



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 can be viewed **live** online

Mass: Sunday Vigil 5pm & 11am
Tues, Wed & Thurs 10am



We Remember them

Recently Deceased: Raymond Burleigh (England)

Month's Mind: Joe McQuillan.

Anniversary: Claire Burleigh, Des McGlinchey, Noel Marshall, Dolores Murphy, Simon & Kathleen Clarke

Parish Office: Mon to Fri 9am to 1pm.

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.

Christmas in St. Anne's

Christmas 2020 will be a very different Christmas for everyone. Families and parishes across the diocese 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. This year, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our churches 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, it is our intention to have **Christmas Masses 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.

It is important to 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.**

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.



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

OR Donate Online to St. Annes Parish

A/C No. 07707787

Sort Code 93 83 00

Your continued generosity is much appreciated.



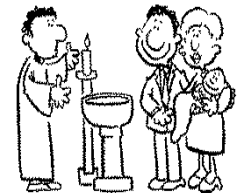
Advent Liturgy

Join us online for our 3rd 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 **Geraldine Anderson**

Baptisms

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



With every good wish and every blessing. Fr. Peter

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.

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) [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.saintannesps.com Please feel free to contact the school office for help during the process

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

Gaudete Sunday

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know about Jesus but do we know him. What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?
2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?
3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?
4. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness? Do these questions have any special relevance to you in the midst of the current situation in our country?

John Byrne OSA

Today's Scripture Themes

As we journey in Advent and look forward to Christmas, we celebrate our joy at the coming of the Lord. Joy, prayer and thanksgiving should characterise Christian worship. Because the man of integrity has come with good news for the poor, we can exult for joy. But his coming will mean that we also will practice justice and integrity.



FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour
from the Lord,
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the
garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak
of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his
wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'



Responsorial Psalm

Response *My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. *Response*

2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

Response

3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

Response

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 5:16-24



Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and

blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation *Is 61:1*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

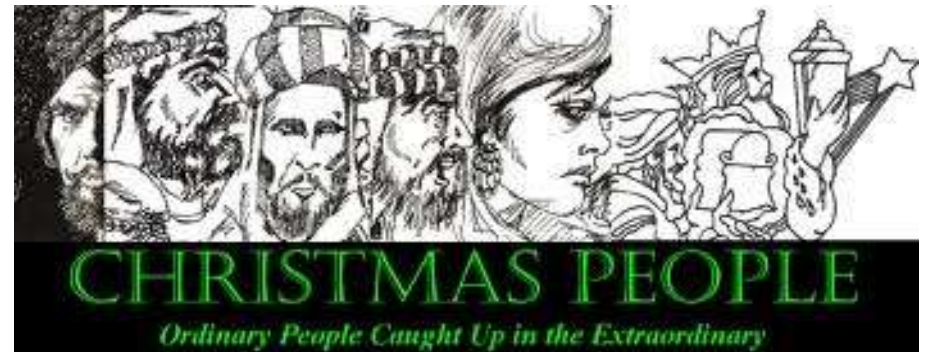
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:6-8. 19 -28

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.
This is how John appeared as a witness.
When the Jews sent priests and Levites
from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'
he not only declared, but he declared quite
openly, 'I am not the Christ'. 'Well then,'
they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he
said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No'.
So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must
take back an answer to those who sent us.
What have you to say about yourself?' So John
said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

*a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord'.*

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees,
and they put this further question to him,
'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ,
and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John
replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands
among you – unknown to you – the one who is
coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his
sandal-strap'. This happened at Bethany, on
the far side of the Jordan, where John was
baptising.



John Cullen's 2020 Advent Reflections
Third Sunday of Advent – Dec 13th

'Among you stands one who you do not know' (John 1:26)

The terms 'multi-faith' and 'multi-cultural' go hand in hand. They are an accurate description of present-day society across our world. The fact is obvious in many cities and towns. A friend of who is a parish priest in a north- London suburb, thought it would be a good idea to have the gospel of Pentecost Sunday read in the different languages of his parishioners. He began to count. When he got to forty-five different languages, he abandoned the project! In parts of London the language count is 178.

Among you stands one who you do not know.

I met a married couple from Nigeria who worked on night duty in Roscommon hospital. One Sunday morning, I was getting ready for the early Mass at 8.15. They came in to talk to me. They were shattered and fatigued. They asked to be excused from the Mass. Then they asked me a startling request, if I would read and explain the Word of God for that particular Sunday. They said that hearing this Word instead of going to Mass, would nourish and sustain them as their prayer for that day. Their hidden witness preached and lived the Gospel for me that day.

Among you stands one who you do not know.



Advent celebrates our search for meaning, purpose and wholeness. It is succinctly put as our search for God and, conversely, God's search for us. Our search is led and radically changed by Jesus Christ, born of the Chosen People, who does not merely speak 'in the name of God' but he is God himself speaking his eternal Word made flesh.

Among you stands one who you do not know.

Our Catholic and Christian faith should not be defined or understood by what it is not. It is not a narrow denomination or a breakaway movement. It is a gifted response to a revealed truth – a truth which possesses it, and not a truth which any Catholic can ever pretend to possess fully. The anguish that has scarred innocent lives the Church for decades is a painful festering wound. The Church forgot the truth of today's gospel: *among you stands one who you do not know.*

Our Advent journey is about waiting, wonder, welcome, prayer, preparation, penance and promise. Advent celebrates with joy on this rejoicing Sunday that *among you stands one who you do not know.*

I am a
CHILD
of God.
I know it. I live it. I love it.



