



St. Anne's Parish

Pastoral Community of Derriaghy & Colin

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

Parish Office: 02890610112
www.saintannesparish.net

Parish Centre: 07745169205
Email: stannes@downandconnor.org



Mass: Our church is closed and Fr. Peter will celebrate in private!



-Mass this can be viewed on our parish YouTube channel.
Tues, Wed & Thurs 10am

We Remember them

Recently Deceased: Patrick McKeown, Fr. Pat McKenna (Australia).

Anniversary: Jimmy Diffin, Claire Burleigh, Joe Blaney.

Parish Office: Closed until Mon 14th December.

Parish WhatsApp Group – Keep up to date with what is happening in our parish communitytext your name and number to 07714691281 to be added to our WhatsApp group.

Bereavement Support Group: Have you suffered the pain of loss and bereavement? Talk in confidence – call 90610112 and a member of the Group will contact you.

St. Vincent de Paul

Anyone wishing to donate can do online: Account Name: St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Anne Account No. 65576181 Sort Code: 938300.

Latest News

Due to recent regulations from the Northern Ireland Executive, our church is closed until next weekend.

Next W/end: Sunday Vigil 5pm & 10am



Advent Liturgy – Join us online for our 2nd parish liturgy on Monday evening, as we make room for the Christ-Child this Christmas. Check it out on our YouTube channel – Monday from 7.30pm.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Tues. 8th Dec

Join us for Mass online on Tuesday at 10am.

This Tuesday we will be celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day, let us remember all unborn children, especially those recently conceived, that safety, protection and love would be granted to them, and that we the church, through the intercession of Our Lady, would take on the call to support these precious children of God.

Sanctuary Lamp: Each week our Sanctuary Lamp burns for someone who has died in our parish in the past year and was remembered in our November liturgy. (Available for viewing on our YouTube Channel) This week our lamp burns for **Seamus Conlon**.

Baptisms

Please email the parish office with your request for baptism and we will be in touch.



Then, too the creator of ages would be born in time and the nature of God would join with the nature of the slave in the unity of one person. He through whom the world was created would himself be bought forth in the midst of all creation.'

St Leo the Great – Advent Office of Readings

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

- 1.** John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?
- 2.** In recent days there are many and conflicting voices advising us on how best to deal with the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. What messengers have helped you to find a way of combining due care with living a full life?
- 3.** John calls the people to repentance (= a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you?
- 4.** John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?

John Byrne OSA

Your Giving



This w/end - **Weekly Offering & Monthly Offering for Priests.**

• We would recommend that you set up a **Standing Order**. Call the parish office on 028 90610112 and leave your details or email us on stannes@downandconnor.org

OR Donate Online to St. Annes Parish

A/C No. 07707787

Sort Code 93 83 00

Your continued generosity is much appreciated.

Trócaire supporters to deliver the one millionth Christmas gift to families in developing world

Trócaire supporters are set to deliver their one millionth gift to families in the developing world this Christmas.

The Christmas Gifts campaign has seen 972,000 gifts bought across the island of Ireland since 2000 and more than €38m raised for long-term work supporting families affected by the causes of poverty.

This year's Christmas Gift range includes new gifts to help people cope with the impact of Covid-19, Launching this year's Christmas gifts, Trócaire CEO Caoimhe de Barra said, "This year your gift really could be one in a million. Today, families in the world's poorest communities are facing the threat of Covid-19 as well as drought, conflict and other disasters. These are not just gifts, but a means of survival."

There are 17 Trócaire gifts to choose from and they can be purchased online at trocaire.org/gifts or by calling 0800 912 1200. Gifts start at just £5 and help families in some of the poorest countries around the globe. Please consider buying a Trócaire Christmas Gift for family and friends this year.



Check out: www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar

Permanent Diaconate

The Diocese is preparing to start work with a third group of students for the Permanent Diaconate. The programme will commence in September 2021. For more information about the ministry of Deacons, the formation programme and information on how to register your interest in applying, please speak to your parish priest or visit the Diocesan Website: www.downandconnor.org/livingchrch/diaconate



Christmas Homeless Shoebox Appeal

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's, together with the University's Order of Malta branch, is supporting this year's Christmas Homeless Shoebox Appeal. 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 and some hope to a homeless person (or someone struggling and at risk of becoming homeless).

We ask that you decorate a shoebox or gift bag for either a male or female (adult) and include items such as: Gloves, Socks, Toothpaste/brush, Sanitary items, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Sweets, Tinned food, Christmas card and anything else you can think of that might be helpful. Boxes can be left securely at the Catholic Chaplaincy QUB, 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast during opening hours ([see qubcatholic.org](http://qubcatholic.org)) [before 5 December](#) in time for distribution before Christmas. We thank you for your support of this worthwhile initiative. *(Remember to wrap the box and lid separately so we can add extra items to boxes)*

St. Anne's Primary School and Nursery Unit – Enrolment in Nursery Unit and Primary 1 for September 2021.

Nursery

Children born on or between 02/07/17 and 01/07/18 are eligible to apply for a place in a pre-school education provider. The application procedure opens on Thurs 7th January 2021 at 12noon, with the online portal available from that time. Application portal closes at 12 noon on Friday 29th January 2021.

