

SAINT PAUL'S PARISH, SHANKILL

OUR PARISH BULLETIN

We extend a warm welcome to all who attend our church. We hope you will find our parish community a place where your life of faith will be nourished. Your prayers, your presence and your talents are most welcome! May God bless all of us.

OUR PARISH CLERGY

Canon Liam Stevenson, PP VF
Telephone: (028) 38323161
Fr Jozef Wozniak, S.Chr
Telephone: (028) 3834 9338
66-70 North Street
Lurgan BT67 9AH

Fr Colum Wright, CC
St Paul's Presbytery
54 Francis Street,
Lurgan BT66 6DL
Telephone: (028) 3832 7173
colum.wright@btinternet.com

Our Parish Deacon: Rev Kevin Devine (028) 3832 3161
Email: deaconkevin628@gmail.com

24-HOUR NUMBER FOR ALL SICK CALLS AND EMERGENCIES
TEL: (028) 3832 3161

Parish web: www.lurganparish.com
Facebook: @lurganparish
Parish App: Parish365
Download App Store or Google Play

Saint Vincent de Paul, William Street:
(028) 3832 5725

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WHO REQUIRE PROTECTION:
Dromore Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mrs Patricia Carville. Tel. 077 8991 7741
Saint Paul's Parish Safeguarding Representative and Parish Sacristan.
Telephone: 07563 293429

CONFESSIONS AND HOLY COMMUNION

Parishioners who wish to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation or to receive Holy Communion, are invited to call in and visit us at
St Paul's Church on Sunday 12th or Sunday 19th December between 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

All Covid 19 regulations will naturally be in place!



ST VINCENT DePAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Our Annual Christmas Appeal is this weekend
Saturday/Sunday 11/12 December.
A member of the Society will speak at all the Masses.

Our appeal for help with food, gifts and toys for distribution to families in need for Christmas continues.

If you have taken a gift tag from the back of the Church please ensure it is on the Christmas gift when you leave it into the Parish Office.

As always we are indebted to you for your wonderful generosity. We thank you and ask God's blessing on you all.



WE HAVE BEGUN OUR ADVENT JOURNEY, a time of patient waiting and joyful hope. We look forward to the celebration of Christmas with quiet expectation and turn our hearts to the Lord with confidence and trust.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic continues, there are many reasons to be both thankful and hopeful. We are grateful to all who have worked tirelessly to protect our health and have cared for those who have fallen ill. We welcome and encourage the ongoing programme of vaccination. It has provided greater protection for people's health, especially that of the most vulnerable. It has also helped to ease the restrictions placed on the social and religious life of our communities and to keep hospital beds free for other essential and urgent medical needs.

We are thankful too for the continuing commitment of so many in our parishes to ensuring that our churches remain safe places where people can gather in confidence to worship. It is important that we remain vigilant, conscious of the threat still posed by the virus and any new variants which may emerge, and continue to take the steps we know will protect our own health and the health of others. Face-coverings should continue to be worn at all gatherings in our churches and parish buildings. High standards of hygiene and ventilation in our churches, and allowing space between ourselves and others, are essential ways in which we can contribute to the health of our parish communities.

The coming of Christ that we celebrate at Christmas brought light into a darkened world, 'a light that darkness could not overpower'. In the dark days of the pandemic, we can be bearers of that light, bringing it into the lives of those who may be living in the shadow of sickness, poverty, homelessness or isolation. We best express our thankfulness through personal thoughtfulness and kindness, and support given to organizations which do so much to help those in need. We urge people to respond generously to the Christmas appeals of Trócaire, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Crosscare and other charities which bring hope into the lives of many people.

As Christmas approaches, we keep especially in our thoughts those who have been bereaved in the past year, and we pray for the gifts of healing and hope for all.

Winter 2021 General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

I WEAR MY MASK IN PUBLIC FOR 3 REASONS

- 1. HUMILITY:** I don't know if I have Covid as it is clear that people can spread the disease before they have symptoms.
- 2. KINDNESS:** I don't know if the person I am near has a child battling cancer, or cares for their elderly mum. While I might be fine, they might not be.
- 3. COMMUNITY:** I want my community to thrive, businesses to stay open, employees to stay healthy, keeping a lid on Covid helps us all.

GENTLE (but powerful) REMINDER

If you have been attending any Mass or any services in St Paul's Church and have suddenly tested positive for Covid, please inform the Parish Office on (028) 3832 1289 or the Parochial House at (028 3832 7173) Thank You!!

In the month of December 2021 (so far), the number of new Covid cases recorded is higher by approximately 1900 as opposed to those recorded in the month of December 2020..... and there is still two weeks to go until Christmas!!!!



TRÓCAIRE - CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF LOVE

With Trócaire Christmas Gifts of Love, together we can help people improve their lives, escape poverty and look forward to a brighter future. There are a range of cards to choose from:

Soap £5, Chicks £7, Solar Lamps £10, Seeds and Tools £10, Girl Power £10, Clean Water £15, School Lunches £15, School Kit £20, Water Filter £35, Mental Health Lifeline £40, Goats £40, Give Grandparents a Hand £40, New Mother's Care Kit £45, Honey Bees £55, Trees £75, Water Flow £85, Independence £85, Human Rights £85, Safe Home £125, Get a Family Farming £170. A pack of 12 Christmas Cards £4.

Cards are now available from the Parish Office.



