

St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

Pastoral Area of South & East Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald), 3 Willowfield Crescent, Belfast. BT6 8HP.
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Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stanthonysbelfast>.

Website: www.saintanthony.co.uk

Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9am, & 6:30pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays: Mon, Tues & Thurs at 9.30am. Fri at 7pm. (Nov, Dec & Jan at 9.30am)

All English Masses on Facebook. Polish Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs 7pm, Sat 9am

Confessions: By Arrangement. Baptisms: By Appointment

St Bernadette's SVP Conference. If you require assistance, please telephone SVP Regional Office at 028 90351561. Annual Christmas Appeal see svp.ie/stbernadetteswinterappeal23, or donate locally at svpni.co.uk or call 028 90351561



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and wondered what sort of greeting this might be. [Luke 1:26-38]*

Angel and maiden. Their eyes met.

They were unnerved! Unnerved! Both.

She saw heaven in his face, he saw earth in hers.

"Yes." She said it for all of us.

Yes. Let us say it, every year after year,

summer, fall, winter and spring,

every ordinary minute of every ordinary day.

Jesus, be at home in our flesh as you were in Mary's.

Anne Osdieck

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Leo McShane, Fr Clement Marshall CP

Anniversaries: Annie McPeake, Patrick Joseph Greenan, Sarah (Sally) Watson, Terence & Sarah McCartan, Peter Hughes, Jim McCann

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your support. Weekly Collection £716.90, **Dona DCP*** £25.

Payments. A new monthly envelope will be in each box for a voluntary Renovation contribution. You may even think of setting up a Standing Order using forms in the sacristy. And you may also consider filling in a gift aid form. We have introduced and placed the **Dona Digital Collection Plate (DCP*)** in the Side Porch with options to contribute to weekly, monthly and diocesan collections. We encourage you to consider using this system, though it is entirely voluntary.

***For online Dona donation** see <https://donate.mydona.com/st-anthonys-parish-belfast>. The use of the reader can also tie in with the envelope number for this reason. (THOUGH GIFT AID NEEDS TO BE APPLIED IN THE PROCESS TO LINK WITH ENVELOPE NUMBER)

NB. If you miss an Envelope collection please give at the next attendance. But give only for the Sunday you attend. Do not try to catch up collections, say, with a cheque, as the previous collections have already been accounted. You can catch up by giving by cash in the one envelope of that Sunday.

Don't Forget: the Saturday Vigil Mass has been cancelled.

NB: During Nov, Dec and Jan, Friday Mass will be at 9:30am

Pathways to the Future Prayer God of Love, You are with us in every transition and change. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.

Evangelising your parish training day for parish leaders. ChristLife Catholic Ministry for Evangelisation. Discovering Christ, Ask, Seek, Knock. In October of this year, the Living Church Office in partnership with the parish of Downpatrick delivered an introductory day at Holy Rosary Parish Centre, Belfast. In the New Year we will be offering a training day on how to deliver part 1 of the ChristLife program Discovering Christ. This Lent will be an opportunity through this programme to begin to think about ways to animate and evangelise our parish communities. Ideally the programme works very well if there is a team of 4 involved in the organisation and delivery of the programme. We invite 2 representatives from each parish to attend a training day on Sat 20th Jan 2024, 10am-4pm, in St James' Pastoral Centre, Whiteabbey. To book on the training day please click on the link <https://forms.office.com/e/pQrfvpsYgE>.

Parish Safeguarding. Can you please ensure that all Children and Vulnerable Adults are accompanied at all times when entering the Sacristy / Toilet facilities. If you have any queries regarding the Safeguarding Policy please contact a member of the Parish Safeguarding Committee. Many Thanks. Fr Henry McCann PP.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, a course including 8 weekly sessions. Course participants will receive a resource pack. the programme requires one hour of study per week. Online via Zoom, beginning Wed 17th Jan at 7pm. The programme will conclude with a Retreat Day on Sat 23rd March in Holy Rosary Parish Centre, Belfast. Facilitators Fr Paul Byrne and Aishling Steen. Cost of programme £30. To book please click on registration link <https://forms.office.com/e/HTLhTXUaD>.

125th Anniversary of the Pioneer Association. Pioneers around the world are invited to attend Mass next Wednesday 27 December and to prayerfully mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898. Mass and prayers will be live-streamed on that day at 10am (Irish time) around the world via www.pioneerassociation.org.

Family Care Adoption Services is an Adoption Agency, and a core part of our work is to place children with new adoptive families. We provide adoption services throughout all Northern Ireland and work with Health and Social Care Trusts to place single children and sibling groups for adoption. If you think you could offer a child/ren a new life in a family of their own and would like an informal chat to discuss this and to find out more about adoption, email@familycareadoption.org, 028 90691133, www.familycareadoption.com

Down and Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima 2024, 20 Aug 2024, 7 Nights £799 per person sharing. For further information Tel: Joe 0776 425631

New Year's Eve Mass. Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Belfast to mark the end of the Old Year and welcome the New Year. At 11pm on December 31. All Welcome! Homilist Fr. Brian McCann. Cantor Mr Louis McVeigh.

Anam Cara Belfast, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Monday 8th January at 7:30pm in the Balmoral Hotel, Belfast, BT10 ND. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online meeting which takes place 2nd Thursday To join please contact us on 028 95213120.

Queen's University Catholic Chaplaincy – Alumni and Friends* Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St Paul, Departing Dublin on 7 February 2024, the alumni and friends of the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University will make pilgrimage to Greece and Malta over 10 days, following in the footsteps of Saint Paul. Our tour with Marian Pilgrimages will offer a profound journey through various significant locations associated with St Paul's life and missionary travels, among them Athens, Thessaloniki, Phillipi, Corinth and Valetta. Pilgrims can experience a profound connection to the apostle, his teachings, and the early Christian communities with which he is associated, while traversing these historically rich destinations. The pilgrimage is fully guided, with half-board accommodation in 4* hotels. The University Chaplain, Fr Dominic McGrattan, will provide spiritual direction and the Chaplaincy's Director of Sacred Music, Marcella Walsh, will animate liturgies with music and song. For more information and details on how to book, email Chaplaincy Director, Shannon Campbell, at catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk *Please note, if you or a family member have studied at Queen's or served as a member of staff, know that we consider you among our alumni and friends.

Times of Masses for Christmas

Christmas Eve (Sun 24th) 9pm English 11pm Polish

Christmas Day (Mon 25th) 9am & 6.30pm Polish 11:30am English

St Stephen's Day (Tues 26th) 9am Polish No English Mass

Christmas Messages from Bishop Donal McKeown (Apostolic Administrator), and from Archbishop Noel Treanor (Bishop Emeritus), available in the Church porch and on Parish Website & Facebook page.



Many thanks to all who have contributed to parish life, from ministers, cleaners, sacristans, altar servers, charity workers, to mention a few of the many others.

Wishing all our parishioners and their families and friends every God's blessing this Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous new year. [Fr Henry McCann]