



# 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

Happy 4th week of Advent!



Mass this week: Tues & Wed  
10am



Mass can be viewed **live** online

### We Remember them

**Recently Deceased:** Charles Wilkinson, Vivien Brennan (Tues 10am.)

**Anniversary:** Ann Hogan, Maureen McDonagh, Florrie Maynes,  
Charles & Jim O'Rawe.

**Parish Office: Mon, Tues & Wed 9am to 1pm.**

**Parish WhatsApp Group** – Keep up to date with what is happening in our parish community .....text 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.

## Christmas in St. Anne's

Christmas 2020 will be a very different Christmas for everyone. Families across the parish will not be able to celebrate in the normal way. The season of Christmas is a season of celebration, but this year it is essential that we celebrate safely.

Normally at Christmas time large numbers of people wish to attend Mass in St. Anne's. This year, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our church simply cannot accommodate such crowds if we are to ensure the health and safety of all and conform to Public Health Agency guidance and NI Executive legislation.

Our Parish Covid-19 Support Team have been meeting to review our arrangements and again review the Risk Assessment.

**In order to avoid the real possibility of increased transmission of the Covid-19 virus this Christmas, Christmas Masses will be ONLINE ONLY.**

- Our church will be closed on Thursday 24th, Fri 25th and Sat 26th December.

Public mass will resume on Sunday 27th Dec. for 11am Mass.

Please remember:

1. The obligation to attend Mass in person this Christmas has been suspended.
2. Our Christmas Masses will be broadcast live and available online, so people are encouraged to participate in a live-streamed Mass.
3. People could also choose to attend Mass on one day over the Christmas season – up to the Solemnity of the Epiphany, January 6th

### Christmas Masses

- **Thurs. 24th Dec - Christmas Eve: Online only 7pm**
- **Fri 25th Dec - Christmas Day: Online only 11am**

For all parishes in the diocese 'Christmas at Home' check out:  
<https://www.downandconnor.org/parish-mass-online/>

## Upcoming Mass Schedule

- Tues. 22nd Dec. Public Mass 10am
- Wed. 23rd Dec. Public Mass 10am
- Thurs. 24th Dec. Christmas Eve: Online only at 7pm
- Fri 25th Dec. Christmas Day: Online only at 11am
- Sat 26th Dec. St. Stephen's Day - No Mass
- Sun. 27th Dec. Public Mass at 11am
- Mon 28th – Thurs 31st Dec. - No Mass
- Fri. 1st Jan. New Year's Day - Public Mass at 12 noon
- Sat. 2nd Jan. Sunday Vigil - Public Mass 5pm
- Sun. 3rd Jan. Sunday - Public Mass 11am

## Your Giving

This w/end - **Weekly Offering**

- 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](mailto: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.



## Advent 2020

Dear St. Anne's Parishioners,  
At the beginning of 2020 no one could have foreseen the difficulties we would have to endure due to Covid-19. While our first thoughts must be with those who have died, and with their grieving families, we think also of the sick and elderly in our care homes and in our hospitals.

They, though admirably cared for by hard pressed medical and nursing staffs, are, nevertheless, isolated from their families. Many others have been "cocooned" in their own homes and depending on the goodwill of relatives and neighbours. At the same time, the restriction on the numbers attending our churches – while very understandable – is not without its pain. As priests, we too struggle with all of this, and experience the sadness and frustration of not being able to minister to our parishioners as we would want, yet, we continue to do what is possible in the circumstances.

The pandemic has caused a downturn in the economic situation and once healthy businesses have reduced their staff, or in some cases, closed altogether. Consequently, many families may face this Christmas with greatly reduced income. As a result, parish income is greatly reduced, as is the income of priests' welfare fund, who rely entirely on the voluntary contributions of parishioners. The priests' welfare fund has taken a significant reduction over recent months. If your circumstances permit, we ask that you please keep your priests in mind this Christmas.

The traditional Christmas collection, together with the other collections for the upkeep of priests throughout the year, is, in a spirit of priestly fraternity, "pooled" in a central fund. This fund, administered by an elected committee of priests, is shared in such a way as to ensure that every priest ministering in the Diocese receives the same level of income.

Thank you for your kind support and your constant prayers. We pray, that even in these difficult times, Christmas may be for you a time of blessing.



With every good wish and every blessing. Fr. Peter



## **Advent Liturgy**

Join us online for our 4<sup>th</sup> Parish Liturgy on Monday evening at 7.30pm, as we make room for the Christ-Child this Christmas.

