

PORTSTEWART PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community

20th December 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday B/Weekdays 2 Psalter week 4



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Parish Pastoral Council:

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SVP Helpline: 07508 549572

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR IN STAR OF THE SEA	
Mon 21 December	Mass 9.30am
Tues 22 December	Mass 7.00pm
Wed 23 December	Mass 9.30am
Thurs 24 Dec Christmas Eve	Mass 9.30 am Vigil Masses 5.00pm & 7.00pm
Fri 25 December Christmas Day	Mass 10.00am & 12.00 noon
Sat 26 December	Mass 12.00 noon Sunday Vigil Mass 5.00pm
Sun 27 December	The Holy Family Mass 10.00 am & 7.00pm
Mon 28 December	The Holy Innocents Mass 12.00 noon
Tues 29 December	Mass 12.00 noon
Wed 30 December	Mass 12.00 noon
Thurs 31 Dec	Mass 12.00 noon
Fri 1 January	New Year’s Day Mass for Peace 12.00 noon
Sat 2 January	Mass 9.30am

The church will be open for private prayer from 11am until noon each day during the Christmas octave.

Please book for all Masses during the week following Christmas Day by using the app EVENTBRITE. 📞 Emer 07709 043921 or e:portstewartpastoralcouncil@gmail.com

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.

REST IN PEACE

RECENT: Mickey Kealey, Nan Mullan (Omagh)
ANNIVERSARIES: William John McAreavey (17), Jean Kearney (18), Laurence Duffy (20), Mary Carlin, Joan Kerr, Mary Rose Lundy, Tom Mullan (21), Yvonne Marie Butler, Harry Moore (22), Bridie Duffy, Anne Kelly, Willie & Martha McElroy, Harry Watterson (23), Leo Casey, Dan McCrossan (24), Patrick Elliott, Sarah Loughrey, Ellie Sweeney (25), Bridget Curtis, William Kearney, Bernie McLaughlin, Martha McWilliams (26)

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.

FREE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT (online)

St Agnes' Choral Society are streaming their second Christmas concert from St. Peter’s Cathedral on **Sunday 20th December at 7.30pm** – free to view, with donations in aid of the Renal Unit at Belfast City Hospital.

• **The Christmas Story** (through music, songs, liturgical readings and poetry) including favourite carols <https://www.facebook.com/stagneschoralsociety> or Youtube: <http://tiny.cc/Stagneschristmas>
Donations can be made to the renal unit by visiting: gf.me/u/y7xc2a

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent: Spirit of God, Calling together the creatures of the earth, the vulnerable with the powerful. By your becoming one with creation renew the earth. Come to our divided world, come to our fragmented lives; Come to heal and save. In you our life is one again and all things come together: each connected to the other, ourselves and all things living: heaven and earth, time and space, the whole created universe in you. Through Christ, Amen.

‘Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope’
Fratelli Tutti, 55



SPONSORED SWIM

The Apostolic Work Group are holding a Sponsored Swim on New Year’s Day at 10am on Portstewart Strand. Apostolic Work supports our missionaries who minister to some of the poorest people in the world. Please help us to make a difference, especially in these difficult times. Contact: 📞 Teresa 7083 3605 Mona 7083 2143 or Mary 7083 5353

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 and safely accommodate.

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 Portrush

6pm and 9pm Christmas Eve
9am and noon Christmas Day. 10.30am Bushmills
portrushparish.website / Eventbrite or 📞 07799 065931.

Christmas Mass in St Malachy’s Coleraine

7pm vigil and 10am Christmas morning.
There will be loud speakers in the carparks for those who cannot be seated.

Parish Facebook page and website

📘 Star of the Sea Portstewart
portstewartparish.website
Follow us for up to date information