REMEMBER THEM, O LORD

As parishioners we offer our sincere sympathy, prayers and support to the family members of those who have died recently:

RECENTLY DECEASED

Patsy Hogan, Mary Street
Patrica McAlinden, Richmount Gardens
Raymond Doyle Spain formerly Kilwilkie Road
John Anderson, Collingdale
Madge Scullion, formerly Antrim Road

MONTHS MINDS AND ANNIVERSARIES

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER (7.00PM VIGIL MASS)

Julia Mitchell, Annaloiste Road
Lena May, Silverwood Drive
John McCaherty, Lisburn
Kevin Gallagher, Antrim
Donald Loughran, London
Eileen Mulholland, Ulster Street
George and May Dennis, London
Tommy and Eileen McCrory, London
Alwyn McCrory, London
Patsy Magill, London

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 9.00AM MASS

Edward McCluskey, Shankill Street
Edward Bell
Martin Campbell, Knockeden/Brett Park

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 10.30AM MASS

Brigid Patterson (MM), Thornleigh
Francie and Sheelagh Gorman, Lurgan/Lisburn

MONDAY 13 DECEMBER

Liz Maxwell, Manor Drive
Annie Corey, O'Neill's Terrace

TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER

Jerome Doran, Silverwood Drive
Mary Smyth, Ulster Street

WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER

Jim Smyth, Thornleigh
Dermot McGeown, Island View, Kinnegon
Brian McShane, Conor Park
Molly Williamson, Portadown

THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER

Godfrey Martin, formerly New Street
Kathleen Haddock, Shankill Street
Sheila McCluskey, Woodville Street
Don Lavery, Magheralin/Australia
Catherine Thornbury, Edward Street

FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER

Francis Jordan, Cypress Gardens
Margaret Hoye, Manor Park
Joseph Haddock, Sloan Street
Brid McConville (née McAliskey) Dundalk/Turmoyna
Ailish Black, Portadown
Teresa McDonald, Francis Street
John (Jack) McAvoey
George Hatchell, Silverwood Drive

SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER 10.30am

Pamela Percy, Manor Drive
Brendan Maye, Elmwood Terrace
Colette McMahon, Old Portadown Road
Tom Haddock, Shankill Street
Jeannie Shanks, Dingwell Park
Ellen and Frank McKenna, Edward Street

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD!

Please Note!

Anniversaries and Month's Mind notices that occur up to 9th January 2022 to be left in the Parish Office before 12 Noon on Tuesday 21st December 2021.
Thank You

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ST PAUL'S PARISH MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday

Vigil 7:00pm (Saturday)
9:00am and 10:30am.

Weekdays

Monday to Friday: 10:00am
Saturday 10.30am

Saint Paul's Parish Office

Parish Secretary

Telephone: (028) 3832 1289

Email: office@stpaulsparishlurgan.org

Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.30pm

Requests for Anniversaries/Month's Mind

Notices should be left into the Parish Office on or before 12 noon each **Wednesday** if they are to be included in the Bulletin.

The minimum Diocesan contribution is £10.00.

ADORATION CHAPEL
Edward Street
Private Prayer only
9.00am - 7.00pm

St Paul's Parish Mass Bouquets are now available from the Parish Office.



ST PETER'S PARISH MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday

Vigil 6:00pm (Saturday)
8:00am, 10:00am (po polsku)
and 12 Noon

Weekdays

Monday to Friday: 8:00am
Tuesday: 7:00pm
Friday: 7.00pm
Saturday 9.30am

Saint Peter's Parish Office

Parish Secretary
(028) 3832 3161

office@stpetersparishlurgan.org

Office Hours

Monday 10:00am - 1:00pm and 1:45pm - 4:00pm
Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am - 1.00pm and 1:45pm - 4.00 pm
Friday 9.00am-1.00pm and 1:30pm -2:30pm

BAPTISMS All parents wishing to have a child baptised in St Paul's Parish, must contact the Parish Office by telephone (028) 3832 1289. Baptisms take place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 11.45am and on a Wednesday evening at 6.00pm.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday 5 December 2021 £1,211.32
Thank you for your continued generosity and support to your Parish and your Priests.

TWO SMALL THOUGHTS

On a warm sunny afternoon, a group of workmen began to discuss good and bad memories. As a result of their discussion, a wager was set as to who could remember a poem or a prayer and recite it word for word. A young apprentice stood up and began to recite the 23rd psalm that he had learned some years before at School. As everyone listened, they realised that he had obviously received training in drama, in breathing techniques and in diction. Such was his delivery of the prayer that he recited it a second and third time to thunderous applause. The second man to take part was elderly and stooped, and at times it was even difficult to hear him speaking. As he stood in the corner he recited, 'The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. When he had finished there was total silence as each man bowed his head and began to pray quietly to himself. The young apprentice came over to the old man and shook his hand. 'It is fairly obvious that I know the psalm' he said, 'but more obvious that you know the shepherd.' **How many of us really know Christ?**

An evangelist was preaching to a large crowd of people who were gathered all around him. The evangelist pointed to a huge waterfall in the distance that had a tightrope going across it. He invited the crowd to follow him to the edge of the water and asked them, 'Do you believe that with God's help I can walk across this waterfall?' The crowd all cheered, 'We believe, we believe,' and as the evangelist walked across and back the people clapped and sang aloud, 'Praise God, praise God.' The evangelist had two strong men pass him up a wheelbarrow which he balanced on the tightrope, and he shouted out to the crowd, 'Do you believe that with God's help I can walk across this waterfall wheeling this old barrow?' The crowd once again cheered, 'We believe, we believe,' and as he moved across the water's edge the people raised their hands in the air with great joy and they praised God at the top of their voices. Finally, the evangelist asked the crowd, 'Do you believe that with God's help I can walk across this waterfall wheeling this old barrow with a person sitting inside of it?' The crowd became fanatical and they shouted repeatedly, 'We believe, Lord we believe!' The evangelist held his right hand in the air for silence and called out, 'Let the person who believes, jump in?' **For some strange reason there was no more cheering!**