

St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)
3 Willowfield Crescent. BT6 8HP. Tel. 028 90458158. [Mobile 07740603643](tel:02890458158).

Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthonys@downandconnor.org,
henrymccann@hotmail.com, **Website:** www.saintanthony.co.uk

PUBLIC MASS TIMES IN THE COVID-19 ERA

(will be under assessment and review)

Saturday Evening at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)

Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9am, & 7pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays: Tues & Thurs at 9.30am. Fri at 7.00pm. **All Public English Masses on**

Facebook. Polish Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs 7pm, Sat 9am

Private Mass (on Facebook Mon 9:30am)

Confessions: By Arrangement. **Baptisms:** By Appointment



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR B

*People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of
Jerusalem were being baptized by him. Mark 1:1-8*

Now, we, everywhere, ache in holy hunger waiting for you.

*Come to us all, Lord Jesus. Turn our crooked roads into smooth paths.
Send gentle rain and teeming harvests of justice and healing.*

*Make all well, and make each and every one a channel of your peace.
Anne Osdieck*

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Ann McGann (Month's Mind on Sat 12th Dec at 6:30pm), Margaret Mary Sloan (Blenheim Drive), Sheila Bradshaw, Fr Pat McKenna, at his home in Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia (originally from St Agnes' Parish)

Anniversaries: Joe McDonnell, Minnie Tanney, James Murray, Joseph McDonnell, Dan McDonnell, Peter Hughes (Sat 5th Dec at 6:30pm), Bro Peter Gallagher (Sun 6th Dec at 11:30am), Marie Matthews (Sun 13th Dec at 11:30am), Terence & Sarah McCartan (Sun 20th Dec at 11:30am), John O'Connor (Sun 27th Dec at 11:30am)

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your generosity to weekend 25th Oct collections: Nothing during current Lockdown, except: Donate £45.

We would appreciate that if you send in a cheque to pay for a number of different donations, that you itemise what amount should go to each collection.

DONATE button for donations to parish available, where you may wish to donate using a credit/debit card. See link at www.saintanthony.co.uk

Use of Standing Orders for Collections. Forms for diocesan, non-diocesan, weekly and monthly collections are available from Fr McCann or in the sacristy.

Diocesan Masses and Services on webcams/online. See list at: www.downandconnor.org including link to **Parish of St Anthony, Belfast** Facebook page for Live broadcasting of Mass.

Coronavirus Regulations (Summary)

- FROM FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER CHURCHES WILL BE CLOSED FOR TWO WEEKS UNTIL FRIDAY 11TH. MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED IN PRIVATE (EXCEPT WEDDINGS & FUNERALS OF 25 PERSONS) AND BROADCAST LIVE ON FACEBOOK.

The Diocese received clarification from the Executive Office relating to queries raised by Churches and faith communities in relation to the two-week period of lockdown. The key points are:

- Baptisms may NOT take place during the two week period of lockdown.
- A maximum of EIGHT persons can be in the Church while a live broadcast is taking place.
- A live broadcast MAY NOT take place at the same time as the Church is open for private prayer.
- Churches and Parish Halls/Centres may continue to provide essential services such as food banks and contact centres and may also be open to allow drop-off of charitable donations. (All such activities are subject to social distancing and infection prevention measures and guidance.)
- For 'Drive-in' services, only one household is permitted per car and no one should leave the car except in an emergency.

The Diocesan Office has also been asked to signpost you to the following websites, regularly updated with regulations and advice:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-northern-ireland>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/news/covid-19-restrictions-27-november-11-december-questions-and-answers>

Times of Masses at St Anthony's Church: The Lockdown Mass Times for Weekend and Weekday are: **English: Sat vigil 6:30pm, Sun 11:30am, Mon, Tues & Thurs 9:30am, Friday 7pm (Facebook Live)**
PLEASE NOTE Public Masses will hopefully resume on Friday 11th THIS TIME ONLY AT 9:30am.

Bishop Noel Treanor's Advent Pastoral Message can be found on the parish website saintanthony.co.uk, and on the Parish of St Anthony, Belfast Facebook Page.

Personal Penitential Prayer in preparation for the celebration of Christmas 2020 can be found on the parish website saintanthony.co.uk, and on the Parish of St Anthony, Belfast Facebook Page.

Mary's Meals – Double the Love. At Mary's Meals we are inspired by the courageous 'yes' of Mary. Her total trust in God in the face of numerous challenges gave the World the most precious gift of all – Jesus. Throughout this year of many challenges we have continued to say yes, with the help of our generous supporters, to feeding children their daily meal in a place of education even when obstacles arose. Now we are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide hope to 43,000 children in Bong County, Liberia. From 2nd November until 31st January 2021, any donations made to the Double The Love campaign will be matched by the UK government, up to £2 million. Each little act of love will provide double the support for families in Liberia and the hope of a better future for their children. More information can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove

Drumalis Advent Day of Reflection. Saturday, 19 December 2020, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Led by Sr Pam Thimmes OSC and hosted by Drumalis via Zoom. The cost of the Day of Reflection is £20 per person or £30 per household. Payment in full is required to secure your place. Please email drumalis@btconnect.com We welcome credit and debit card payments during office hours – tel. 028 28272196/ 28276455 (Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm). See poster in porch or www.drumalis.co.uk

The Northern Pastoral Network Advent Prayer Resource for prayer at home, available from: https://www.northernpastoral.network/uploads/1/2/2/5/122563310/npn_advent_resource_finalfull.pdf

The Saint Vincent de Paul can be contacted by anyone who feels they need assistance, financially or otherwise, and we appreciate a lot of people need material assistance over the winter. The contact number is 02890351561, and the local conference will contact you. You can also contact us online at <https://www.svp.ie/get-help/request-help-online.aspx>. Donations can be given online to the region at <https://www.svp.ie/get-involved/donate/single-donation.aspx> and by phone on **028 9075 0161**.

Christmas 2020 (For your information) 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 hope/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 (95)*** which includes front porch, (and Choir gallery overflow - not accessible by disabled). Some parishes will have public masses and private (broadcast) masses. Here at St Anthony's we are still considering the schedule.

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

1. The obligation to attend Mass in person this Christmas has been suspended.
2. 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.

In this extraordinary year, let us all celebrate Christmas safely.

(*couple/family unit/household bubble counts as 1)

Parish Safeguarding. Can you please ensure that all Children and Vulnerable Adults are accompanied at all times when entering the Sacristy / Toilet facilities. If you have any queries regarding the Safeguarding Policy please contact a member of the Parish Safeguarding Committee. Many Thanks. Fr Henry McCann PP.