



Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead



Saint Nicholas'

www.carrickparish.org

Our Lady of Lourdes

13th December 2020 3rd Sunday of Advent Cycle B Week 3

Fr. Peter Owens PP,VF
Parochial House,
8 Minorca Place,
Mount St. Nicholas, Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim, BT38 8AU
Tel: **028 9336 3269**
Email:
carrickfergus@downandconnor.org
Website: www.carrickparish.org

Mass on the Parish Website
Fr. Peter will celebrate Sunday Mass for
3rd Sunday of Advent from
Our Lady of Lourdes Church,
Whitehead



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

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

Bulletin Notices to be submitted to the parish
Email Address
by 12 noon Wed

Requiescant in Pace



Recently Deceased

Mary Teresa Sargent

Anniversaries

Julia Degnan, Barry Maxwell
John Carton
Father Charles Mulholland
Edda Sofia McKenzie
(1st Anniv.)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

Pro-Lift Amendment

A cross-party group of MPs have come together to bring forward a clarification to the law that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are NOT grounds for abortion in the UK. Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Please visit www.standupandsmile.org.uk It only takes 30 seconds.

Christmas Masses

Please see pages 3 & 4 (below) for details on Christmas Masses.

Check, the website and bulletin online for further updates.

Sunday Public Masses

We would invite those with **Surnames** in the following alphabet order to Mass on the assigned **Sundays** over the coming weeks.

Sunday	Carrick 11.30am	Sunday	Whitehead 9.30am
13th Dec	A-E	13th Dec	A-F
20th Dec	F-L	20th Dec	G-M
27th Dec	No Public Mass	27th Dec	No Public Mass
3rd Jan	A-E	3rd Jan	A-F
10th Jan	F-L	10th Jan	G-M
17th Jan	M-Mc	17th Jan	Mc-O
24th Jan	N-Z	24th Jan	P-Z

Masses on Wed 16th December & Wed 6th January

6.00 pm, Whitehead

7.30 pm, Carrickfergus

These Masses are open to all parishioners, subject to seating availability.

St Nicholas' PS PTA Sponsored Walk to Lapland

This year we cannot hold our normal fundraising activities and social events so instead members of the PTA and some parents are walking the distance to LAPLAND for Christmas. That's over 6.5 million steps, c. 4,500 km or c. 2,800 miles !

If you can, please support of fundraiser at <https://worldwalking.org/fundraising/mz48c> The school can also accept cash donations in a sealed envelope marked for the PTA and with your details.

Every pound raised is used to support the primary school with additional learning resources and activities for the children. Already this year we have supplied new equipment to help the school operate effectively in the current pandemic. Thank you for your support.

Penitential Prayer for Christmas.

The Diocesan Liturgy Commission, has produced a personal penitential prayer in preparation for Christmas 2020, in light of the difficult situation we are currently experiencing.

This can be found on the Parish Website.

FREE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS

St Agnes' Choral society have recorded two Christmas concerts from St. Peter's cathedral which will be aired in December for free online with any donations in aid of the Renal Unit at Belfast City Hospital.

The Magic of Christmas (popular Christmas hits such as Winter's Tale, White Christmas, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and poetry from through the years) - Sunday 13th December at 7.30pm

The Christmas Story (through music, songs, liturgical readings and poetry) - Sunday 20th December at 7.30pm

These concerts will be available via our YouTube and Facebook channels for free. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stagneschoralsociety>
Youtube: <http://tiny.cc/Stagneschristmas>

Donations can be made to the renal unit by visiting: gf.me/u/y7xc2a

Advent Message

An Advent Message from Bishop Noel Treanor can now be found on the Parish Website. A recording is available through the Diocesan YouTube Channel and the Diocesan Website.

YouTube Link to Advent Message 2020:
<https://youtu.be/Apl67Vh4o6M>

Covid 19 HSE link

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>

Youth 2000

are having our Christmas Retreat online this year. The Youth 2000 Christmas E-Retreat will take place from the 18th - 20th of December. Registration is now free on www.youth2000.ie

Important Notice

As windows and vents will be open during the winter months, Parishioners are reminded to wrap up well with layers of clothes when attending the Church

12 Days of Christmas Resource

Parishioners can find a resource for praying at home through the 12 days of Christmas, saved on the Parish Website.



'St. Nicholas' Parish Repository'

A large selection of Christmas items, including Christmas Cards, Candles, Art Calendars, Nativity Sets, Catholic Diary's, etc., in stock.



The Shop is open before and after Wednesday & Sunday Mass.
For further details please contact Anne on 07449 749476.

