

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

The gospel of John has no account of the birth of Jesus, rather the evangelist chooses to begin his story with a poem and that is the gospel for this Mass. Rather than considering the life of Jesus from the time of his birth, John seeks to explore his identity by meditating on Jesus as the Word made Flesh. The Jews to whom the good news was first preached were very familiar with the idea of the word of God through their oral and written traditions. For generations God had made himself and his saving will known to them through his word and now that word becomes human, and as a human being reveals the glory of God in a way that is beyond our wildest imaginings. This is a staggering claim and one that many then, and indeed still today, find too hard to believe. Yet it is the very heart of the Christmas message.

Anne Osdieck

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased Kathleen Brankin, (sister of Fr Anthony McLaverty), Nuala Moore (sister of Dolores Mahoney), Brian Cassidy (brother of Fr Gerry), Veronica Neeson (sister of Fr Paddy), Philip McAllister, Hilda Booth

Anniversaries: Peter Hughes, Bro Peter Gallagher, Marie Matthews, Terence & Sarah McCartan, John O'Connor, Jim McCann (father of Fr Henry)

COLLECTIONS: Christmas £1214.80, Weekly £637.90, Shrines £200.07 **DONATE £100 [Online Donate Button on Website](#)**

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.

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.**

6 WEEK POST CHRISTMAS LOCKDOWN details see Facebook Page or Parish Website. Churches can remain open. **PLEASE NOTE:** To limit the spread of Covid, please consider viewing on-line, but you would be welcome to be present if you wish so long as you are careful! 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 the Christmas season safely. The Season of Christmas continues until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday 10th January.

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)**

Mass for Feast of the Epiphany 11:30am (English). Please note there will be no Mass on Thursday or Friday of this Week
Mary's Meals – Double the Love. 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

Catholic Engaged Encounter. Preparing for Marriage? 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/Booking: marriageencounter.ie or 028276 38512

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**.

12 Days of Christmas Resource. The Northern Pastoral Network have a resource for praying at home through the 12 days of Christmas. Available in the porch and online. The links are below: **RESOURCE:** <https://www.northernpastoral.network/news--resources/12-days-of-christmas> **MUSIC:** <https://www.northernpastoral.network/news--resources/12daysmusic>

Diocesan Directories The 2021 Down & Connor Diocesan Directory is available from the sacristy. Price £4

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines. "The question of the use of vaccines, in general, is often at the centre of controversy in the forum of public opinion. In recent months, this Congregation has received several requests for guidance regarding the use of vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19, which, in the course of research and production, employed cell lines drawn from tissue obtained from two abortions that occurred in the last century. At the same time, diverse and sometimes conflicting pronouncements in the mass media by bishops, Catholic associations, and experts have raised questions about the morality of the use of these vaccines.

There is already an important pronouncement of the Pontifical Academy for Life on this issue, entitled "Moral reflections on vaccines prepared from cells derived from aborted human fetuses" (5 June 2005). Further, this Congregation expressed itself on the matter with the Instruction Dignitas Personae (September 8, 2008, cf. nn. 34 and 35). In 2017, the Pontifical Academy for Life returned to the topic with a Note. These documents already offer some general directive criteria.

Since the first vaccines against Covid-19 are already available for distribution and administration in various countries, this Congregation desires to offer some indications for clarification of this matter. We do not intend to judge the safety and efficacy of these vaccines, although ethically relevant and necessary, as this evaluation is the responsibility of biomedical researchers and drug agencies. Here, our objective is only to consider the moral aspects of the use of the vaccines against Covid-19 that have been developed from cell lines derived from tissues obtained from two fetuses that were not spontaneously aborted....." For the full article see vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html