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 Email: pp@portstewartparish.co.uk Deacon Terence Butcher 07783 117077 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 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

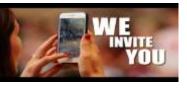
If you still wish to donate, please leave your envelope back in the Parish Office

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: 07851749547



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

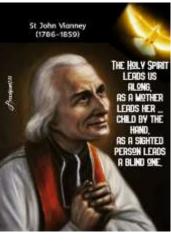


Accord NI are now recruiting volunteer facilitators. Training will be provided in presenting and facilitating Accord's Marriage Preparation Programmes. For more information, please contact Brenda:

🕿 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.

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.

LICENCE TO CHILL

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