

PORTRUSH PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community

13th December 2020
Sunday B/Weekdays 2

Third Sunday of Advent
Psalter week 3



Fr Austin McGirr (Administrator)

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Parish office open: Tuesday 9am – 1.00pm

SVP Helpline 07508 549 574

A SVP Clothes Bank is situated in the church car park

St Patrick's Altar Society:

12-25 Dec: Rose Minihan & Kathleen Curran

26 Dec-8 Jan: Marie McAuley, Marie Conway & Mary McIntyre-Loveridge

Parish Facebook page and website



St Patricks Church Portrush

portrushparish.website

Follow us for up to date information

MASSES THIS WEEK

Saturday vigil at 6pm, Sunday at noon

Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 7pm, Thursday 9am, Friday 9.30am

These Masses are broadcast online on the Parish website: 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

Saturday vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 10am and 7pm

Monday: Mass at 9.30am

Tuesday: Mass at 7pm

Wednesday - Saturday: Mass at 9.30am

REST IN PEACE

RECENT: Graham McLaughlin

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret & George Coulson, Michael Kelly, Jack McAuley, Catherine Mulholland, John Eddie & Eileen Mullan, John & Thelma O'Lynn, Gerry Quinn

ADVENT DEVOTIONS – PRAYER AT HOME

The Northern Pastoral Network has prepared a resource for prayer at home during Advent. Continuing next Thursday 17th 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.

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. 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.



COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Building on the success of last year, this service of Readings and Carols for Christmas will take place on **Tuesday 22nd December** at 7.00pm in Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, Portrush. Places are limited and

will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Please book online through the Eventbrite website:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portrush-community-carol-service-tickets-132263663177> The service will also be streamed live so you can join online.

FREE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS (online)

St Agnes' Choral Society have recorded two Christmas concerts from St. Peter's Cathedral which will be aired online in December for free with any donations in aid of the Renal Unit at Belfast City Hospital.

• **The Magic of Christmas** (popular Christmas hits such as Winter's Tale, White Christmas, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and poetry from through the years) **Sunday 13th December at 7.30pm**

• **The Christmas Story** (through music, songs, liturgical readings and poetry) **Sunday 20th December at 7.30pm**
<https://www.facebook.com/stagneschoralsociety> or Youtube: <http://tiny.cc/Stagneschristmas>

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.



Third Sunday of Advent:
O God, source of light and darkness, let the lighting of this third candle be a sign of our willingness to speak for the light; to be, like John the Baptist, a

witness to the light. It is to John we turn for inspiration today as one who found in the wilderness the grace of seeing clearly. May we find in our time a voice to protect our wild places for ‘in wilderness is the preservation of the world’ (Henry David Thoreau).

We pray that the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with the light of joy and thanksgiving so that we may live as children of the light blessing one another and the sacred earth by what we say and do. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen.



CHRISTMAS 2020

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.

It is our intention to have Christmas Masses that are open to the public, but only for as many as the church can legally accommodate. Our parish church has a maximum capacity of fifty * Please **book online using Eventbrite**

In order to avoid the real possibility of increased transmission of the Covid-19 virus this Christmas, it is important to remember:

Parishioners are encouraged to keep Christ in Christmas and where circumstances permit, attend Mass on one day over the Christmas season.

The obligation to attend Mass is temporarily suspended and only those who can participate safely should do so. The elderly and those with underlying health conditions should be encouraged to avail of livestreaming services.

The obligation to attend Mass in person this Christmas has been suspended.

Christmas Masses will be broadcast live and available online, so people are encouraged to participate in a live-streamed Mass.

There will be sufficient stewards to monitor COVID compliance and to manage movement both inside and outside Church.

There should be no congregational singing. While it is important to have the singing of traditional carols and sacred music, this will be provided only by instrumentalists and soloists.

At the dismissal, parishioners will be reminded that they are to exit in a safe manner, respecting social distancing, and that they must leave the precincts of the Church immediately and avoid gathering in groups.

IN THIS EXTRAORDINARY YEAR, LET US ALL CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS SAFELY.

Christmas Mass in St Patrick's

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm and 9.00pm

Christmas Day 9.00am and 12 noon in Portrush and 10.30am in Bushmills

Booking for all Christmas Masses available on Eventbrite from 10.30am on Tuesday 15th December.

portrushparish.website (click on Eventbrite) or ☎ 07799 065931.

Christmas in Star of the Sea Portstewart

Masses on Christmas Eve: 5.00pm and 7.00pm and on Christmas Day 10.00am and 12 noon.

Booking essential for all Masses