

PORTSTEWART PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community



31st January 2021

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday B/Weekdays 1

Psalter week 4

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Parish Facebook page and website



Star of the Sea Portstewart

portstewartparish.website

Follow us for up to date information

MASSES THIS WEEK - STREAMED

Sunday: Vigil 5pm, Sunday 10am

Monday – Saturday: Mass at 9.30am

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.

MASS IN PORTRUSH - STREAMED

Saturday vigil at 6pm, Sunday at noon

Monday 9am, Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 7pm,

Thursday 9am, Friday 9am

portrushparish.website

REST IN PEACE

RECENT: Pat Logan, John Donnelly

ANNIVERSARIES: Julia McGurk, May McAllister

(1), Betty Chambers, Bernie Hayes, Annie

McCaughan (2), Charlie McManus, Kathleen

McKay (3), John Kearney Brolly (5), Paula

Haughey, Bridget McPeake, Henryk Tyszkka (6)

THIS WEEK IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR

THE FEAST OF ST BRIGID OF IRELAND

Monday 1st February

You were a woman of peace.

You brought harmony where there was conflict.

You brought light to the darkness.

You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious,

and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.

Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and weary.

Strengthen what is weak within us.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit. Amen



THE POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY:

Universal: Violence against Women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

LECTIO DIVINA FOR LENT

This is an opportunity to participate in an ancient way of praying that many people have found helpful in relating God's Word to their everyday lives. It's an invitation to spend some time reflecting on and praying with Sacred Scripture.

Organised by Living Church, this is a 5-week programme delivered online. Each session will be led by trained facilitators and includes a video recorded by key speakers from the Diocese aimed at initiating prayer, sharing & reflection. Watch out for further details in the weeks ahead.



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE FOR EVERYONE (Online)

In Luke's Gospel we see Jesus' disciples following him learning on the job what it means to be a disciple. Please join us on this Lenten online Programme and

observe what Jesus said and did. Let us learn from how Jesus reached out to the poor and the excluded and disadvantaged and how he challenged inequality and injustice. **Starts Tuesday 2nd February** from 7-8.30pm for 12 weeks (Repeated on Wednesdays) Cost: £8 for course book. To register for the Programme contact Course Facilitator Kieran Hill. E: kc.hill@btinternet.com or ☎ 07964 287839

FROM COVID TO LIGHT – LENTEN TALKS 2021

A Zoom Conference through the lens of Faith and the Gospels of Lent. Each Tuesday during Lent at 8pm, you are invited to join this Lenten journey. The speaker for the first session on **Tuesday 23rd February** is Fr James O'Reilly and the theme is 'The Wilderness of Covid.' To take part, email: lententalks@downandconnor.org to receive Link and Password for the talks which are **free** and open to all.

4 CORNERS FESTIVAL BELFAST

This inter-denominational arts festival aimed at promoting reconciliation runs **from January 31 to February 7**.

Because of the pandemic it is a purely online project with all events being available in the comfort of your home via "live" video streaming. **The theme is Breathe... The Hebrew word Ruach means 'breath' or 'spirit' – the source of life. Morning and Night Prayer will be streamed throughout the festival.** Night Prayer will be led by Jim Deeds, a pastoral worker in Down and Connor, and Paula McKeown, director of the diocesan Living Church Office will facilitate a workshop on resilience. There will be discussions on topics such as domestic abuse and racism and one of the moderators will be Seamus McKee. Further details: 4cornersfestival.com



NI BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

In order to maintain the vital supply of blood to our hospitals, the Blood Transfusion service is asking as many donors as possible to come forward – they could save a life. The next sessions in Portstewart will be held at Burnside Presbyterian Church, Mill Road on **Tuesday 2nd February** from 1pm-4pm and 5pm-7.30pm. Please ☎ 08085 534 653 to book an appointment.

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE?

Catholic Engaged Encounter

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 ☎ 2763 8512

WANTED TO RENT

Frontline doctor and nurse couple with baby seeking small furnished house or apartment for short term rental, 6 months max. Non-smokers, no pets. References available. Please contact: 07921 513788 or 07871 028482

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



COMMUNITIES OF ...
**FAITH
LEARNING
LOVE
RESILIENCE
HOPE**

Sunday 24th January marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week 2021. During this week we aim to celebrate the unique contribution that Catholic schools, both primary and post-primary, make to supporting each other and living out Jesus' message of the gospel. This year's theme is 'Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience'.

As we live through an unprecedented time of challenge and uncertainty, our faith and our resilience can be tested. We can ask questions like 'Will things ever be the same again?', 'When can we get back to normality?', 'Where is God in all of this?'

In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities of faith and resilience. In Catholic schools, we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Catholic schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give love and receive love. This love is bound in faith and is more resilient than any virus.

While each Catholic school is such a community, every Catholic school fosters the holistic development of its students, promotes their wellbeing and offers them cultivation of a deeper, loving relationship with God. Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us. This week, we celebrate the gifts and talents we have in following Jesus' teaching. This year we celebrate how we are called to be communities of faith and resilience, through our thoughts, words and actions. In doing so, we live out the meaning of the beautiful hymn *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Where charity and love are, God is there.*

Our prayer for each and every person in our school communities is:

When evil darkens our world, give us light.

When despair numbs our souls, give us hope.

When we stumble and fall, lift us up.

When doubts assail us, give us faith.

When nothing seems sure, give us trust.

When ideals fade, give us vision.

When we lose our way, be our guide.

That we may find serenity in your presence, and purpose in doing your will.

John D Rayner