

PARISH OF PORTRUSH & BUSHMILLS

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community



24th January 2021
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday B/Weekdays 1 **Psalter week 3**

Fr Austin McGirr (Administrator)

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Parish Office 7082 3388

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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:

23 Jan-5 Feb: Ann Maguire & Pat Neely

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

Monday 9am, Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 7pm,

Thursday 9am, Friday 9am

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 – STREAMED

portstewartparish.website

Sunday: Vigil at 5pm, Sunday at 10am

Monday - Saturday: Mass at 9.30am

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY:

Evangelisation: Human Fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full

fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other

religions, praying for one another, open to all.

REST IN PEACE

RECENT: Thomas McIntyre-O'Neill,
Lawrence Logue, John Doey, Jean Dixon,
Seamus Doherty

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Brian Mullan, Sheila McNally,
Martha McGrath, Gerry Neely, Aidan Kelly

LECTIO DIVINA FOR LENT

This is an opportunity to participate in an ancient way of praying that many people have found helpful in relating God's Word to their everyday lives. It's an invitation to spend some time reflecting on and praying with Sacred Scripture.

Organised by Living Church, this is a 5-week programme delivered online. Each session will be led by trained facilitators and includes a video recorded by key speakers from the Diocese aimed at initiating prayer, sharing & reflection. Watch out for further details in the weeks ahead.



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE FOR EVERYONE (Online)

In Luke's Gospel we see Jesus' disciples following him learning on the job what it means to be a disciple.

Please join us on this Lenten online Programme and observe what Jesus said and did. Let us learn from how Jesus reached out to the poor and the excluded and disadvantaged and how he challenged inequality and injustice. **Starts Tuesday 2nd February** from 7-8.30pm for 12 weeks (Repeated on Wednesdays)
Cost: £8 for Course Book. To register for the programme please contact Course Facilitator Kieran Hill. E: kc.hill@btinternet.com or ☎ 07964 287839

4 CORNERS FESTIVAL BELFAST (Online)

This inter-denominational arts festival aimed at promoting reconciliation runs **from January 31 to February 7**. Because of the pandemic it is a purely online project with all events being available in the comfort of your home via "live" video streaming. **The theme is Breathe... The Hebrew word Ruach means 'breath' or 'spirit' – the source of life. Morning and Night Prayer will be streamed throughout the festival.** Night Prayer will be led by Jim Deeds, a pastoral worker in Down and Connor, and Paula McKeown, director of the Living Church Office will facilitate a workshop on resilience. Further details: 4cornersfestival.com

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE?

Catholic Engaged Encounter

A 'Zoom' online Marriage Preparation course is planned for **27-28 March 2021**. This 2-day course is a positive way of preparing for Marriage where you will discover how you can enrich your future relationship. Information: marriageencounter.ie ☎ 2763 8512

ACCORD CATHOLIC MARRIAGE CARE SERVICE

Full Time Director

ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG is a well-known, respected and experienced agency that has in excess of 50 years' experience working with couples and individuals supporting them in their marriages and relationships. If you are interested in taking on this key leadership position with ACCORD and would like more information please contact Maria McCaffrey: mmccaffrey@rsmireland.ie. Closing date **27th January**.

REACH PORTRUSH FOODBANK

Parochial Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Main Street, Portrush.

Open each Tuesday from 12 to 2pm primarily to help families during this latest lockdown. REACH will also use this slot to receive donations. Please leave your donation in an envelope with your name and address on it. Just come along and collect a bag of groceries. Contents will vary from week to week. All precautions will be taken to minimise risk of infection.

STATEMENT FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF NORTHERN IRELAND 7 January 2021

“As many people as possible stay at home for the sake of health, life and the Common Good”

We recognise the efforts of so many in our parishes who have been working to ensure that our gatherings for public worship are as safe as possible and we welcome the continuing engagement between the faith communities and the NI Executive which has led to consensus between us on the importance of people being able to gather in person for worship. At this time, however, we acknowledge and support the unequivocal message from public health authorities that the movement and gathering of people should be minimised and that as many people as possible **stay at home** for the sake of health, life and the Common Good.

In light of our ongoing consultations and of the current serious and worsening situation, and in line with clear public health guidance that people should *stay at home*, **we have decided that for a limited period (from midnight on Thursday 7 January until Saturday 6 February 2021, subject to review in late January), the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgies should take place without the physical presence of the faithful.**

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER DURING THE PANDEMIC

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic.

Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply.

Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them.

Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew.

Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us to realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen