



## Parish of the Three Patrons

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: YEAR B - 13th DECEMBER 2020

### Parish Clergy

Fr Michael McCaughey PP – 028 71262360 – [stpatricks@threepatrons.org](mailto:stpatricks@threepatrons.org)

Fr Gerard Mongan CC – 028 71351261 – [stbrigids@threepatrons.org](mailto:stbrigids@threepatrons.org)

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Franciscan Friars of the Renewal - 028 71419980 - facebook: [derryfranciscans](https://www.facebook.com/derryfranciscans)

[www.threepatrons.org](http://www.threepatrons.org) [threepatronsfacebook](https://www.facebook.com/threepatronsfacebook)

### A Bearer of Light

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent Journey. We hear his story again but this time from the fourth Gospel. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth Gospel and in its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light bearer, he is not *the* light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete which means 'rejoice'. We light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. As our world continues to battle this pandemic, there is much fear about. People might not feel like celebrating or being joyful. But nature shows us that Spring always follows Winter. Like John, we are called to be light-bearers. To carry Christ's love and light to those we meet in our daily lives. Our world needs light-bearers, especially in these Winter months. It might be a good opportunity to ask today 'Who have been the light bearers for me in these past months? And also, 'To who can I carry light to this week?' In this way we observe Christ's ongoing incarnation in the world today.

*'Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend .. They bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome.'*

*Michel de Verteuil*

***May our good and gracious God have mercy on us all,  
forgive us our sins and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.***



**A Eucharistic Healing Service** - you are invited to join us in prayer at St Brigid's Church, Carnhill each Sunday of Advent at 5pm. We ask people to respect social distancing.

**The Annual Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help** takes place in St Joseph's Church, Galliagh on Monday at 11am Mass and continues every Monday until 21st December. Everyone is welcome to join us for the Novena via St Joseph's Church webcam.

**Christmas Mass Cards are now** available at St Joseph's Church, Galliagh on weekdays from 10am - 10.30am and 11.30am - 12.30pm. The cards are available at St Patrick's, Pennyburn after 7.30am and 10am Mass & St Brigid's, Carnhill after 9.30am Rosary.

You and our loved ones will be remembered at a Triduum of Masses offered over the Christmas Season. You are asked to continue to respect social distancing. Thank you.

**Supporting Your Parish** Thank you for your ongoing generosity to the offertory collection through envelope, standing order, online payments and the 'donate' button on our parish website. Your support is greatly appreciated. Boxes are available in our three churches to return your parish envelopes. If you require information about any of the above methods of supporting Three Patrons Parish, please contact the parish office - [stpatricks@threepatrons.org](mailto:stpatricks@threepatrons.org) or 028 71262360. The bank account details for the parish is sort code: 90 49 74; account number: 51442271.



*We invite you to join us via webcam in Three Patrons' Parish by watching our live streaming which can be viewed online at [churchservices.tv/pennyburn](http://churchservices.tv/pennyburn), [churchservices.tv/carnhill](http://churchservices.tv/carnhill), [churchservices.tv/galliagh](http://churchservices.tv/galliagh) or the parish website at [www.threepatrons.org/webcam](http://www.threepatrons.org/webcam).*

### ***ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, PENNYBURN***

#### **Sunday 13th December - Third Sunday of Advent**

**6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 8.00 am, 10.00 am & 12.00 noon: Mass**

**Monday - 7.30 am: Mass; 9.40 am: Rosary; 10.00 am: Mass;**

**7.00 pm: Monthly Mass in honour of St Pio**

#### **Tuesday - Friday**

**7.30 am: Mass; 9.40 am: Rosary; 10.00 am: Mass**

**Saturday 9.40 am: Rosary; 10.00 am: Mass**

#### **Sunday 20th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**6 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 8 am, 10 am & 12 noon: Mass**



### ***ST BRIGID'S CHURCH, CARNHILL***

#### **Sunday 13th December - Third Sunday of Advent**

**6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 10.30 am & 12.30 pm: Mass;**

**5.00 pm: Eucharistic Healing Service**

**Monday - Friday - 9.00 am: Mass followed by Rosary**

#### **Sunday 20th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**6.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 10.30 am & 12.30 pm Mass**

**5.00 pm: Eucharistic Healing Service**



### ***ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GALLIAGH***

#### **Sunday 13th December - Third Sunday of Advent**

**7.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 9.00am & 11.00 am: Mass**

**Monday - Rosary 10.30am; 11.00 am: Mass, including Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.**

**Tuesday - Friday Rosary 10.30am followed by Mass 11am**

Please visit the Franciscan Friars' facebook 'derryfranciscans'

#### **Sunday 20th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**7.00 pm: (Sat) Vigil; 9.00am & 11.00 am: Mass**

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From midnight on Friday 11th December the Government has lifted the ban on churches opening for acts of worship. The guidance as it applies to churches is as follows:

1. Churches are permitted to open in line with relevant guidance. Numbers attending acts of worship will be determined by the risk assessment. A limit of 15 applies to other activities being held in a place of worship. It is mandatory to wear face coverings inside the building and when entering and exiting. This does not apply to the person leading worship or to a couple who are at a ceremony to solemnise their marriage. Face covering exemptions also apply. Social distancing and appropriate protective measures are of vital importance;
2. Funerals can continue to take place, in line with relevant guidance. The size of the venue will determine the maximum number that can attend the Service safely whilst observing social distancing of at least two metres, wherever possible. Any mourner displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend a funeral, as they pose a risk to others.

