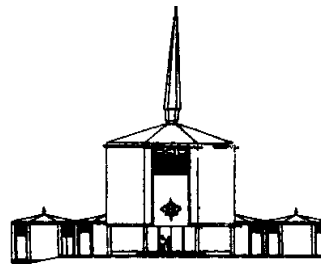


Bulletin



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ 24 December 2017

Fr. Andrew McMahon
(Administrator)

Fr. Colm Wright
Fr. Joseph Wozniak
Fr. Brian Fitzpatrick
Rev. Kevin Devine

St. Paul's: 38 321289 :: St. Peter's: 38 323161

E-mail address: office@stpaulsparishlurgan.org :: Parish Web Site: www.lurganparish.com

Safeguarding Children :: Designated person for Dromore Diocese – Mrs Patricia Carville 07789917741

Emergency Number: (weekends included) Tel: 02838 323161
St. Vincent De Paul, Ozanam Centre, 38325725 :: Bethany Bereavement Team: 07548 991681

Holiday Season Masses

St. Paul's Parish

Tuesday – Saturday,
26th - 31st December, 10.30 am

Mon. 1st Jan. – Fri. 5th Jan. 10am

St. Peter's Parish

Morning Mass: 9.30 am

Parish Office Closed

Monday, 25th December,
reopens, Wednesday, 3rd January,
2018.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

A special thanks to all of you for your very generous donations of food and gifts for our needy families.
May God's blessing be yours this Christmas and New Year.

Legion of Mary

Bookstalls & sales of religious items

The Praesidium 'Our Lady of the Snows' regrets to announce that, as from **Sunday 31st December**, the bookstalls and repositories for religious items in both St Paul's and St Peter's Parishes will close indefinitely. This is due to a shortage of members in the Praesidium to manage and sustain them at this time.
We thank both our parish communities for the support you have given to the Legion and to this important work of promoting and making available religious reading and religious items among parishioners. We greatly regret having to make this decision, at this time, and are very glad to have been of service to you throughout the years.

Advent - Pockets Of Darkness



At a time when daylight is precious and in short supply, with darkness all around us, we celebrate the light and hope of Advent. But there are many pockets of darkness in our world that no amount of Advent candles will dispel. We ponder –

**the darkness in the heart of the man or woman who faces a future of unemployment and emigration;*

**the darkness in the heart of the old person whose short years are fast passing away;*
**the darkness in the heart of the young person who is crushed at the discovery of an unexpected pregnancy;*

**the darkness in the heart of the embezzler and the house-breaker;*
**the darkness in the heart of the adult whose illness has been pronounced terminal;*
**the darkness in the heart of the lonely and the wounded;*

**the darkness in the heart of the woman who has discovered her husband's infidelity;*
**the darkness in the heart of the husband whose wife's love is slipping away from him;*
**the darkness in the heart of an innocent captive, held for ransom by a dangerous criminal;*

**the darkness in the heart of the dangerous criminal who will mutilate for money;*
**the darkness in the heart of the sick and weak, the suffering and the bereaved, the poor and the unwanted.*

Into the darkness we pray, with our Advent cry, that the Lord will come with light and healing.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus.

Dear Parishioners of St Paul's

I would like very much to express my thanks and appreciation to you for your support and friendship during my years as your Parish Priest since 2012.

I thoroughly enjoyed all my years of ministry in Lurgan, from 2003, and give thanks to God for all that we were able to undertake together in that time.

Thank you most sincerely for your constant prayers and expressions of concern throughout the last very difficult three and a half years. These have been greatly appreciated.

I wish you, the clergy and all the people of St Paul's Parish, grace and peace for the coming Christmas season and every blessing for the years ahead.

Monsignor Aidan Hamill

New Diocesan History Journal

A special commemorative journal, marking the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Dromore Diocesan Historical Society, has been recently produced. This very fine, 200-page, publication is on sale for the modest price of **£10** per copy.

Available after all Masses in St. Paul's Church this weekend.

Thanks

to everyone who helped out and participated at the Aghagallon Santa Run for Southern Area Hospice.
Total amount raised: £6,706.36.

Moyraverty

Lourdes Fundraising Committee invite everyone to their *Annual St. Stephen's Day Walk* around The Lakes,
10.30 am at St. Anthony's Hall.
Afterwards *Homemade Soup, Tea, Coffee & Pastries.*

The Feast Of The Twelve Candles & Other Irish Christmas Customs



With a candle for each day since the passing of Christmas, the candles were lit in a circle and the family recited the Rosary whilst kneeling around the flickering flames.

