

PARISH OF BANAGHER

3rd Sunday of Advent – 13th December 2020

Mass Times for w/c 14th December 2020:

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Mon & Fri: 9.30am; Wed 7.30pm.
St Mary's Church, Altinure: Tues & Thurs: 10.00am
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: Wed & Fri: 7.00pm

Weekend Mass Times for 19th & 20th December:

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: Vigil: 7.00pm. 9.15am
St Mary's Church, Altinure: Vigil: 5.30pm. 10.30am
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: Vigil: 7.00pm. 10.30am

Advent Devotions on Sunday at 6.00pm in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn and St Mary's Church, Altinure.

Christmas Mass 2020 Christmas Eve Masses in all three churches are now fully booked. There is some availability at some Masses on Christmas morning. Please reserve your place in the following ways: Direct Message on Facebook; Email banagherparish@derrydiocese.org ; Telephone Parish Office 028 7778 1223 (Mon-Thurs: 9.30am-12.30pm only). Tickets for Christmas Masses can be picked up from the Parochial House in Feeny for Masses in Fincairn and Altinure - Monday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Mass tickets for Masses in Foreglen can be picked up from Fr O'Reilly's house in Foreglen.

Christmas Mass Times are as follows:

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve: (All Christmas Eve Masses fully booked)
St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 5.30pm & 7.00pm
St Mary's Church, Altinure: 5.30pm & 8.30pm
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: 7.00pm

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: 8.00am & 9.30am (9.30am fully booked)
St Mary's Church, Altinure: 9.30am & 11.00am (11am fully booked)
St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: 10.30am (very limited availability)

Privacy Notice: The Diocese of Derry complies with GDPR regulations. A privacy notice is available on the Parish Website or by contacting the Parish Office. Live stream and recordings of Mass and Services in St Joseph's Church, Fincairn are available online. Parishioners should note that the first three rows of seats are visible online.

Housebound Visitation: Routine home visits to the sick and housebound are still not permitted. If someone is gravely ill and needs a priest, please call the parochial house.

Hospital Visitation: If you have a relative or friend in hospital and they wish to see a priest, please ask a member of the hospital staff to page the Catholic Chaplain. There is always a priest on call to visit. Thank you for your understanding.

Sick, Elderly, Homebound & Shielding Do you have a relative who would normally attend Mass or receive a monthly visit from Fr Micheál and is presently shielding due to COVID-19? If you or another family member who cares for them would like to bring them Holy Communion once per week, please let Fr Micheál know.

Children for Baptism: If you have a child for Baptism, please contact Fr Micheál.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

St Joseph's Church, Fincairn: £Nil St Mary's Church, Altinure: £Nil
St Peter & St Paul's Church, Foreglen: £Nil Online: £900.00
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Online Financial Contributions, for those who wish to, can be made directly to the Parish Bank Account. Sort Code: 95-03-06 Account Number: 51052659. Please indicate your name as a reference on the payment.

Trócaire Gifts of Love Parish Sale If you would like to support Trócaire's work this Christmas, their 'Gifts of Love' will be available to buy after Masses in the run up to Christmas. Trócaire's 'Gifts of Love' are life-changing, practical and ethical gifts that families in overseas communities benefit directly from. There are 17 gifts to choose from starting at £5 for Soap for families in South Sudan. Other gifts include a gift of a Goat for a family in Kenya (£40) or School Lunches, a life line for children in Somalia (£15). You can use the order form in the Trócaire leaflet (available in church porch) and pop this in the box marked Trócaire, at the back of the chapel, Fincairn and Altinure, and collect your gift cards the following week (please provide the correct change so we can keep cash-handling to a minimum). Any additional donations made will go towards their Gift Appeal. Alternatively, please visit Trócaire's website, <https://www.trocaire.org/ways-to-help/gifts/how-it-works/>, to order directly or call them on 0800 912 1200. Electronic cards are also available Trócaire will email these directly to friends and family near and far. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Mass Bouquets are available in Church Sacristies & in Feeny. Priced £1 each.

St. Vincent de Paul Banagher The support you give at this time of year helps families and individuals over Christmas and the winter months ahead. Due to Covid restrictions and to ensure the safety of our members and clients we will not be collecting gifts and hampers ourselves but we will be working in partnership with Benbradagh Christmas Giving Tree and with LCDI community hub for Fare Share to provide gifts and hampers to those in need. We will also give help in the form of vouchers where appropriate. We are accepting financial donations via: Collections boxes at Churches; Blue or White Envelopes in Chapel Porch which can be returned to either the SVP or Parish collection boxes at Mass time or to the Parochial House in Fincairn and Online donations to Danske bank - Account Name: Society of St. Vincent de Paul St Joseph & St Mary's Banagher. Sort Code: 950306 Account no: 31036947. Finally, and of most importance, if you or someone you know is struggling or in need of assistance please call our Confidential Helpline **07593954973**

The Net: The December edition of The Net is now available online, on www.derrydiocese.org. As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read The Net, on the diocesan website, at your convenience.

Youth 2000 Christmas E-Retreat will take place from the 18th - 20th of December. Registration is now free on www.youth2000.ie. 'Let His glory fill the earth' Psalm 72:19

Simon Community During the last nine months 'home' is a word that we have heard a lot and where many of us have spent more time than usual. A safe place to call home has never been more important. Each day, approximately another 50 people become homeless here in Northern Ireland, and we only expect this to rise with the economic impact of coronavirus -for many, this winter will be their first without a home.

