

St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)
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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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR B GAUDETE SUNDAY

He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. (John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Send us too, like John, Lord.

Let us be the sound of your voice crying out in the desert.

Let our whole life be a witness to your light.

Make it our reason for being.

No guile in us. No dimness. Not any more.

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), Kathleen Brankin, (sister of Fr Anthony McLaverty)

Anniversaries: James Murray, Joseph McDonnell, Dan McDonnell, Peter Hughes, Bro Peter Gallagher, 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: Donate Button £180. Two Collections baskets available this weekend: Monthly Stipend and Weekly Collection. A Letter concerning Christmas Collection for Priests of the Diocese is available in the Church porch.

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)

The obligation to attend Mass is still suspended.

Anyone with an **underlying vulnerable disability** should stay at home, or if **showing symptoms** of a temperature, and/or a new persistent cough, and/or loss of taste or smell should **stay at home and book a test with NHS number 111**

Face Coverings now mandatory when entering or exiting the church and while in the church.

Track and trace. StopCOVID-19 NI APP (Highly recommended).

Remain seated throughout the Mass, and to **receive Holy Communion on the Hand.**

Follow directions from our Stewards.

At weekend masses, congregation for **Holy Communion starts from the back and moves forward row by row, following directions from stewards.**

Times of Masses at St Anthony's Church: The Times of Mass for Weekend and Weekday are: **English: Sat vigil 6:30pm, Sun 11:30am, Mon (Private), Tues & Thurs 9:30am, Friday 7pm (Facebook Live)**

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. 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**.

Nine Bells to Bethlehem - Down & Connor Advent Novena. Wed 16th - Thurs 24th December, based on the O Antiphons, broadcasting each evening at 7pm via the Cathedral Webcam (www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral).

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.

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)

Schedule of Masses for Christmas Week

Christmas Eve:	7pm English	9pm Polish
Christmas Day:	9am & 7pm Polish	11am English
St Stephen's Day:	9am Polish	Saturday Vigil (NB NONE)
Sunday 27th Dec:	9am Polish	11:30am English 7pm Polish

12 Days of Christmas Resource. The Northern Pastoral Network have a resource for praying at home through the 12 days of Christmas. The links are below:

RESOURCE: <https://www.northernpastoral.network/news--resources/12-days-of-christmas>

MUSIC: <https://www.northernpastoral.network/news--resources/12daysmusic>