

# PORTSTEWART PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community



## SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

2nd January 2022

Sunday C/Weekdays 1 Psalter Week 2

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

## MASSES THIS WEEK

Saturday Vigil at 5pm, Sunday at 10am

The 7pm Sunday Mass recommences  
next week Sunday 9th January

Tuesday: Mass at 7.00pm

Wednesday: Mass at 9.30am



Epiphany

6th January

## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

This is the day when we celebrate the arrival of the “wise men from the East” representing the world community for whom Christ was born as Saviour.

Vigil Mass Wednesday at 7pm

Thursday Mass at 9.30am

## NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION THIS WEEK

Friday – Saturday: Mass at 9.30am

The church is open for private prayer on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10am – 12 noon

## REST IN PEACE

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Kitty D’Arcy, Teresa Eastwood, Ann Rimmington, Joaquin Twomey (1), Johnny Madden, James Orrell (2), Marie Kennedy (3), Lily O’Doherty (4), Vincent McAreavey (5), Michael Lagan (6), Alfred J Donnelly, Annie Gray, Ann Rimmington (7), Patsy McCrory (8), Jadwiga Tyszka

## MASS IN PORTRUSH

Saturday Vigil at 6pm, Sunday at noon

No Mass Monday & Tuesday

Wednesday 7pm

Thursday 9am in Portrush, 10.30am in Bushmills

Friday 9.30am

## MASS IN ST MALACHY’S, COLERAINE

Saturday vigil at 6pm, Sunday at 11am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am

Mass will be held in St Malachy’s Parish Centre during church renovations

## THE POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

### For true human fraternity:

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

## 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*



## 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

## 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

## DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS 2021

Living Youth	£436
Sick & Retired Priests	£615
Needy Parishes	£702
Catholics in the Holy Land	£951
Trocaire Lent & Autumn Collections	£9255
Diocesan Students to the Priesthood	£739
Peter’s Pence (Pope’s Collection)	£695
Cathedral Fund	£732
World Mission Sunday	£2641
Bishop’s Commissions	£620

Thank you for your generosity and support

WISHING YOU A  
BLESSED  
NEW YEAR