**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 **Daniel Carbery**

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 12noon, with the online portal available from that time. Application portal closes at 12 noon on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

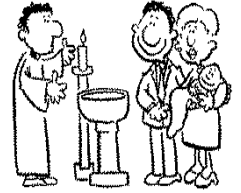
#### **Primary 1**

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 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 at 12noon, with the online portal available from that time. The application portal closes at 12 noon on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 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.saintannesps.com](http://www.saintannesps.com)  
Please feel free to contact the school office for help during the process

## **Baptisms**

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



## **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](http://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.

## Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

1. We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you ... a messenger of good news?

2. 'Do not be afraid'. Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path and wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an 'angel' helping to lower your anxiety?

3. Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the 'right moment'. 'Here I am Lord'. What invitations have come to you at the 'wrong time' and how have you responded?

4. Mary's response serves as a model for us – as one saying 'yes' to what life offers. What is it like for you to say 'yes' to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say: 'Here I am, Lord'?

John Byrne OSA

### Today's Scripture Themes

*The role of Mary in the Incarnation is celebrated. She is of that house of David which God promised would be built according to his plan. The plan is revealed in Jesus Christ and is now made known to all peoples.*



## FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you'. But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in?

This is what you must say to my servant David," the Lord Sabaoth says this: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. the Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."





## Responsorial Psalm Ps 88: 2-5. 27.29 Rv: 2

**Response** *I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. *Response*

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.'

*Response*

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall  
endure. *Response*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 16:25-2



**G**lory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so

clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

## Gospel Acclamation Lk 1: 38

Alleluia, alleluia!

'I am the handmaid of the Lord,'

'let what you have said be done to me.'

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 1:26-38

**T**he angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her,

'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.



## Christmas and the coming of our hope – Father Gerry McFlynn



***Father Gerry McFlynn is Project Manager of the Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas, based at the Irish Chaplaincy in London.***

***In this piece he reflects on 'Christmas and the coming of our hope':***

In Dennis O'Driscoll's humorous poem, Non-Stop Christmas, "Christmas is always coming. There are only ever so many days still left". Well, the shopping and the frenetic activity which have characterised the past two or three months are over and we are now on the eve of the big day itself.

The great thing about Christmas, someone has said, is that it is compulsory and whether we like it or not, it does happen. However, as with Easter, this year it will be a very different Christmas, pared down and shorn of so much that has made it special in the past.

Each year it becomes more difficult to say anything refreshingly new about it and I sometimes wonder why. Maybe it has something to do with growing older. Every Christmas, my mind is drawn back to my childhood and the wonderful celebrations I experienced as part of a happy, loving family. But I'm older now and so too, sadly, is the world I live in. Maybe the magic of Christmas is only for children, after all, and very small ones at that.

The truth is that I now know too much about the real state of the world – the countless millions of people displaced through wars, famines and natural disasters, those exploited and imprisoned through poverty and neglect, to say nothing of this year's victims of the Covid-19 pandemic. In my weaker moments, I sometimes think that the

nightmares of our times are destroying us personally, collectively, physically and spiritually.

And yet it is against this stark and frightening background that we still dare, each year, to celebrate the coming of the Prince of peace with his message of love, compassion and, above all, hope. St John in his Gospel, talks about Jesus as the Light coming into a dark world, and we certainly need that light in our ever darkening world. When, back in April, I drafted my annual Easter Message for the hundreds of Irish prisoners I work with, I could never have imagined that I would be following it up with a Christmas one some eight months later. However, this year for some reason, I found it more challenging to offer them a word or two of hope, aware of how difficult it is for them, separated from their families and loved ones at the one time of the year when everything conspires to remind them of home. But hope we must.

Hope is at the very heart of the Christmas message, a hope based on the person and teaching of Jesus. Christmas is about the vulnerability of a God who chose to come among us as an infant, exposed to life's social and political circumstances as we all are. Throughout his short life, Jesus was always on the margins, in solidarity with the outcasts, the dispossessed, those without a name on the highway of life.

That's why, each Christmas, we welcome him back into our world, personally and collectively, because we desperately want to believe that somewhere in what he said and did lies the key to a life that offers hope and meaning. And after the year we've just had, we surely deserve a fresh injection of both.

