

PORTSTEWART PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community



25 April 2021 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Day of Prayer for Vocations
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

Sunday: Vigil 5.00pm, Sunday 10.00am & 7.00pm
Monday: Mass at 9.30am
Tuesday: Mass at 7.00pm
Wednesday – Saturday: Mass at 9.30am
**Please book for all weekend Masses,
either by phoning Emer 07709 043921
or online at EVENTBRITE**
No booking is required for weekdays.

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.

MASSES IN PORTRUSH

Saturday vigil at 6pm, Sunday at noon
No Monday Mass this week
Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 7pm, Thursday 9am,
Friday 9.30am

THE POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

Fundamental Rights: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

REST IN PEACE

RECENTLY: Valerie Wilton
ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Davies (25), Anne Marie Donnelly, Eileen Madden (26), Fr James McGonigle, Frank McGonigle (27), Una Bannon, Stephen McGonigle, William McAdorey (28), Frank Hart (29), Colette Gaile, Seirse McKinney (30), Olaf Bond (1) Brigid Mullan

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



This is Good Shepherd Sunday, a day of special prayer for the work of service in the Church.

LORD OF THE HARVEST,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.

Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving – for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace.

AMEN

Pope Francis

A WEEK OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

Good Shepherd Sunday to

The Feast of St Joseph the Worker

Good Shepherd Sunday is a day to celebrate the vocation of Priesthood. We invite everyone in the Diocese to pray this week for all vocations and, at this time, to pray especially for vocations to the priesthood in our Diocese of Down and Connor. Our week of prayer will close on the Feast of St Joseph the worker. In this Year of St Joseph, we ask especially for his intercession as we seek to hear God's dream for our lives and for the grace to dedicate ourselves, in service and fidelity, to Christ and His teachings. A vocation is a wonderful call from God. It is something to be cherished and followed. A vocation is never to be feared. The first words that Saint Joseph heard in a dream were an invitation not to be afraid, because God remains ever faithful to his promises: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid."

Do not be afraid - these words the Lord also addresses to each one of us. He repeats these words as we seek to follow His will every day. Do not be afraid - these words are a refrain accompanying all those who say "yes" to God with their lives, through their faithfulness each day. This week we pray especially for those discerning a vocation and for families, schools and parish communities who are creating environments of joy, where vocations can flourish and be nurtured. We trust that our prayers will support the men of our Diocese who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. We pray that, with generosity, they can respond to the Lord's call to "Come follow me!"

Fr Kevin McGuckien Vocations Director Diocese of Down & Connor

If you are thinking about the priesthood, we encourage you to phone or send an e-mail to Fr Kevin.

☎ 90614567 vocations@downandconnor.org

WELCOME BACK

We welcome all who are able to attend Mass and remember the intentions of all who cannot yet be with us. Please enter by the main door. Wear a face mask when you come and follow the directions of the stewards regarding sanitizing your hands and choosing a seat. For your safety, the toilets remain closed. If you think you might need to use the toilet during Mass, please notify a steward.

The church is open for private prayer from 10am-12 noon on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings.

TRÓCAIRE’S LENTEN APPEAL

All donations from the public in NI made before 16th May will be matched pound for pound by the UK government, up to £2m. Supporters who sign up for a monthly gift, or increase their monthly gift before the 16th May deadline, will have three instalments matched. These matched funds will help thousands of people in South Sudan. If you haven't yet returned your Trocaire box, please leave it back in the Parish Office as soon as possible. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Total so far collected in Star of the Sea: £5591



ALPHA COURSE ONLINE

You are invited to Alpha online on **Thursday evenings at 8pm**. The course is an opportunity to explore questions around faith, life and meaning. Use this link to join: <https://CFC.alpha.online> For more information, please ring Ernestine ☎ 7083 1000 All welcome!

LECTIO DIVINA FOR THE EASTER SEASON

Mondays at 7.30pm until 17th May

Lectio Divina offers an opportunity to gather together to pray with Scripture, share insights and to deepen our personal relationship with God through contemplating His Word. Deacon Terence, Frank and Curtis will be facilitating

a new program this Easter. To join, please e-mail: t.butcher@downandconnor.org for the zoom link.

Or use: https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/tuK_CmEjQTj9jYSGyTIA?domain=uso2.web.zoom.us

VIATORES CHRISTI

Overseas Volunteers Training Course September 2021

Viatores Christi, a faith-based development organisation has specialised in the recruitment, training and deployment of overseas volunteers since 1960. VC runs an **online volunteer preparation course** covering Community Development, Health, Global Awareness, Mission, etc. **This is open to all.** If you want to know more, visit www.vcvolunteers.ie or email: info@viatoreschristi.com

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Recently we were invited to participate in an initiative providing meals for members of our Parish community in partnership with the Portstewart community group who had secured some funding. We were asked to identify participants who we selected for various reasons. We are happy to say that it was a great success and helped us identify an immediate need in our community. Therefore we intend to continue providing meals once a week to anyone who will benefit by being included! Would you like to get involved? We need to put a team together to help us prepare the meals in our kitchen in the parish centre and then deliver them. We also need your help to identify those who fulfil the broad criteria. If you can help in this extremely worthwhile enterprise please get in touch! Deacon Terence ☎ 07783 117077 or 7083 3548. Email: Terrence.butcher@btinternet.com

PARISH HYMN REQUESTS

If you have any particular favourites you would like to hear Bernard sing following the Sunday 10am Mass, please contact him: ☎ 07866 281826

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Portstewart Parish Confirmation:
Wednesday 26th May at 5pm

First Holy Communion:
Please choose a Sunday Mass from 29th May onwards or Sunday 13th June at 12.30pm

Due to covid-19 protocols places are limited. You must contact the parish office to reserve your places for any of these events.