Please continue to observe social distancing, and use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the Church. It is very important at this time that we pray asking God for protection.

## AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



*"My Jesus, I believe that you desire to make your home within me and that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace your love as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen."*

### Christmas Masses in the Three Patrons Parish

Again we remind people that those attending Christmas Masses in Parish of the Three Patrons will need a ticket. We acknowledge that some people will find this difficult to understand, however, in respect to government guidelines restricting numbers in church settings this is necessary to allow those who feel it safe to do so to come along to church. Others may feel more comfortable to stay at home and view Masses via the webcam.

We respect the preference of people but in coming into the church you will need a ticket – already many people have booked for Masses, we thank them and an update on where to collect tickets will be answered next weekend. In the meantime, if other people wish to book tickets, please do so by telephone 02871 162885 or email [christmasmassthreepatrons@gmail.com](mailto:christmasmassthreepatrons@gmail.com) thank you for your cooperation. We assure people of prayers at this time, please note the some Masses in the three churches are now full, but there seats still available at the other times.

**Requiescant in Pace** Charlie Herron, Marlborough Road; Patrick Corey, Burnfoot.

**Anniversaries and Birthday Memorials** Annie Henry; Frank McAdams; Maureen Harvey; Myra Bonner; Betty Shannon; Grace McBrearty; Tony Bryne; Jim McLaughlin.



**Anniversary Masses and Prayers** If you wish to have an anniversary Mass offered or a Mass or prayers offered for any intention, please email the parish offices at [stpatricks@threepatrons.org](mailto:stpatricks@threepatrons.org); [stjosephs@threepatrons.org](mailto:stjosephs@threepatrons.org) or [stbrigids@threepatrons.org](mailto:stbrigids@threepatrons.org) or telephone the parish offices at St. Patrick's (71262360); St. Joseph's (71352351) or St. Brigid's (71351261).

**Congratulations** We offer our congratulations and God's blessing to David McCallion & Erin Doherty, who were married recently in St Patrick's Church, Pennyburn.

**Saints of the Coming Week: Mon:** St Peter, Canisius, priest and doctor; **Wed:** St John of Kanty, priest

### Readings for Sunday 20th December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Baptist was a voice crying in the wilderness, a voice to invite people into relationship with God. We too are asked to use our voice to make Christ known.

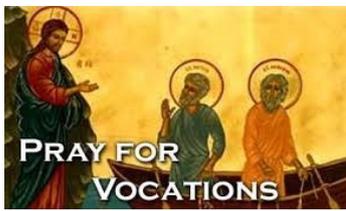
**1st :** 2 sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16. **Psalm:** 88:2-5, 27, 29, R/cf.v **2nd:** 2. Rm 16:25-27. **Gospel:** Lk 1:26-38.

**Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"** - To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021. Against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, the pope says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."



Joseph is described as a father in obedience to God: he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to "do the will of the Father; "an accepting Father," because he "accepted Mary unconditionally"; a creatively courageous father; a father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work - a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family; a father "in the shadows," centred on Mary and Jesus.

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.**



## **“The One who calls you is faithful.” Will you be faithful to His call?**

Listen; God may be inviting you to be a priest or consecrated religious. If you feel God is inviting you, speak to your local priest or your Diocesan Vocations Director, or email the National Vocations Office on [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie)

### **A Prayer for Vocations based on the words of Pope Francis**

**LORD** of the Harvest,

**BLESS** young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.

Open their hearts to great ideals to great things.

**INSPIRE** all of your disciples to mutual love and giving - for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

**INSTILL** those in religious life, parish ministries and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of life consecrated to you.

**UNITE** us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may co-operate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

*Adapted from Pope Francis' Message on the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations*



**A Novena to the Child Jesus** will take place at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca for nine days from Tuesday 15th - Thursday 24th December. Mass will be streamed live each evening on Termonbacca youtube channel. If you want to receive Novena prayers and information please email [termonbaccaderry@gmail.com](mailto:termonbaccaderry@gmail.com)

**Children in Crossfire's Advent Appeal** has begun. You can pick up an Advent box at the back of the churches or donate online: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/advent-appeal>. This year's appeal will raise funds to help provide hand washing and sanitation facilities to 700 schools in Tanzania, especially vital right now. It costs only £20 to provide a whole school with hand sanitiser and cleaning supplies.

**Children in Crossfire** Richard Moore, will be doing a 24 Hour Christmas Fast on 19th December to raise vital funds for their work. If you would like to join the fast or make a donation, please visit Children in Crossfire's Facebook page.