Afterwards, guests were entertained by dancing a jig over crossed belts or willow patterned dishes placed in a four leafed shamrock form on the floor. A scooped out turnip, attractively decorated with frills and evergreens was used to hold the Christmas candle. This was lit by the man of the house on Christmas Eve.

In Kerry, the rule was that a man named John or a woman named Mary had to light it, after a blessing in the name of the Holy Trinity. In country cottages big white tallow candles were carried to the windows so that Mary and Joseph would know that a welcome awaited them inside.

Offertory Collection

£2,207, thank you.

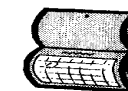
The Very First Christmas Gift-Givers



The original Christmas gift-givers were the Three Wise Men.

According to legend, Caspar brought the gift of Myrrh, a rare and highly treasured commodity in Biblical times. It is an aromatic gum resin which comes from the bark of a small desert tree known as Commifera Myrrha, of the dindin tree. This substance congeals into small pieces which are then ground into powder to make ointments or perfumes.
Balthasar, the black king from Ethiopia, presented a gift of Frankincense, another sweet smelling resin from a species of Boswellia trees which were to be found in India, Arabia and Ethiopia at the time of the birth of Christ. This valuable commodity was burned by the Romans on their altars. Melchior, the third wise king, brought a gift of gold. Nowadays, the person who delivers the Christmas presents is, of course, *Santa Claus.*

Dates To Remember



Confirmation 2018
St. Francis' School
Saturday, 21st April, 11.30 am

Wednesday, 9th May, 6 pm
(Bunscoil in Newry)

First Holy Communion
St. Francis' School
Saturday, 28th April, 11.30 am
(Bunscoil)

Saturday, 12th May, 11.30 am

Carrick & Kings Park
Saturday, 16th June, 11.30 am

Confirmation
& First Holy Communion
Ceara & Donard Schools
3rd March, 11.30 am

Fatima

12th July – 19th July 2018
£629, full board/en-suite, free tax, free coach transfers, Spiritual Director.

Tel: Rita,
02890 623186/07934 850000.

Beginner Online Irish Lessons
(Learn from the comfort of your own home.)

Tel: 07488268208
fountoflearning@gmail.com

Quiz

Southern Area Hospice, Goodyear Sports & Social Club, Friday, 29th December, 8pm

Everyone welcome.

(Marathons in 2018, contact club).

St. Vincent de Paul

Ozanam Centre, William Street
Opening Hours: (Shop & Office)

Monday – Friday,
10 am-1 pm :: 2 pm-4 pm
Closed, lunch, 1pm – 2 pm.
Saturday, (shop only)
10 am- 12 noon

Office: Tel: 38 325725 ext 3
Shop: Tel: 3832 5725 ext 2

RECENTLY DECEASED

Rosanne Caskey, Derry,
Sheila Lavery, Wellington Street,
John Mooney, Albert Street,
Thomas (Tom) Cunningham, Drumlin Dr.

ANNIVERSARIES

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

Vigil

Jim Martin, Oakridge,
Lilian Starkey, Grattan Street.

9 am

Larry French, Edward Street,
William Toland, Church Walk,
Elizabeth May, Francis Street,
Bob & Bridie McEvoy, Innis Close,
Patrick (Patsy) McMahon, Manor Drive.

10.30 am

Gerald Mallon, Richmount Gardens.

12 noon

Hugh & Annie McEvoy, Ballydougan,
May Hill, Craigavon,
Lelia Finnegan, Conor Park,
Jimmy McGeown, Knockramer Meadows,
Kevin Toman, Bleary.

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER

Vigil

Mary Rose Heaney, North Street.

9 am

Maggie Creaney, Manor Drive,
Maisie Mulholland, Mary Street.

10.30 am

Sean McParland, Richmount Gardens,
Maureen O'Neill, Ailsbury Gardens.

TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER

Lily Hatchell, Wheatfield Drive,
Lilian Burns, Wellington Street,
Olive Wilson, Lurgan,
Joe Burns, Arthur Street,
Margaret (Peggy) Martin, Filblin Crescent,
Doreen Birch,
Michael Power, Francis Street.

WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER

Sarah (Sadie) Doran, Taghnevan Close.

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER

Margaret Connolly, Manor Park, M.M..

FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER

Lily McCann, Glenholme Avenue,
Greta Brady, Edward Street,
Johnny Hoyer, Manor Park,
Sally Dempsey, The Grange,
Maureen Leatham, Silverwood Drive,
Mary McCrory, Shankill Street,
Elizabeth Ann Reed, Liverpool.

SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER

James Callen, Portadown,
Roland Wilson, Beech Court.