

PORTSTEWART PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

26th December 2021
Sunday C/Weekdays 1

Fr Austin McGirr PP 7083 2534 / 07739 223295

Email: pp@portstewartparish.co.uk

Fr Raymond McCullagh – Ulster University and

Dominican College Chaplain 07739 223293

Deacon Terence Butcher 7083 3548

Parish Secretary: Ruth McGuckian 7083 2534


Email: secretary@portstewartparish.co.uk

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chairperson: Emer O’Keeffe 07709 043921

Email: portstewartpastoralcouncil@gmail.com

SVP Helpline: 07508 549572

 Star of the Sea Portstewart
portstewartparish.website

REST IN PEACE
RECENT: Claire Hughes, Anna May Millar, Joseph McCotter
ANNIVERSARIES: Jody Fitzsimons, Hugh McGarry (27), Mary Hughes, Agnes McCullagh (28), Jack & May Lavery, Edward McGuinness (29), Annie Lavery, Fr Liam Mullan, George O’Connell (30), Michael McGlade, Seamus Mulholland, Rose Murphy (31)

MASS IN PORTRUSH THIS WEEK
Monday– Saturday: 10am.
Saturday 1 January: Vigil Mass at 6pm
Sunday 2 January: Mass at 12 noon


MASS IN ST MALACHY’S, COLERAINE THIS WEEK
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am
Saturday 1 January: Vigil Mass at 6pm
Sunday 2 January: Mass at 11am
Masses will be held in St Malachy’s Parish Centre

FACE MASKS IN STAR OF THE SEA
It remains mandatory for anyone attending Mass in our Church to wear a mask at all times.

All Masses in Star of the Sea 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.

Please book for all weekend Masses, either by phoning Emer 07709 043921 or online at EVENTBRITE

THIS WEEK IN STAR OF THE SEA	
	
Sun 26 December The Holy Family	Mass 10.00 am
Mon 27 December	NO MASS
Tues 28 December The Holy Innocents	Mass 12.00 noon
Wed 29 December	Mass 12.00 noon
Thurs 30 December	NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Fri 31 December	Mass 12.00 noon
Sat 1 January	Mass for Peace 12.00 noon Vigil Mass 5.00pm
Sun 2 January	Mass 10.00am
Please book for all Masses during Christmas week	

ACT OF PERFECT CONTRITION
During the pandemic, it is not possible to make an individual confession with the priest. Through an act of Perfect Contrition, you can receive the forgiveness of your sins outside of confession, providing that you determine to correct your life and make a firm resolution to go to sacramental confession as soon as it is once more available.

- In reality or in your mind, kneel at the foot of a crucifix and mentally repeat: *Jesus, my God and my Saviour, in the midst of your agony you remembered me, you suffered for me, you wanted to purify me from my sins.*
- Contrition is ‘perfect if you repent of your sins because you love God and you sincerely regret having offended him and having contributed to Christ’s sufferings on the Cross.
- Recite, slowly and sincerely, an act of contrition focusing on the goodness of God and your love for Jesus: *O my God, since you are so good, I am sincerely repentant for having sinned against you, and with the help of your grace I will no longer sin. Amen*



SPONSORED SWIM

The Apostolic Work Group are holding their **Sponsored Swim on New Year’s Day at 10am on Portstewart Strand.** Contact:

☎ Teresa 7083 3605 Mona 7083 2143 or Mary 7083 5353
There are still a few crocheted baby blankets and cardigans for sale. Please ask Teresa.

Apostolic Work supports our missionaries ministering to some of the poorest people in the world. Please help us to make a difference, especially in these difficult times.



GIVE A CHILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

With an increase in children and young people needing foster homes across Northern Ireland, we really need you now. Every child deserves to have a happy, loving and safe home where they’ll feel cared for, valued and supported. It’s always the right time for fostering. ☎ 0800 0720 137 adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net



BISHOP TREANOR’S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2021

“... they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.”
(Mt 2:9)



The Christmas Star then and now

The infancy narratives in St Luke’s gospel (Lk 1:1-2:52) fascinate in so many ways. Whether child or adult, imagination is fired, life experiences are evoked, and faith is awakened or revived for many. On that first Christmas in Bethlehem many journeys of faith came together in adoration of the Christ-child. Guided by the light of a star and discerning the path to follow, shepherds and wise men encountered God incarnate in a child. Falling to their knees in worship and prayer, a new light illuminated their minds and lives. As each arrived at the manger, ‘heart spoke unto heart’ as they encountered the human face of God and the divine face of humanity. This was a graced moment of divine revelation that would change their lives forever. Today, the light of that Christmas star beams into our lives, wherever we are on our own life’s journey.



Mary and Joseph: parenting in uncertain times

For their part, Mary and Joseph had already made their journey to the town of Bethlehem. It was a journey marked by hardship and hope, abandonment and promise, desperation and providence. Indeed, many of us can see aspects of our own lives mirrored in their difficult journey. Despite their fears and the uncertainty of their situation, Mary and Joseph opened their hearts to welcome this precious little infant into the world. Their humble cooperation with God’s plan of salvation led to the most graced moment of human history, when the eternal God took on human flesh. The birth of this child brought joy and new hope into the world. Still, Mary and Joseph had many more journeys to make together. They had to leave for Egypt to protect the Christ-

child from the threat of suffering and death. They returned to Nazareth where they made themselves a home. They accompanied the child to the temple in Jerusalem. Each journey was fraught with hardship and adversity, yet each journey was also a moment of grace.



Journeying Together in faith on a Synodal Pathway

To enliven communities of faith in each diocese throughout the world, Pope Francis has invited us to undertake together a ‘synodal pathway’. On that pathway, guided by the light of divine revelation, and in response in our time to the impulse of the Holy Spirit, we are invited to contribute to shaping our communities of faith as active centers of prayer and worship and as an outreach of God’s loving care for all and especially to those in need and on the margins of life. Pope Francis describes this synodal approach as a way of living the Good News of the Gospel within the community of the Church for the good of humanity and society. As on that first Christmas morning, listening together to and reflecting upon the Word of God will enable us to focus on the reality of God’s presence among us and to incarnate our faith in prayer and pastoral action. Over this festive season, I encourage you to join our parish communities either in person or online and to pray for one another, for your families and friends. Let us continue to hold in prayer all health care workers and front-line staff as they selflessly and tirelessly continue to care for our sick throughout the Christmas season. May the blessings of the Christmas Season bring hope and joy into your hearts and homes and provide the light for your pathway throughout the New Year 2022.

+ Noel Treanor
Bishop of Down and Connor

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Gracious God,
you sent your Son to be born in an ordinary family with ancestors who were both faithful and sinful. We ask your blessing upon all families within households and communities. We pray especially for the unity of the Christian family so that the world may believe. In Jesus’ name we pray Amen.

PARISH BULLETIN

If you have any item for inclusion in the parish weekend bulletin, email: secretary@portstewartparish.co.uk or ☎ 7083 2534 by 5pm on Thursday please.