Last year, because of the help we received, we: Supported 3,685 people who were homeless; enabled 106 young people to successfully live independently or reconnect with family; answered 18,169 calls to our 24/7 emergency helpline from those facing homelessness. Each night this December, Simon Community will provide 388 warm, safe beds for those with no home. They will be adults, children and families, all anxious and frightened for their future. If you can, please consider making a donation to help those without a home in Northern Ireland - £10 could give the gift of a Christmas dinner to one of our residents; £15 could provide additional hygiene products, such as soap and disinfectant, to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus and £20 could pay for emergency food, heat or clothes to those who need it most. You may contact us at anytime for further information. Please call us via 028 9023 2882, mobile 07590 594241, email us via amandascott@simoncommunity.org or write to us using the following address; 25 - 27 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DS. Thank you.

Saint this week. Monday 14th December: St John of the Cross, 1542 - 1591, a Carmelite who, despite opposition and monastic imprisonment, worked tirelessly spreading the reform of the Carmelites, initiated by St Teresa of Avila. Amongst the reforms were the restoration of the purity of the Carmelite Order by reverting to the observance of its "Primitive Rule" of 1209, which had been relaxed by Pope Eugene IV in 1432. Under the Rule, much of the day and night were to be divided between the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours, study and devotional reading, the celebration of Mass and periods of solitude. In the case of friars like St John, time was to be spent evangelising the local population around the monastery. There was to be total abstinence from meat and months of fasting; long periods of silence; more simple, coarser, shorter habits were worn and friars went barefoot, hence the followers of Teresa were immediately distinguishable from traditional Carmelites. St John of the Cross was a man of prayer and an outstanding poet who wrote the poem, later named 'Dark Night of the Soul' which narrates the journey of the soul to mystical union with God and a collection of aphorisms now published under the title 'Sayings of Light and Love' intended as a starting point for prayer and reflection. A spiritual writer, St John of the Cross was declared one of thirty-six doctors of the Church.

Employment Opportunities:

Safeguarding Coordinator (2-year fixed term contract) Diocesan Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop Street, Derry. 14 hours per week – Monday and Tuesday £27, 905 - £29,636 pro rata per annum.

Designated Liaison Person, Derry Diocesan Office, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, 14 hours per week - Monday and Tuesday. £27, 905 - £29,636 pro rata per annum

For an application pack for either position please contact: Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP, telephone 02871262302 or email: payroll@derrydiocese.org. Completed applications must be returned to Personnel, Bishop's House, St Eugene's Cathedral, Francis Street, Derry, BT48 9AP or via email to payroll@derrydiocese.org no later than 5.00pm on 06.01.2021. Derry Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from all men and women and from members of all communities.

COMMUNITY NEWS

St Canice's Primary School, Feeny are holding a Christmas Raffle Fundraiser in aid of St Vincent de Paul. 2 luxury hampers are up for raffle. Tickets cost £1, available from the School.

St. Canice's P.S Feeny - Is your child due to start Primary 1 in September 2021? Online registration for P1 will open on 7 January 2021 and will close 29 January 2021 @ noon www.eani.org.uk . Please ring the school for a phone appointment with the Principal, Fiona McCann on 028 777 81346 or e mail info@stcanicesps.derry.ni.sch.uk We look forward to hearing from you! Our virtual tour will be posted soon! Check out our website www.stcanicespsfeeny.com

Learmount Community Centre Boys and girls this weekend follow us on facebook and join in the fun helping Santa to find his lost toys around the Community Centre. There's a £25 Smyths Toy voucher to be won. Good luck everyone!
Contact 02877781881 for more details.

St Mary's GAC, Banagher: Lotto Numbers for 8/12/20 were 5,10,14&24. Winning £50 each was Pdraig Campbell & Anne Marie O'Hagan. Thanks very much to everyone who continue to support our club lotto - it's very much appreciated. Next week's jackpot is £2,200. Monster Christmas Bingo is today Sunday 13th December at 4pm - £6000 in total prize money.

Advent Prayer Resources: A series of Prayer resources for Advent has been created by the diocese, in conjunction with the Northern Pastoral Network, and the Catechetical Centre, for family prayer at home during the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. These resources contain lots of creative ideas and tips to help families and parishes during the Season of Advent.

A family prayer booklet has been compiled specifically with families in mind. The Gospel for each Sunday of Advent is accompanied by a family activity, prayers and a reflection. The booklet can be downloaded at this link: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/advent-prayer-service-for-use-at-home>

NOTE: The booklet is available in artwork format suitable for commercial printing. The printer's specification and artwork can be downloaded at: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/advent-prayer-service-for-use-at-home>

Family activities for Advent including prayers, how to create a Jesse Tree, an Advent Wreath and lots more are available to view on the Catechetical Centre website at: <https://catecheticalcentre.org/family-resources/preparing-our-hearts-for-christmas-advent-resources/>

PARISH CLERGY

Fr Micheál McGavigan Adm. JV
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Tel: 028 7778 1223

Email: mcgavigan@derrydiocese.org

Retired Priests Residing in the Parish

Fr Seamus O'Connell PEm
028 7778 1228

Fr Michael Collins PEm.
028 7778 1776

Fr Arthur O'Reilly PEm.
028 7133 8261

CONTACT US

To arrange a Baptism, Wedding or Anniversary Mass, please call Fr Micheál or the secretaries on 028 7778 1223 or email banagherparish@derrydiocese.org

Bulletin notices should be emailed to banagherparish@derrydiocese.org

Mass is Live and Recorded on the Webcam at www.banagherparish.com

SVP Confidential Helpline: 07593954973