Keep Christ at the centre of Christmas

- Bishops



With the beginning of Advent last Sunday, preparations have begun in earnest in parishes across the country for the celebration of Christmas – albeit in a very different context this year. Priests working with Parish Pastoral Councils are making decisions at a local level on how best to celebrate Christmas in a safe manner. We extend our sincere gratitude to parish teams throughout the country – including stewards and cleaners – who generously ensure that our churches are safe environments where people can confidently assemble for worship. Their task, as Christmas approaches, will not be easy, and we appeal to all the faithful to cooperate fully with them.

We strongly encourage the faithful to *keep Christ at the centre* of Christmas this year. Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to “tune in” from the “domestic churches” of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child.

It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become “little churches” where we invite the Christ-child in. The age-old tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray or to sing a carol will be especially meaningful this year. We also invite families or “household bubbles” to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly impacted by the pandemic.

The hope of Advent and the joy of Christmas inspire us to reach out to those in greatest need at this time. *Keep Christ at the centre this Christmas* by bringing the hope and joy of his birth to people who are sick, isolated, lonely or poor. A simple act of kindness can make such a difference. Charities such as the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Crosscare, Trócaire and World Missions Ireland will welcome much needed contributions as they have been unable to raise funds in the normal way during the pandemic.

We are particularly conscious of those whose livelihoods have been seriously threatened by the pandemic. We keep in mind those for whom Christmas time may bring feelings of sadness – people coping with bereavement, families that cannot be together, those in care homes who can only have limited visits from their loved ones. Christmas can be difficult for Irish emigrants and migrants living in Ireland, who are unable to travel home. We pray that the time will come very soon when sorrow will ease and loving connections can be fully restored.

Traditionally many people turn at this time of the year to ask for God's forgiveness and for healing of spirit. Although it may not be possible for all who wish to go to Confession to safely avail of the sacrament, we encourage the faithful to confidently place their trust in God's mercy through an Act of Perfect Contrition.

As we continue our journey through the season of Advent, waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, we are acutely aware of the yearning in our country and in our world for hope and consolation. In some ways the Covid-19 restrictions open up greater opportunities for prayer and for reflection, for family time and space to enter into the true meaning of Christmas

A message from the Irish bishops – 2 December 2020



THE IRISH CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE HAS WELCOMED THE ENCOURAGING NEWS THAT A NUMBER OF VACCINES FOR COVID-19 ARE AT AN ADVANCED STAGE OF PREPARATION AND ARE LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FOR USE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

In a statement issued on Wednesday 9 December, the bishops said, "The Catholic Church recognises

that safe and effective vaccination is an essential aspect of the prevention of disease. We are encouraging Catholics to support a programme of vaccination, not only for their own good, but for the protection of life and the health of those who are vulnerable and for the common good of humanity."

The bishops said, "Questions have arisen that human foetal cell-lines, which have their origins in abortions carried out in the past, are used in the development and production of some of the vaccines for COVID-19.

"If a more ethically acceptable alternative is not readily available to them, it is morally permissible for Catholics to accept a vaccine which involves the use of foetal cell-lines, especially if the potential risk to life or health is significant, as in the case of a pandemic. Refusal to accept a vaccine could contribute to significant loss of life in the community and especially among those who are most vulnerable. This reality must inform any judgement of conscience.

"We reaffirm the consistent teaching of the Church that abortion is always gravely immoral. The Church has always made a distinction, however, between formal (deliberate) involvement in an immoral act and material involvement, which may be incidental and remote. The decision of those who decide to accept vaccines which have had some link with foetal cell-lines in the past does not imply any consent on their part to abortion."

The bishops went on to say, "We note that many of the vaccines currently being developed do not depend for their design or production on foetal cell lines. Catholics should continue to advocate for the availability of ethically-developed vaccines. In that way they bear witness that biomedical research should always be conducted in a manner which is consistent with respect for life and for human dignity.

"Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right. The Church, while respecting intellectual property rights, believes that essential medicines, including vaccines, should be made available on the basis of need rather than on the basis of capacity to pay."

You can read the statement in full [here](#).

This content is provided by www.catholicnews.ie, the news source for the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. All queries relating to the article should be directed to bdrumm@catholicbishops.ie.

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?



Be a prophet

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



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

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.



What is a prophet?

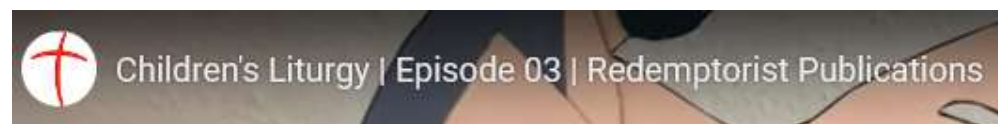
Put the missing words in the right place to find out what a prophet is.

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.



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:

<https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/celebrate-following-your-faith?>

Click on the link below to download and print:

<https://www.saintannesparish.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/LOOK-Sunday-13th-December-2020.pdf>

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