# THE PARISHES OF PORTSTEWART, PORTRUSH & BUSHMILLS

**North Connor Pastoral Community** 

Fr Kevin McGuckien PP Telephone: 028 7083 2534 Email: k.mcguckien@downandconnor.org
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

# **MASSES IN OUR PARISHES THIS WEEK**

#### STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH, PORTSTEWART

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5pm
Sunday Mass at 10am
Tuesday Mass at 7pm
Wednesday – Saturday: Mass at 9.30am

# NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING JULY AND AUGUST

CONFESSIONS: Saturday at 10am & 4pm and at 10am on First Friday of the month

#### ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, PORTRUSH

Sunday at 12 noon
Monday, Tuesday & Friday at 10.30am
Eucharistic Adoration:
First Friday of the Month from 11am — 3pm
CONFESSIONS: Friday at 10am

#### ST MALACHY'S CHURCH, COLERAINE

Saturday Vigil at 6.30pm, Sunday at 11am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 10am

#### **OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYMONEY**

Saturday Vigil at 6pm, Sunday at 9.30am & 5pm Monday & Wednesday 10am, Friday 7pm

#### COLLECTIONS

#### **PORTSTEWART**

Last weekend's Parish Church Collection: £1498
Our account details are: Portstewart Parish
Sort Code: 95-04-28 Account number: 91011049
PORTRUSH

Last weekend's Parish Church Collection: £570
Our account details are: Portrush Parish
Sort Code: 95-06-79 Account number: 00254207

Thank you for your generosity and support.
You can also support your parish through a regular standing order or by making a one-off payment through your bank or online.

Please use your name as our reference.

If you haven't already done so, please consider signing a **Gift Aid form** (available from the Parish Office) to increase your donation at no extra cost to yourself.

Thank you.



**PORTSTEWART:** 07508 549572

PORTRUSH: 07508 549574

### **PORTSTEWART**

Parish Secretary: Ruth McGuckian 7083 2534 Email: portstewart@downandconnor.org

# Parish Office Hours 1 – 5 July

Monday and Thursday 9am – 2pm

#### **REST IN PEACE**

RECENT: Jimmy Meyler, Charles Walker, Janneke Kooistra- Van de Meulen, Teresa O'Neill, Doreen McIntyre, Jim Sloan, Malachi McDermott RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Edelle McGlade, Laurence and Pauline Higgins, Vincent McMacken, Eugene Burke, Stuart Wright, Paula Doran RIP

#### **NEXT WEEKEND 6-7 JULY (PORTSTEWART)**

<u>VIGIL</u> Minister of the Word: Seamus O'Hara **Eucharistic Ministers:** Deirdre McCann, Tracy

McMorrough, Mary Loughrey

<u>SUNDAY 10am</u> Minister of the Word: Jane Nugent <u>Eucharistic Ministers:</u> Margaret Conway\* Pat Calvert\* Mark Donaghy\* Terry Butcher



There will be no Children's Liturgy during the months of July and August.

Thank you to all the leaders for their hard work and

dedication throughout the year and to our children who participate so enthusiastically!



#### **ART EXHIBITION**

11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Star of the Sea Parish Centre Thursday 2pm – 8pm

Friday, Saturday & Sunday 11am – 8pm Monday 11am – 5pm Paintings by local artists.

#### **SUMMER SINGING COURSE 5 - 9 August 2024**

St Dominic's Grammar School 135 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6AE

This is a fantastic opportunity for young singers to upskill their singing technique, as well as make new friends! We offer junior and senior classes for boys and girls (aged 8-17), as well as opportunities for mixed group singing. The week concludes with a final showcase in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast. Email cathedralmusic@downandconnor.org for further information. Full fee £35, including refreshments. Scholarships available on request.

