

PORTSTEWART PARISH

Part of the North Connor Pastoral Community



31st July 2022

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday C/Weekdays 2 Psalter Week 2

Fr Austin McGirr PP 7083 2534 / 07739 223295

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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 5.00 pm

Sunday at 10.00am

Tuesday: Mass at 7.00pm

Wednesday – Saturday : Mass at 9.30am

Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday
from 10am – 5pm

All Masses in Star of the Sea are streamed online
on the parish website 'Watch Live' or YouTube.

MASS IN PORTRUSH

Sunday at noon

Wednesday at 10.30am

MASS IN ST MALACHY'S, COLERAINE

Saturday vigil at 6pm, Sunday at 11am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 10am

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST
We pray for small and medium sized businesses;
in the midst of economic and social crisis may they
find ways to continue operating and serving
their communities.



REST IN PEACE

RECENT: Mary Tosh, Joan Neil

ONE YEAR AGO: Margaret Graham

ANNIVERSARIES: Kathleen French, Mary Floyd (30),
Annie Kerr, Kevin Killen, Lisa Proctor (31), Maary Brolly,
Mae Gilmore, Sarah Teresa Higgins (1), Susan Collins,
Brian O'Kane, Patricia Trainor (3), Michael Collins,
Margaret Gilloway, James McMullan (4), Veronica
McCloy, Betty McHugh, Baby Edward McKinley, James
McMullan (5)

SAFETY REGULATIONS IN STAR OF THE SEA

The main body of the church is now open.

If you are still unhappy about attending Mass without
social distancing, we will try to seat you in
the Baptistry, which remains roped.

Please Emer 07709 043921 if you wish to sit here.

As always, those whose health is vulnerable or who
are unwell will not be under any obligation to attend
Mass. Please continue to wear a mask in the church
to protect yourself and others.



THANK YOU

The collection for the Holy Ghost
Missionary appeal last weekend
has so far raised £935.00

If you still wish to donate,
please leave your envelope back
in the Parish Office

by Wednesday 3rd August. Thank you.

LEGION OF MARY PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK



The Legion of Mary are hoping to
organise a one-day pilgrimage to Knock in
September. We need to know how many
people would be interested in joining the
trip before booking a bus. If you would
like to know more, or put your name
down on the list, please contact Alice:

☎ 07851 749547



YOUTH 2000

Join over 1000 young
people between 16 and
35 this August at the
Youth 2000 Summer

Festival in Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co Kildare
from Thursday 11th August to Sunday 14th August
2022. For more information and to book your place go
to: www.youth2000.ie



DOWN & CONNOR SINGING FOR BOYS

SUMMER MUSIC COURSE 2022

Monday 8 August – Friday 12 August

St Dominic's Grammar School

135 Falls Road, Belfast BT12 6AE

This 5-day course is aimed at boys aged 8-16 who want
to improve their singing voice and musical skills.

Email: schola@downandconnor.org



ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

United against Dementia

An online series of free talks and information
sessions for anyone who cares for someone with
dementia, has a family member or friend with
dementia or anyone who has questions about dementia.
Wednesday mornings in August from 10.30-11.30am.
To book or find out more ☎ 07730 195234 or email:
lisa.hendley@alzheimers.org.uk

JOIN ACCORD NI



Accord NI are now recruiting
volunteer facilitators. Training will be
provided in presenting and
facilitating Accord's Marriage
Preparation Programmes. For more
information, please contact Brenda:

☎ 9023 233002 or email: info@accordni.com

SPECIAL DAYS IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Thursday 4th August:
St John Vianney,
Priest. Patron Saint of
Parish priests



Saturday 6th August:
The Transfiguration of the Lord

PARISH BULLETIN

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

LICENCE TO CHILL

This is a personal word of appreciation to you as I leave this
Parish on Friday 5th August. I have had a very happy,
fulfilling and challenging sixteen and a half years as Parish
Priest with you and Canon Law requires 75 year old PP's to
offer their resignation to the Bishop of the diocese.
Thankfully, he accepted it. I say thankfully because over
the past few years my energy hasn't been the same, while
conversely the burden of work tripled with the addition of
the administration of Coleraine and Portrush parishes. This
has meant attending meetings in two other parishes as
well as my own, and all the other duties which arise in
parish life. The appetite grew for doing less! The zest for
being a priest has not diminished; the appetite for breaking
the bread of the Word as well as breaking the bread of the
Eucharist, the appetite for welcoming people into the
embrace of God's love in the Sacraments, is still strong.
What I know I'm going to miss is the joy of being part of a
conscious, active, participative congregation at Mass,
singing, praying and processing for the Eucharist. People
that I have grown to know from various encounters such
as weddings, funerals, baptism, confessions, and chats
outside after Mass. To those people who encouraged me,
sent me Christmas cards, wished me "Happy Fathers' Day"
I say "your prayers and encouragement were very much
appreciated. Thank you." I must offer my thanks and
prayers to Fr Raymond as he takes up new responsibilities
as PP in St Agnes' Parish in Andersonstown. He was the
living bridge between Fr Brian Mullan's term as PP and my
own. He's a big-hearted, wise man and a real brother. A
big "thank you" to the staff in the Parochial House, to the
best secretary in the diocese, Ruth McGuckian, to Monica
Hughes, the best housekeeper in the diocese, both of
them putting up with me for a large proportion of their
recent lives! Thanks and God bless to our Permanent
Deacon Terence Butcher in his various works of mercy in
the area. To our sacristan Ella McKenna and all who
volunteered to work with us at Easter, Christmas – thank
you. Thank you to all the other employees in the three
parishes for their generous service to the church. To all the
volunteers who have enriched the life of our triangle
parishes over the years in Parish Pastoral Council, Finance
Committee, Safeguarding Committee, Covid-19 Committee
– the list is a long one - thanks. This energy feeds from the
Eucharist and is offered as a gift to God and His Church.
The baton of PP is being handed on to a younger man, Fr
Kevin McGuckien from Randalstown, who has been PP of
Hannahstown and curate in Ballycastle and St Patrick's
Belfast. He is coming into the work here as PP of the three
parishes, which is unique in our diocese and more than my
original brief. God's grace never fails is achieving what it
set out to do. I will keep you all in my prayers, especially
the Mass, as I enter into this new phase of my life.

St John Marie Vianney, pray for us. - Fr Austin McGirr