PORTRUSH PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community

6th December 2020 **Second Sunday of Advent**
Sunday B/Weekdays 2 **Psalter week 2**



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Parish office open: Tuesday 9am – 1.30pm

SVP Helpline 07508 549 574
A SVP Clothes Bank is situated in the church car park

Parish Facebook page and website
St Patricks Church Portrush
portrushparish.website
Follow us for up to date information

MASSES THIS WEEK - STREAMED
Saturday vigil at 6pm, Sunday at noon, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9am and Wednesday at 7pm.
Extra Mass this week: Monday 7th December at 7pm (Vigil for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception)
These Masses will be broadcast online at the usual time on the Portrush Parish website during the lockdown period. **portrushparish.website**
The church is open for private prayer on Tuesday and Thursday after morning Mass until 2pm, Wednesday 2pm until evening Mass, and Sunday after 12 noon Mass until 5pm. Please observe social-distancing guidelines, sanitise your hands on entry and exit, and sanitise any hard surface you have touched.

MASSES IN PORTSTEWART - STREAMED
Sunday Masses: (vigil) 5pm, 10am
Monday: Mass at 9.30am & 7pm (Vigil for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception)
Tuesday: Mass at 7pm
Wednesday - Saturday: Mass at 9.30am

Due to current government Covid restrictions, public Masses will not resume until Friday 11th December.

REST IN PEACE
RECENT: Peter McAleer
ANNIVERSARIES: Paddy Craig – 1st anniversary on 10th December

ADVENT DEVOTIONS – PRAYER AT HOME
The Northern Pastoral Network has prepared a resource for prayer at home during Advent. This resource has been specifically compiled with families in mind. The Gospel for each Sunday of Advent is accompanied by a family activity, prayers and a reflection. This resource will be available from our parish website, by email and there will be some hard copies available from the church or office.
Continuing next Thursday 10th December at 7.30pm Portstewart parish website will stream a short Advent Prayer service. Please join us in prayer at home as "the domestic church" on your own or gathered as a family around your "domestic altar" – the table where you dine. A copy of the service can be accessed on the parish website or you can pick up a copy in the church. Each week there will be a different service. portstewartparish.website

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:
Evangelisation: For a life of prayer We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION
Hosted by Drumalis via Zoom – led by Sr Pam Thimmes OSC. This Day of Reflection on **Saturday 19th December** from 10am – 4pm will allow us to bring the uncertainties of life in 2020 into focus and perceive anew Christ born among us and living among us.
Cost: £20 per person or £30 per household. To book: ☎ 2827 2196 or email: drumalis@btconnect.com

DRUMALIS CHRISTMAS CONCERTS via Zoom
Friday 18th & Monday 21st December at 7.30 pm
Christmas wouldn't be Christmas at Drumalis without 'Music for Christmas' so, after exploring the technical side of it, we're delighted that the Voices Chamber Choir under the direction of Loreto McAuley will be with us again this year, albeit in a virtual way!
The cost is £15 per person. To book, please ☎ Drumalis during office hours (Mon–Fri, 9 am–5 pm) – 2827 2196/ 2827 6455. We welcome credit and debit card payments. Payments can also be made by bank transfer (details available upon request).

HABITAT CHRISTMAS CARDS are still on sale from Portstewart Parish Office or ask Fr Raymond: **£4 for pack of 10.** All proceeds will help build houses, community and hope in Ethiopia. Thank you for your support.

PRO-LIFE
Sadly abortion is currently available in the UK, right up to birth, for babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot. All of these conditions can be corrected. A cross-party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together to bring forward the Abortion (Cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK. Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Please visit www.standupandsmile.org.uk to email your MP asking them to support the Bill. It only takes 30 seconds.

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE IN DOWN AND CONNOR
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/living-church/diaconate

SILENT NIGHTS IN BETHLEHEM
Christmas 2020: the hotels are empty. The streets are silent. There are usually over a million pilgrims and tourists here at this time of year. But coronavirus restrictions have completely shut down the Holy Land's tourist industry. No Christmas tourism means no income for 80% of the people in Bethlehem. You can support a Holy Land family through the crisis this Christmas with a gift of £20, £50, £100, or whatever you can afford. Until the pilgrims and tourists return, it may be the only lifeline they get. Thank you so much. For more information about us, please visit: https://www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk/

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL
Many families will face impossible choices this Christmas as SVP launch one of the most difficult Annual Appeals in our history. The way we help those in need has temporarily had to change to conform with guidelines, as is the way we are accepting donations.
Christmas will be different for everyone this year but the theme "Impossible Choices" reflects the really hard situation families on low incomes face in the lead up to Christmas. If you are struggling to keep a roof over your head, how do you choose between a decent dinner or a warm house? What do you sacrifice to buy your children those precious gifts after such a tough year?
If you can help you can donate online at:
https://www.svp.ie/home.aspx
Or simply put a donation in an envelope and leave it in the parochial house. Or alternatively if you are in need or you know of someone who is experiencing difficulties, please contact us on 07508 549 574

ON THE PARISH WEBSITE
- Bishop Noel Treanor's Pastoral Message for Advent
- A Personal Penitential Prayer in preparation for Christmas

There are also copies available in the church.

CULTIVATING HOPE IN ADVENT
Advent is a time of waiting. Nature shows us what it means to wait. The days are shorter, creatures hibernate, growth slows, the soil rests, our attention is drawn inwards. This Winter is like no other we have experienced as our world continues to battle Covid-19. It is a time for reflection, a time to awaken to what is happening to our planet. What if during this time we prepared the ground for planting at home, in school or parish? Because we know Spring is coming. Nature is preparing for the future season of Spring and new possibilities. Can we build back better? Can we Rewild our World during this time?

'Everything in the world is connected… As the pandemic made sure to remind us, we are interdependent on each other as well as our Mother Earth.'
(Pope Francis, TED Talk 2020)

Second Sunday of Advent: Silent but attentive God, as we light this second candle, we pray for the protection of what remains of the wilder parts of our world. Remind us, Lord, that we need wild places for the restoration of our deeper selves. Only in such places can we be drawn into harmony with Nature in its wonder, its playfulness, its surprise, its beauty and its lavishness. Lure us, Lord, into the wilderness and speak to our hearts (Hosea 2:14) so we can remember that we are all called to live with Nature as brothers and sisters and to share her gifts generously with one another. Pour out Advent Peace on us as we gather here around this Wreath. Let us be brave and active, our best gift to the world in this troubled Advent time. Amen.