# **PORTRUSH**

Fr Patrick Delargy 7082 3388 Email: portrush@downandconnor.org

#### Parish Office Hours 1 - 5 July

Tuesday 9am – 2pm

#### **REST IN PEACE**

**RECENT:** Patty Keegan RIP

ANNIVERSARIES: Frank Mullan, John McMullan RIP

### **NEXT SUNDAY 7 JULY (PORTRUSH)**

Minister of the Word: Marie Conway Eucharistic Minister: Jimmy Friel

#### **ALTAR SOCIETY**

6 – 19 July: Marie McAuley, Marie Conway, Mary McIntyre-Loveridge

# PASTORALREFLECTION BY THE NORTHERN BISHOPS AHEAD OF WESTMINSTER ELECTIONS OF 4 JULY

The forthcoming Westminster elections provide every voter with an opportunity to influence the values and policies that will shape the future of this part of our island for some time. While some hold the principled view that the British parliament should play no part in the affairs of this part of the island, and choose to remain absent from it, the fact remains that, until a majority of citizens choose otherwise, the decisions of the Westminster parliament impact the lives of every person here in a fundamental way. From social welfare to policies for economic growth, from the core funding formula to the respect for the right to life itself, the politicians elected to the next Westminster Parliament will make key decisions profoundly affecting the lives of every one of us on this part of our island. As people prepare to vote on 4th July, we, as Pastors, offer the following reflection based on values which, we believe, come from the example of Jesus and have been developed in Catholic Social Teaching. We begin, however, by appealing to everyone who is able do so, to participate in the democratic process by exercising their hard-won right to vote. Even where there is no candidate who reflects the full range of a voter's values or aspirations, it is still a fundamental Christian duty to maximise the good we can do by taking part in the democratic process.

# To our politicians – give reasons to hope!

As pastors, close to the daily dreams and struggles of people in all kinds of situations, our deepest concern today is not just the important social and economic issues that have dominated the pre-election discourse. We are concerned about a much more fundamental and underlying risk to our society's well-being — a growing breakdown in social cohesion, and hope!

### Sunday B / Weekdays 2 Psalter Week 1

People are constantly saying to us things like 'society is fractured', 'politics is broken', 'life has never been so stressful' and, 'every day is a struggle, like never before'. It is no coincidence that in this environment, our society is also reporting an unprecedented crisis in mental health, not least among younger people and children. Nor is it unrelated that in homes throughout the north, the social 'normalisation' of illegal and legal mind-altering drugs is reaching epidemic levels. People also express concern to us about a growing culture of aggression and lack of civility in all aspects of life, fuelled in particular by the lack of regulation of social media. It is no exaggeration to speak of a crisis of hope in our society!

And so, we encourage all citizens to pose this basic question to candidates in the forthcoming election. What are you going to do to restore hope and civility to our society? What are you going to do to improve the quality and tone of public debate, and to improve social cohesion by modelling shared concern for the common good? What are you going to do to improve the quality of the lives of all, especially the most vulnerable, beyond your own personal or party interest? The well-being of society, especially of the young and most vulnerable, is the fundamental vocation of politics. Few citizens, we believe, would say that our society here is functioning well. We encourage our politicians to strive for a vision of society that brings genuine hope and flourishing to the lives of all. In this election, give us reasons to hope!

#### THERE ARE REASONS TO HOPE!

There is hope – when life is respected!

There is hope – when I can live free from addiction!

There is hope – when all can live with dignity!

There is hope – when I have somewhere decent to live!

There is hope – when I feel welcome and secure!

There is hope – when the faith, community and voluntary sectors are valued and supported!

# There is hope – when there is justice and reconciliation for all!

'Without a vision, the people perish!' This is the famous and ancient insight of the Wisdom tradition of the Old Testament. It holds true to this day. If our political leaders do not give people reasons to hope, if they do not hold out a vision for our society that embraces the basic needs, dignity and inherent worth of all, it should be no surprise that society fractures and confidence in politics is eroded. As Christian leaders, we continue to be inspired and driven by the vision of Jesus, that we might have life and have it to the full (Jn.10:10). We also express our conviction, rooted in the promise of Jesus to be with us to the end of time, that, even yet, there are many reasons to hope!

The full text of the Bishops' message can be found online at www.catholicbishops.ie