

St. Anne's Parish

Pastoral Community of Derriaghy & Colin

Fr. Peter O'Hare, PP **Rev Patrick McNeill, Deacon** Sr. Mary Murray, Parish Sister

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Website: www.saintannesparish.net Email: stannes@downandconnor.org The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018 Sunday Eucharist: 6.30pm Vigil, 10am & 12 Noon. Masses this week: **Daily Masses over the Christmas Holidays** ST ANNE'S – OUR LADY OUEEN OF PEACE – ST COLMAN'S & ST PATRICK'S TIME DATE CHURCH Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December Saint Anne's & Nativity 10.00 am Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> December Our Lady Queen of Peace & Saint Luke's 10.00 am Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December Saint Colman's & Christ the Redeemer 10.00 am ALL SATURDAY VIGIL/SUNDAY MASSES AS USUAL Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December Saint Anne's & Saint Luke's 10.00 am Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January Our Lady Queen of Peace & Christ the Redeemer 10.00 am Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January Saint Colman's & Nativity 10.00 am Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January Saint Anne's & Saint Luke's 10.00 am Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January Our Lady Queen of Peace & Christ the Redeemer 10.00 am ALL SATURDAY VIGIL/SUNDAY MASSES AS USUAL Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January Saint Colman's & Saint Luke's 10.00 am Saint Anne's & Christ the Redeemer 10.00 am Our Lady Queen of Peace & Nativity 10.00 am Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January Saint Colman's & Saint Luke's 10.00 am Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January Saint Anne's & Christ the Redeemer 10.00 am Normal Mass timetable resumes Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat: 5.30 - 6.15pm Wed & Thurs 10.30am - 9pm, Sat 10.30am - 12 noon Adoration Morning Praver Mon & Thurs 10am Marriage: Please contact Fr Peter - 6 months' notice required - Baptism: One month's notice required – Call the Parish Office First Saturday Devotions - St Matthias's Church, Glen Road Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> January – 3pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, 4pm Holy Mass. **Baptism Team Meeting** Will be held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30pm in the Parochial House. \_\_\_\_\_ We Remember Them Recently deceased; Mary Keenan. Norah Quinn whose months mind occurs at this time.

Anniversaries; Dorothy Rose Harte, Briege Stewart, Joe McAloone and his wife Kathleen and Patrick (Paddy) Rooney May they rest in peace. Amen.

Visit the Live Christmas Crib at St Mary's Grotto, until Sunday, 6 January 2019. Come along and meet Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and the Three wise men. This year animals are kindly provided by the Irish Donkey association and there will be a baby donkey in the crib this year. Carol singers daily at 2 pm. and 5 pm. Proceeds to the Mill Hill Missionaries working in Sudan.



## **Bishop Noel Treanor**



## "As we walk amid passing things, You teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures." (Advent Liturgy)

The darker nights of winter reveal for all of humanity the mystery of the heavenly lights. Against the backdrop of this dusky canvas, the stars above illuminate the earthly globe below; all countries, all continents and all peoples without distinction, without boundary. For centuries, these stars have provided guidance and direction to those who have set out on a quest across the oceans of discovery giving them hope, peace and serenity.

At Christmas time, our attention is particularly drawn to the Bethlehem Star which guided the Wise Men to encounter and pay homage to the Christ-child, the lamb of sacrifice, born humbly within the Manger. These early pilgrim travellers leaving their home in search of the Way, the Truth and the Life discovered a King sleeping within a stable. They found the homeless Son of God sheltered from the cold by the watchful care and love of Mary and Joseph. God came among us into the precarious reality of this first Christmas night. Into the world of the transient, the Bethlehem Star brought hope, peace and joy to the world.

It is not without significance that this Star of Bethlehem shone brightly against the canvas of darkness. Often, it is within such moments of darkness and obscurity that we cry aloud, reach out and search for God in our lives. It is in such moments of nightfall that we begin to see the bright star of hope with greater clarity of vision. In such moments of confusion and change, we are called by God to be ever more attentive to the presence of Christ in Word, sacrament, ministry and the faith community. Each Christmas, we are encouraged to take stock, to discern and seek out this enduring ray of Truth.

Wherever you live, whatever the past year has brought your way, whatever its ups and down, its joys and sorrows, I pray that in this Christmas season you will find some moments of peace - alone with God and in the company of friends and family.

The Bethlehem Star shone for all to see. Wherever we live, the local Church and its parishes are centres of worship, life, community, support and friendship. Their vitality is the fruit of the combined efforts and generosity of countless parishioners, volunteers and clergy.

Whether we live locally, or whether we emigrate to far-flung cities and locations, there will always be a parish somewhere, or a Christian community, where friendship in faith is to be found, linked into and enhanced by our own talents and skills. As our young people travel the world, I encourage them to seek out such parish centres, to explore their programmes, to take part in their liturgies and activities. Christians are a significant presence across the globe and they make a decisive contribution to human society notwithstanding the limitations of human frailty and weakness.

Community involvement enriches one's personal life and is a luminous sign of a true and vibrant faith. As I thank all who have given their time, energy and know-how over the past year to the numerous services, initiatives and organisations which make up the life of our diocese, I invite you to consider ways in which you might support your parish in its activities and its many services to all generations. We are called to continue this mission of bringing hope, of holding firm to the things of heaven.

With all our parishioners I wish to thank our priests and Religious, Sisters, Brothers and Fathers, our monks and contemplative Sisters for their unfailing service to God in their care for us all.

There is an urgent need to rediscover the personal, community and ecclesial value of the life and work of the diocesan priest in this time of profound cultural change with its search for faith and meaning in life. The calling to become a diocesan priest, serving among the local community, is a way of life for the hearty and the generous of spirit.

May this Christmas Season bring us peace and joy in our hearts and homes. And may God's blessing be with us through thick and thin in the coming year.

+ Noel Treanor (Bishop of Down and Connor)