

PORTRUSH PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community

20th December 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday B/Weekdays 2 Psalter week 4



Fr Austin McGirr (Administrator)

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Parish office open: Tuesday 9am – 1.00pm

SVP Helpline 07508 549 574

(SVP Clothes Bank situated in the church car park)

St Patrick's Altar Society:

12-25 Dec: Rose Miniham & 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

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR IN ST PATRICK'S	
Mon 21 December	Mass 9.00am
Tues 22 December	Mass 9.00am
Wed 23 December	Mass 7.00pm
Thurs 24 Dec	Mass 9.00 am
Christmas Eve	Vigil Masses 6.00pm & 9.00pm
Fri 25 December	Mass 9.00am & 12.00 noon
Christmas Day	Mass in Bushmills 10.30am
Sat 26 December	Mass 11.00am Sunday Vigil Mass 6.00pm
Sun 27 December	The Holy Family Mass 12.00 noon
Mon 28 December	The Holy Innocents Mass 11.00am
Tues 29 December	Mass 11.00am
Wed 30 December	Mass 11.00am
Thurs 31 Dec	Mass 11.00am
Fri 1 January	New Year's Day Mass for Peace 11.00am Mass in Bushmills 12.00 noon

Booking for all Masses during the Christmas octave available at: portrushparish.website (click on Eventbrite) or ☎ 07799 065931.

These Masses are broadcast online on the Parish website: portrushparish.website

During Christmas week the church will be open for private prayer after 11am Mass until 2pm. Please observe social-distancing guidelines, sanitise your hands on entry and exit, and sanitise any hard surface you have touched.

REST IN PEACE

ANNIVERSARIES: Malachy Austin, Tony McCaughan

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.



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 Eventbrite: <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 CONCERT (online)

St Agnes' Choral Society are streaming their second Christmas concert from St. Peter's Cathedral on **Sunday 20th December at 7.30pm** – free to view, with donations in aid of the Renal Unit at Belfast City Hospital.

• **The Christmas Story** (through music, songs, liturgical readings and poetry) including favourite carols
<https://www.facebook.com/stagneschoralsociety> or Youtube: <http://tiny.cc/Stagneschristmas>
Donations can be made to the renal unit by visiting: gf.me/u/y7xc2a

ON THE PARISH WEBSITE

- Bishop Noel Treanor's Pastoral Message for Advent
- A Personal Penitential Prayer in preparation for Christmas
- This week's Advent Prayers at Home

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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 alternatively if you are in need or you know of someone who is experiencing difficulties, please contact us on 07508 549 574



Fourth Sunday of Advent: Spirit of God, Calling together the creatures of the earth, the vulnerable with the powerful. By your becoming one with creation renew the earth. Come to our divided world, come to our

fragmented lives; Come to heal and save. In you our life is one again and all things come together: each connected to the other, ourselves and all things living: heaven and earth, time and space, the whole created universe in you. Through Christ, Amen.

'Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope'
Fratelli Tutti, 55

CHRISTMAS ONLINE GIVING

Would you like to buy your family & friends something truly special this Christmas and help make the world a better place? Then Trócaire Gifts of Love are for you. You have several inspiring, heart-warming gifts to choose from, which will help people improve their lives, escape poverty and look forward to brighter futures. There's something for everybody and every budget and every gift you buy will help transform lives. For full details please log on to: www.trocaire.org/gifts or phone: 0800 912 1200. Make this Christmas truly special, with a Trócaire Gift of Love.

Communities have never needed to club together so much as in these current days of pandemic. Especially at this time of year we need to help those most in need in society. As well as Trócaire gifts, you might also consider helping the homeless by donating to the Capuchin Day Centre based in Dublin - see www.capuchindaycentre.ie Information about both initiatives available in Church foyer.



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 and safely accommodate.

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 in Star of the Sea Portstewart

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

Christmas in St Malachy's Coleraine

7pm vigil and 10am Christmas morning. There will be loud speakers in the carparks for those who cannot be seated.