Have a happy and hope-filled Christmas. *Father Gerry McFlynn*

**The Irish Chaplaincy in London** is a registered charity which provides an outreach service to three main groups: elderly Irish people (the Seniors' Project); prisoners and to Travellers. At this challenging time caused by COVID-19 social restrictions, the Chaplaincy is offering support to anyone in Ireland with concerns about an older family member or friend living in London. On their behalf the Chaplaincy can make direct contact with vulnerable older Irish living but isolated in London. The Chaplaincy is also a link to services and community groups on the ground local to where a person is living in London.



## **Reflections by John Cullen**

*20 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent*

***'For nothing will be impossible with God.'*** (Luke 1:37)



***Brendan Rodgers*** is from Ballymena, County Antrim. He is a former player and coach of several football teams in the past including as a manager for Watford, Reading, Swansea, Liverpool and Celtic. He is the present manager of Leicester Football Club. In the notes of the match programme he always signs off with his

characteristic three-word quip: ***'Everything is possible'***. In one message of his I read, ***'I've always said that you can live without water for a few days, but you can't live a second without hope.'***

A woman once said to me, 'I am living with constant tension in my home. I wait in hope for tender looks. All I have is a God who weeps.' Advent is a time to believe and hope in a God who walks in and stays with the brokenness of our lives. The Gospel is a record of how Jesus enters into the darkness, like the seed growing in the ground, like a God who weeps, so that he can be the living, real presence for others who live with the emotional, spiritual and physical brokenness.

In the Gospel, Jesus claims that he is the light that is uncontainable that



extinguishes the darkness of loneliness, rejection, alienation and indifference.

In the Greek Orthodox Liturgy, when the bread and wine have been prepared and consecrated, the priest lifts them up and says, ***'Holy things for the holy people – ta hagioi tois hagiois – Holy things for the holy people'***.

The entire congregation replies,

***'One is holy, One is Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father'***.

We have a similar prayer in the Catholic liturgy of the Mass.

***Brother Roger*** (1915–2005) founded an ecumenical monastery in Taizé as a place of prayer, contemplation, fraternity, welcome and peace.

Reflect on his words:

***In each person there is a portion of solitude which no human intimacy can ever fill.***

***Yet you are never alone.***

***Christ is waiting for you and what you never dared hope for will spring to life.***



(Brother Roger of Taizé)

***For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary  
and became man.***

(The Nicene Creed)



## **Blessing of a Nativity Scene**

[Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene | USCCB](#)



**LOOK** Sunday 13 December 2020  
John 1:6-8, 19-28  
3rd Sunday of Advent

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE GOSPEL TODAY**

People wonder if John the Baptist is Elijah or one of the great prophets. John says he is not. He is someone sent by God to tell everyone to get ready for the Lord.

**WHERE IS JESUS?**

John the Baptist told the people that the Lord was standing with them and they did not even know it.

Colour this crowd listening to John the Baptist. Which person do you think is Jesus?

**Listen out for God**

Elijah was a prophet who listened for God. He didn't hear God in a storm, an earthquake, the wind or in fire. Elijah found the still, small voice of God in a gentle whisper.

**WHISPER**

Fit the words into the grid.

WORDS: FIRE, WIND, EARTHQUAKE

**Be a prophet**

What do you think God wants you to say to these fighting children? Circle the right words.

Options: Hit him!, Stop fighting!, Get her!, Be kind, Make friends.

Jesus is always with us, especially when we need help. Draw Jesus with these children.

**What is a prophet?**

Put the missing words in the right place to find out what a prophet is.

God someone speaks listens prophet God

A p\_\_\_\_\_ is s\_\_\_\_\_ who l\_\_\_\_\_ to G\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_ for G\_\_\_\_\_.

**A PRAYER TO SAY**

Dear Jesus, help us remember that you are always with us. Help us to see you in people who are sick and poor, and even in the people we may not like. Amen.

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Children's Liturgy | Episode 04 | Redemptorist Publications

Redemptorist Publications have introduced Celebrate; an initiative designed to help children grow in their faith.

Each week a video of the week's Gospel reading, a reflection and a final prayer will be available. Fun, engaging and practical worksheets/ resources will also be provided to help children continue to practice their faith during this special season of Advent.

Click on the link below to download and print:  
<https://www.saintannesparish.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/LOOK-Sunday-13th-December-2020.pdf>

Click on the link below:  
<https://www.rpbbooks.co.uk/celebrate-following-your-faith?>