Primary 1

Children born on or between 02/07/16 and 01/07/17 must begin their Primary education in September 2021. The application procedure opens on Thurs 7th Jan 2021 at 12noon, with the online portal available from that time. The application portal closes at 12 noon on Friday 29th January 2021.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold our usual Open Days for the Nursery Unit and the Primary School. Please contact the school office on 02890615414, to register interest for our online prospectus, which includes a virtual tour of the Nursery Unit and Primary 1. You will also find further presentations regarding the school and the admissions process on our website. The website will also provide you with other insights into the life of St. Anne's Primary School and Nursery Unit. The website address is www.stannesps.com Please feel free to contact the school office for help during the process

Today's Scripture Themes

St John the Baptist calls to us to straighten out our lives, to lower the mountains of pride so that God's grace can lead us to do what he wants with us. There is no place for our selfishness and pride in St Peter's new heaven and new earth.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah *40:1-5. 9-11*

'Console my people,
console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of
Jerusalem
and call to her that her
time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received
from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all
her crimes.'

A voice cries,

'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.



Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God'.
Here is the Lord
the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewe.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 84*

Response *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.*

1. I will hear what the Lord
God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who
fear him
and his glory will dwell in our
land. *Response*

2. Mercy and faithfulness
have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. *Response*

3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. *Response*



SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Peter 3:8-14



There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4.6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

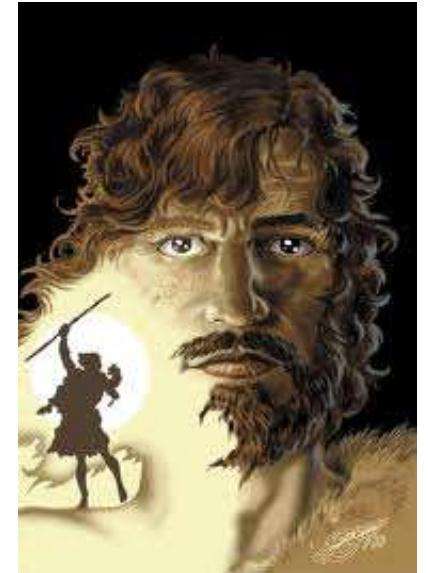
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, they confessed their sins.

John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



John Cullen's 2020 Advent Reflections Second Sunday of Advent

'Here is your God like a shepherd feeding his flock' (Isaiah 40:11)

The 1971 musical, *Godspell* opens with God's voice, as spoken by Jesus, declaring

'My name is known: God and King. I am most in majesty,
in whom no beginning may be and no end'.

In response, John the Baptist then calls the community to order by blowing a shofar, a type of bugle, which is a nice detail to acknowledge the Jewish tradition of calling people together. The cast then sing *'Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord'*. John the Baptist gives a short sermon. Jesus asks to be baptised, explaining that 'we too will now conform to all that God requires'. The cast sings 'Turn Back O Man', imploring us to change and turn back to God. This opening part of the musical reflects the readings for this second week of Advent.



The 1930s and 1940s world of Frank Mc Court's *Angela's Ashes* is in a sense an Advent wilderness for one family. The personal memoir was written in 1996. In the environment of grinding poverty and squalor in a tenement slum, Angela struggles to hold her family together as financial struggles and chronic alcoholism take their grim toll on many lives.

There is no help from her extended bigoted family. The face of the Church is brutal, apart from the common-sense and sympathetic humanity of a priest who listens to the faltering words of Frank. This is well portrayed in the 1999 film version of the book. The scene of Frank praying as he kneels before the statue of Saint Francis of Assisi gives us a glimpse of hope as he faces so many anguishing experiences.



'Console my people, console them' are the words that 'speak to the heart' in today's First Reading from Isaiah. Angela is the true image of the shepherd holding the lambs of her family close to her breast, as she quietly suffers unimaginable harshness and callous cruelty. This is the line quoted at the beginning of Mark's Gospel today. The prophetic words of the Old Testament are the beginning of the New Testament!

Who consoles you?

Who do you console?

Who shepherds you as your life ebbs and flows between desolation and consolation?



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NEW... FOR CHILDREN!



We are pleased to introduce **Celebrate**: an initiative designed to help children grow in their faith.

Each week Redemptorist Publications will provide a Children's Liturgy in the form of a video of the week's Gospel reading, a reflection and a final prayer.

Fun, engaging and practical worksheets/resources will also be provided to help children continue to practise their faith during this special season of Advent and beyond.

Click on the link to watch:

https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/celebrate-following-your-faith?cookies=YES&utm_source=RP+Newsletter+2020&utm_campaign=547c773551-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_20_12_24_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_61d90c626e-547c773551-217599387&mc_cid=547c773551&mc_eid=dae0d1a705&_page=1

Sunday 6 December 2020
Mark 1:1-8
2nd Sunday of Advent

LOOK

My name is _____

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

John the Baptist tells the whole countryside to get ready for the coming of the Lord, the powerful one. John the Baptist says he is not worthy to even untie the Lord's sandals. John baptises with water, but the Lord will give us all the Holy Spirit.

LISTEN TO JOHN

Everyone is coming to John the Baptist to be baptised.
Colour the paths they take to get to John

What is the message?
John the Baptist was God's messenger. Fill in the missing vowels to see what the message was.
The message means, "Get ready for the coming of Jesus."

Pr_p_r_ th_w_y_f th_L_r_d.

Spot the difference

Circle the five differences in this pair of sandals.

Then colour them both.

GOOD NEWS

I AM GOING TO GET READY FOR JESUS BY...

Make a promise

John is giving us the good news that Jesus is coming. Choose to get ready for Jesus by doing something kind for someone this week.

Write what you are going to do in the Good News Newspaper – and draw a picture of yourself doing something kind too!

A PRAYER TO SAY

Father in heaven, help me to get ready for Jesus. It is wonderful that Jesus wanted to live with us on the earth. Help me to be kind to everyone, because we are all the brothers and sisters of Jesus. Amen.

Answers: What's the message: Prepare the way of the Lord. Spot the difference: one sandal is fastened, different heels, one has fewer holes in the strap. One has a toe marking and is bigger.

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