**The Net:** The December edition of The Net is now available online, on [www.derrydiocese.org](http://www.derrydiocese.org). 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.

**Care4Calais Appeal**. This year we need your help more than ever. Items most needed: tents, coats, sleeping bags, hoodies, jumpers, tarpaulins, waterproof walking boots, unlocked mobile phones and chargers, back packs, food etc. Anyone wishing to arrange a drop off or need further details, please contact [clare@care4calais](mailto:clare@care4calais) - the storage point is Longtower Parochial House, Derry.

### **Pandemic prompts 'Let's Get All Generations Connected' campaign**

Greater Shantallow Area Partnership (GSAP) in tandem with many of the city's churches have embarked on a campaign aimed at digitally connecting all of our older people across the city, in a bid to offset the harmful effects of the isolation caused by Coronavirus.

Apart from the horrendous human cost of the pandemic, one of the most insidious effects of Covid-19 has been the dreadful loneliness that it has caused. Older people, perhaps more than any other section of our society, have felt the impact of this. Enforced disconnection from family and friends is of course known to severely impede upon mental health. But, with the use of modern technology, the loneliness caused by a prolonged lack of human contact can be greatly alleviated. While actual human interaction is of course heavily restricted at the moment, it does not mean that we cannot connect virtually.

It is for this reason, that GSAP are launching the "Let's Get All Generations Connected Campaign", in partnership with many local churches and are seeking used or new iPads or monetary donations so that materials, such as dongles, can be provided, which will allow internet connections to be made if none is available. These donations will also be used to pay for IT experts to overhaul iPads in the interests of data protection." For further details telephone: 71358787 or leave your donations at GSAP Unit 3-4 Northside Village, Glengalliagh Road, Derry. BT48 8NN, our office is open from 9am -5pm, Monday to Friday. We encourage parishioners to donate to this very worthy appeal.

**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.

**Advent Prayer Booklet** 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 by visiting: <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/>

**Diocesan Vocation Themed Holy Hours during Advent** The next holy hour will take place in St Mary's Church, Creggan at 6 pm today (Sunday), led by Fr Daniel McFaul. Everyone is welcome to join in prayer for vocations via St Mary's webcam.

**St Vincent de Paul** If you need help we are here to help you in whatever way we can. Please ring us on 028 71265489 or online at <https://svp.ie/get-help/request-help-online.aspx>

**St Vincent de Paul - Christmas Appeal 2020** Christmas time is the busiest time for St Vincent de Paul, giving out lots of toys and food parcels kindly donated by the public. However, this Christmas is going to be different with COVID-19 and government restrictions. The safety of the public and their members is paramount. Therefore, St Vincent de Paul are asking the public that instead of buying a physical toy or items of food that they buy a voucher or make a donation for the amount they were going to spend. If you have any questions or need any help please ring St Vincent de Paul on 028 71265489 or email [svp.derry@svpni.co.uk](mailto:svp.derry@svpni.co.uk).

**Foyle Hospice Lights of Love** As we are unable to gather this year as a community to switch on the Foyle Hospice Christmas tree lights, we are honouring our loved ones a little bit differently with a new, virtual tree. The Lights of Love virtual tree allows us to remember our loved ones with a special dedicated Light of Love. It is easy to do. Just visit our Virtual Christmas Tree at <https://foylehospice.com/getinvolved/fundraising/lights-of-love> where you'll be able to select a light and leave a message of love. Your donation will help us to continue to care for those that we love.

**Christmas Market** Sisters from the St Elisabeth Convent (Minsk, Belarus) are unable to participate in annual Christmas markets this year. They are launching the very first Online Christmas Market at <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market>.

**An Inspired Christmas Gift** Trócaire is again offering Christmas Global Gift Plan - a memorable collection of practical and life changing Christmas gifts which will be delivered directly to hard pressed families in the developing world. This year you can buy a selection of enduring gifts - like goats, chickens, water, school fees, homes and other gifts in a friend's or relative's name. These gifts are available at Veritas, Shipquay Street or [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

**Accord Couples and Relationship Support Line** If you need to speak to an experienced couples and relationships counsellor during this time of unprecedented stress and pressure on family life contact 003531 5313331, 028 956800151 or 003531 9059555. Lines open 9am - 8pm Monday - Friday. All calls charged at local rate.

**Accord Derry Virtual Marriage Preparation Programme Course Dates** January 12th and 13th 2021, February 9th and 10th 2021 and March 9th and 10th 2021. Booking now online at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com).

**AA** Can't Stop Drinking? Call Alcoholics Anonymous 90351222

**Gamblers Anonymous** Is gambling affecting your life? Perhaps we can help. Tel 71351329.

**Children in Crossfire** have a new partnership with Paragon Health, who are based near us in Limavady. Paragon make disposable face masks vital for stopping the spread of COVID-19. They produce a new range of masks from which Children in Crossfire will receive the proceeds. They are kindly covering all production and postage costs, so anyone who buys masks from the Children in Crossfire website will know that the proceeds are going directly to them.