This Coming Week

14th Dec - 20th Dec

Mon

St. John of the Cross, Priest

Fri

St. Flannan, Bishop

Sun

4th Sunday of Advent

Trócaire Christmas Gift Cards.

This Christmas, Trócaire will deliver life-saving support to thousands of families across the developing world. Trócaire has launched a special appeal to support families who have not been able to grow food or earn money due to Covid-19. You can purchase one of 17 special gifts for families, or else make a general donation to the Trócaire Christmas Appeal. This year, there is a special Quarantine Care Kit Gift. By buying this gift you are providing vital daily care to families who have to isolate due to Covid-19. You can purchase gift cards from the Parish Repository by contacting Patrick Quinn or visit Trócaire at www.trocaire.org

Readings for Sun 20th Dec

Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

Mass at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse
<https://www.loughshoreparishes.org/webcam/>

Mass at St. Bernard's, Glengormley
<https://www.churchservices.tv/glengormley/>

Christmas Masses in the Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead

Christmas 2020 will be a very different Christmas for everyone. Families and parishes across the diocese will not be able to celebrate in the normal way. The season of Christmas is a season of celebration, but this year it is essential that we celebrate safely.

Normally at Christmas time large numbers of people wish to attend Mass. This year, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our churches simply cannot accommodate such crowds if we are to ensure the health and safety of all and conform to Public Health Agency guidance and NI Executive legislation.

It is our intention to have Christmas Masses that are open to the public, but only for as many as the churches can legally accommodate.

Our parish churches have a maximum capacity of:

- ◆ 38 individual/household units in St. Nicholas' Carrickfergus and
- ◆ 15 individual/household units in Our Lady of Lourdes, Whitehead.

This is to maintain social distancing as directed by the Diocese/Health Authorities.

In order to avoid the real possibility of increased transmission of the Covid-19 virus this Christmas, it is important to remember the following:

1. The obligation to attend Mass in person this Christmas has been suspended.
2. Christmas Masses will be broadcast live and available online, so people are encouraged to participate in a live-streamed Mass.
3. You are advised to self-isolate at home and please do not come to Mass, if you have any COVID 19 symptoms.
4. If you are physically frail and / or susceptible to illness, young or old, please stay at home and follow Mass online.

Watching Mass from Home.

There will be a live streamed Mass on Christmas Eve (24th Dec) at 7pm
from St. Nicholas' Carrickfergus

(Note: This Mass will not be opened to Parishioners on Christmas Eve).

Christmas Day Mass from Carrickfergus at 10.30am will also be live streamed.

In this extraordinary year, let us all celebrate Christmas safely.

We would like to invite those with **Surnames** in the following alphabetical order to Mass on the assigned days over the Christmas week. (If people are coming in a shared car, the Driver's Surname is applicable).

Admittance is strictly by Surname on the dates shown below.

If you reside in Carrickfergus, please attend Mass in St. Nicholas', and if you reside in Whitehead, please attend Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes.

St Nicholas', Carrickfergus

Date	Mass	Time	Surname (Initial)
Monday 21 st Dec	Christmas Vigil	7.30pm	A – E
Tuesday 22 nd Dec	Christmas Vigil	7.30pm	F – L
Wednesday 23 rd Dec	Christmas Vigil	7.30pm	M – Mc
Friday 25 th Dec	Christmas Day	10.30am	N – Z

Our Lady of Lourdes, Whitehead

Date	Mass	Time	Surname (Initial)
Monday 21 st Dec	Christmas Vigil	6.00pm	A – F
Tuesday 22 nd Dec	Christmas Vigil	6.00pm	G - M
Wednesday 23 rd Dec	Christmas Vigil	6.00pm	Mc - O
Friday 25 th Dec	Christmas Day	9.00am	P - Z

While over the last number of months, Fr. Peter and the Pastoral Council have endeavoured to be flexible with the A-Z system, **we need to reinforce** at Christmas that we must avoid any breaches of Social distancing.

Therefore, we ask you please, not to present yourselves at any Mass, other, than the one allocated to your **Surname (Initial)**, as shown above.

Important points to note when attending mass:

- ◆ Please hand sanitise, on entering and exiting the Church. Sanitising dispensers are located at the entrance doors. Avoid touching all door handles or hard surfaces. Doors will be kept open, at all times, to ensure ventilation in the church.
- ◆ The one-way system and two metre distancing in place, must be strictly adhered to at all times.
- ◆ Stewards will be present to show you to your seat and will guide the congregation's movements at Holy Communion and while in the Church.
- ◆ Face coverings are mandatory for everyone attending.
- ◆ **Christmas Offerings** can be put in the marked Collection Box as you enter the Church.