

PORTSTEWART PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community

13th December 2020
Sunday B/Weekdays 2

Third Sunday of Advent
Psalter week 3



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Parish Pastoral Council:

Chairperson: Emer O’Keeffe 07709 043921

Email: portstewartpastoralcouncil@gmail.com

SVP Helpline: 07508 549572

Parish Facebook page and website



Star of the Sea Portstewart
portstewartparish.website

Follow us for up to date information

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday Masses: (vigil) 5pm, 10am and 7pm

Monday: Mass at 9.30am

Tuesday: Mass at 7pm

Wednesday - Saturday: Mass at 9.30am

MASS IN PORTRUSH

Saturday vigil at 6pm, Sunday at noon,

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9am and

Wednesday at 7pm.

Please book beforehand for Sunday Mass by using the app **EVENTBRITE**. Just download the app,

search for Portstewart Parish and book your place.

Otherwise call Emer ☎ 07709 043921 or

e:portstewartpastoralcouncil@gmail.com

No booking necessary for weekday Masses.

All Masses are streamed online on the parish website: portstewartparish.website ‘Watch Live’ and on YouTube. Masses are recorded and can be watched on the website 45 minutes after Mass has ended. You can also listen on our parish radio.

The church is open for private prayer from 10am until noon each day except Tuesdays and Sundays.

REST IN PEACE

RECENT: Colum O’Doherty, Eamonn McHale, Paddy Higgins, Sean Devlin

ONE MONTH AGO: Eilis McCaughan

ANNIVERSARIES: Sheila Hennessey (13), John Armstrong (14), Mary Goodfellow, Nan McKenna, Hannah Tosh (15), Jane Locke (16), Anne Canning, Harry McNamee (17), Patrick Kelly, John McFerran (18), Rose McLaughlin, Katherine & Bernard O’Gara (19)

ADVENT DEVOTIONS – PRAYER AT HOME

Continuing next Thursday 17th December at 7.30pm on-line or just join in by praying at home. Copies of the service are available on the parish website or pick up a printed copy from the church.

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.

ST COLUM’S PRESCHOOL



Is your child due to start Preschool in September 2021?

St. Colum’s Preschool, Portstewart would like to welcome you to our information afternoons **from Tuesday**

15th – Thursday 17th December. Come along and meet the staff, have a tour of the Preschool, and meet the staff. Viewings will be by appointment only – please call 028 7083 5737

FREE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS (online)

St Agnes’ Choral Society have recorded two Christmas concerts from St. Peter’s Cathedral which will be aired online in December for free with any donations in aid of the Renal Unit at Belfast City Hospital.

• **The Magic of Christmas** (popular Christmas hits such as Winter’s Tale, White Christmas, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and poetry from through the years) **Sunday 13th December at 7.30pm**

• **The Christmas Story** (through music, songs, liturgical readings and poetry) **Sunday 20th December at 7.30pm**
<https://www.facebook.com/stagneschoralsociety> or
Youtube: <http://tiny.cc/Stagneschristmas>

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Many families will face impossible choices this Christmas as SVP launch one of the most difficult Annual Appeals in our history. The way we help those in need has temporarily had to change to conform with guidelines, as is the way we are accepting donations.

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 and 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 simply put a donation in an envelope and leave it in the parochial house. Or alternatively if you are in need or you know of someone who is experiencing difficulties, please contact us on 07508 549572.



DO YOU LIKE PLAYING WITH RASBERRY PIS?

Do you know what LINUX is? Derek is seeking an understudy to learn the art and craft of talking to your Pi and improving our parish on-line stream. Contact Fr Austin for details.



Third Sunday of Advent:

O God, source of light and darkness, let the lighting of this third candle be a sign of our willingness to speak for the light; to be, like John the Baptist, a

witness to the light. It is to John we turn for inspiration today as one who found in the wilderness the grace of seeing clearly. May we find in our time a voice to protect our wild places for ‘in wilderness is the preservation of the world’ (Henry David Thoreau). We pray that the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with the light of joy and thanksgiving so that we may live as children of the light blessing one another and the sacred earth by what we say and do. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen.

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

There are also copies available in the church.

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 accommodate. Our parish church has a maximum capacity of fifty * Please **book online using Eventbrite**

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 Mass in Star of the Sea

Christmas Eve: 5.00pm and 7.00pm

Christmas Day 10.00am and 12 noon.

Booking for all Christmas Masses available on Eventbrite from 10.30am on Monday.

St Patrick’s Church Portrush Christmas Mass times:

6.00pm and 9.00pm Christmas Eve

9.00am and noon Christmas Day. 10.30am Bushmills portrushparish.website / Eventbrite or ☎ 07799 065931.

St Malachy’s Church Coleraine 7.00pm vigil and 10.00am

Christmas morning. There will be loud speakers for the carparks for those who cannot be seated.