 2.30 – 3.30pm

Wednesday 13th December 2017

(Principal's address at 2.45pm.)

Please park in the church car park and proceed to the Nursery Unit

Primary 1

Children born on or between 02/07/13 and 01/07/14 must begin their Primary education in September 2018. Listed below are the dates for the Primary 1 Open Days. Application forms and the school prospectus will be available from 1st December 2017 from the school office. The closing date for applications for a Primary 1 place is: **Wednesday 10th January 2018, by 12 noon.**

Primary 1 Open Days - Wednesday 6th December 2017, 1.00 – 2.00pm

Monday 8th January 2018, 1.00 – 2.00pm

(Tour begins at 1.00pm, Principal's address at 1.45pm.)

Please park in the church car park and proceed to the Main School Office

Invitation to all Parishioners

The Parish Community of Saint Anne's is warmly invited to partake in refreshments; enjoy a mince pie in the church porch after all masses the weekend of: **9th /10th December**
– *An opportunity for parishioners to gather at this festive time of year.*

Parish Finance –

The Weekly Collection amounted to: £2365.81

Sincere thanks for your continued generosity.

Altar Society, Church Cleaners – Group B this week.

St Paul's Missal – 2018 On sale this weekend in the Church Porch £5 each

Looking for 'ideas for Christmas Presents? Also available;

Land of Saints & Scholars, Down & Connor Edition £5.00

What Happened in Fatima, A Prayer Book for Adults & Children £2.00

Dunmurry Churches Together, Our Annual Advent Service

Sunday 3rd December – 7.00 pm. in Dunmurry Presbyterian Church, Kingsway. All are welcome. Your support will be much appreciated.

Dunmurry Churches Together - Gospel Reflections in preparation for Christmas;

2nd Reflection – The Fraternity / Incarnation in Luke's Gospel;

Led by Reverend Corinna Heron in Our Lady Queen of Peace meeting Room on Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm to 8.30pm (Tea first)

3rd Reflection – The Nativity / Incarnation in John's Gospel; Led by Sr Mary Murray in Dunmurry Presbyterian Centre on Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm to 8.30pm (Tea first).

Advent Programme

2nd Sunday of Advent 4th December 7.00 pm - Evening prayer in honour of Our Lady

Friday 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Holy Day of Obligation Vigil Mass; Wednesday 7th at 7.30 pm - Thursday: Mass at 10.00 am – Traditional Choir

Third Sunday of Advent – 17th December - 4.00 pm

Penitential Service (Folk Group) - Visiting priests in attendance

St Anne's Conference of St. Vincent De Paul

Annual Christmas Appeal 9th / 10th December - Please give generously!

Senior Citizens are warmly invited to Christmas Lunch at the Beechlaw Hotel

on Sun 10th Dec. - 1pm. Interested? leave details with member of St Vincent de Paul.

St Anne's Primary School P.T.A. -Annual Christmas Fair on: Sunday, 3rd December,

11am – 2pm, in St Anne's Primary School.

Something For Everyone. Come along and show your support!

Bereavement Support Group – Have you suffered the pain of Bereavement?

If you wish to talk in confidence – please ring the parish office 90610112 and a member of the Group will contact you.

Day of Prayer & Fasting for LIFE on 12th December.

Could you offer one or more of the following for this intention?

Mass; Visit to the Blessed Sacrament; Rosary; Fast from 9.00am to 6.00pm; Make some act of self-denial. It is a matter of Life or Death! **Leaflets available in Church porch.**

Knock All Night Vigil - New departure

Clonard Monastery at 3.00pm and Westwood Centre, 3.30pm **On: Thur. 7th December, returning on Friday 8th December at Noon** Price £45 includes dinner and breakfast.

To book please phone Brendan 90665211 Between 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

Vigil starts at 11pm: Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Benediction and Mass 4.00am

From Bishop Noel Treanor

Since the transfer of Bishop Donal McKeown to Derry and the retirements of Bishop Patrick Walsh and Bishop Anthony Farquhar consideration has been given to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation within our diocese.

It is now proposed that each year the bishops, on a rotational basis, will celebrate Confirmation in some of the parishes of each Pastoral Community and the Vicars Forane / Pastoral Community Leaders or their Deputies will celebrate the Sacrament in the other parishes.

It is hoped that this plan will allow the bishop(s) to celebrate Confirmation in each of the parishes hosting Confirmation at least once every three years.

St Anne's Confirmation will be on Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 1.30 pm

Important – Please note;

Three changes to times of Christmas / Epiphany Masses, in conjunction with the six Parishes in our Pastoral Area.

1) On Sunday morning, 24th December (Christmas Eve), **there will be no 10.00 am or 12.00 noon Sunday Masses. They will be replaced by one Mass at 11.00 am.**

At the Vigil and 11.00 am Masses the 'wrapped' figures of the Child Jesus for the cribs will be brought up by the children and blessed by Fr Feargal to be placed in the family cribs on Christmas Eve.)

2) The First Vigil Mass of Christmas Eve (24th December) **will change from 7.30pm to 7.00 pm** (the same time in all Parishes of the Pastoral area).

(The 10.00 pm "Christmas Eve" Mass will remain at that time).

3) Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation) Vigil Mass (5th January) **The usual time of the Vigil Mass, 7.30 pm, will change to 6.30 pm.** (This Vigil is for all 3 Parishes; St Anne's, Our lady Queen of Peace and Derriaghly).

(The 6th January Holy Day Mass at 10.00 am will remain the same)

Christmas Masses and Penitential Services leaflet available in the porch.

One World Group – This Weekend after ALL Masses

Traidcraft – Christmas Goods, Secondhand Bookstall –

Trocaire Gifts: A perfect Gift for the person who has everything and an opportunity to really support those who are much less fortunate than ourselves.

And don't forget Christmas Hamper Ballot Tickets will be on sale after all Masses.

Draw will take place after 12 Noon Mass in the Parish Centre.

Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat Invitation to all young adults, ages 16-35 to a

Catholic weekend Retreat: from December 8th – 10th, Newbridge College, Co Kildare

Organised by young people for young people. Booking is essential. Contact

www.youth2000.ie or telephone 00353(0) 1 6753690

PARISH GROUPS WEEKEND

A very sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the success of last weekend's event.

Thank you to the groups who participated, for being there and for the wonderful displays.

Thank you also to all those who visited the Hall after Masses for your interest and support.

St. Anne's clearly showed itself to be an active, vibrant Parish community.