



Saint Nicholas' Church

Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead



Our Lady of Lourdes Church

24 December 2017

4th Sunday of Advent

Sundays - Cycle B

Divine Office Week 4

OUR PARISH

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Peter Owens PP

Parochial House, 8 Minorca Place,
Mount St. Nicholas, C/fergus
Co. Antrim, BT38 8AU

Tel: **028 9336 3269**

Email:

pp_carrickparish@live.co.uk

Web: www.carrickparish.org

MASS TIMES

Saint Nicholas'

Vigil Sat 6 pm
Sun 11.30 am
Tue & Thu 10.00 am
Holy Days: As announced

Adoration

Tue & Thurs 10.30-10.45am
Sat 10 am - 5 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes'

Sun 9.30 am
Mon & Wed 10 am
Holy Days: As announced

Adoration

Mon & Wed 10.30 - 10.45am

CONFESSIONS

Saint Nicholas' Church

Sat 5.30 pm — 5.50 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Sun - before Mass

BAPTISMS (one month's notice)

W/Head first Sun in the month

C/Fergus third Sun in the month.

WEDDINGS By Arrangement

Three months' notice is required

FUNERALS By Arrangement

PARISH OFFICE

Tel: 028 93363269

Mon — Thu 10.30am - 1.30pm

Bulletin Notices to be in the

Parochial House by 12 noon Wed

St Vincent de Paul

028 9035 1561

OUR PASTORAL COMMUNITY

Glengormley Parish

(St Mary's On The Hill;
St Bernard's; St Macnissi's)

Fr Patrick Sheehan, PP, VF
9083 2979

Fr Brendan Beagon, PE, CC
9084 1507

Fr Darren Brennan, CC
9083 2488

Loughshore Parishes

(St Mary's, Greencastle;
St Mary's, Star of The Sea,
Whitehouse;
St James', Whiteabbey;
St Colman's, Greenisland)

Fr David Delargy, PP
9037 0845

Fr Samuel Kerr, PE, CC
9036 5773

St Gerard's Parish

(St Gerard's, Antrim Road)

Fr Gerard Cassidy, CSsR, PP

Fr Patrick McLaughlin, CSsR, CC

Fr Brendan McConvery, CSsR, CC

9077 4833

Carrickfergus Parish

(St Nicholas', Carrickfergus,
Our Lady of Lourdes', Whitehead)

Fr Peter Owens, PP
9336 3269

Offerings

Weekly Offering £1,790

Many thanks for your generosity

Parish Repository

Open at weekend Masses -
The Parish Repository carries a
comprehensive selection of cards &
gifts for all occasions.

If you would like to purchase a
Diocesan Directory or a Diary
(which includes the order of mass)
for 2018 please contact Anne.

Requiescant in Pace



Anniversaries

Mary Mulvenna, Sara Booth,
Christina McCoy, Maisie Conlon,
Paschal O'Donnell, Paul O'Donnell,
John O'Donoghue, Bridie Murray,
Robert McAuley, John Carton,
James McCullough, John Foley,
James Daly, Hugh Daly,
Alex Sturgeon

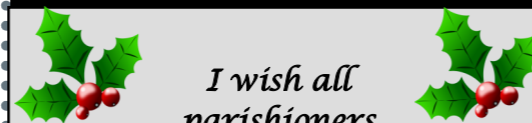
Month's Mind

Harry McKee

Recently Deceased

Fr Peter Forde,
Margaret Ann Sempey

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



*I wish all
parishioners
and their families and visitors
to our Parish, the Blessings of
the Infant Jesus and his Holy
Mother for this Christmas and
the coming year.
Fr Peter*

Christmas Flowers – Carrickfergus & Whitehead

If you would like to donate towards
dressing the churches with flowers for
Christmas, please see Anne Quinn in
Carrickfergus or Margaret O'Neill in
Whitehead or alternatively put your
offering in the boxes provided
in the church porches.

Thank You.

Advent and Christmas Liturgies

Sun 24 Dec
(Christmas Eve)

9.30am Mass - W'head
11.30am Mass - C'fergus
6.30pm Vigil Mass - W'head
8.30pm Vigil Mass - C'fergus

Mon 25 Dec
(Christmas Day)

9.30am Mass - W'head
11.30am Mass - C'fergus

Sat 30 Dec

6.00pm Vigil Mass - C'fergus

Sun 31 Dec

9.30am Mass - W'Head
11.30am Mass - C'Fergus

Mon 1 Jan

12.00 Noon Mass - C'fergus

Fri 5 Jan

7.00pm Vigil Mass - C'fergus

Sat 6 Jan

10.00am Mass - W'head

(Epiphany)

6.00pm Vigil Mass - C'fergus

NORMAL SCHEDULE RESUMES THEREAFTER

PARISH CHRISTMAS DRAW

1st prize - £300

2nd Prize - £200

3rd Prize - £100

Tickets £1 each or Book of 11 - £10
Ballot tickets are now available in the
Church porches after Mass or from any
committee member, or contact
Teresa Connor on 07811971051

Trocaire

Trocaire Christmas Gifts are now
available.
Please contact Patrick Quinn in Carrick
or Gerardine Stewart in Whitehead

Living Youth World Meeting of Families Volunteering

Living Youth is leading a Youth Group from the
Diocese of Down & Connor to Dublin this coming
summer to volunteer at the World Meeting of
Families Congress and to attend the Papal Mass. The
trip will be from 22nd – 26th August 2018 and will
be for those aged 16 – 25. The trip will cost £100 per
person.
We expect places to fill quickly so to register your
interest please email Living Youth @
info@livingyouthni.org with your name, contact
number, parish and D.O.B. or contact us directly on
02890 232 432.

Towards Peace

Christmas and New Year is often a time
when we are reminded of our deeper
selves and deepest hopes, and deepest
pain. The vision of Towards Peace is to
provide a safe, supportive space for
people who have been affected by abuse
in a Church context, and who are
seeking to explore the spiritual impact
of the abuse. If you have been abused
and would like a space to reflect on the
impact of the trauma of abuse on your
own relationship with God and
spirituality, Towards Peace is here for
you:
www.towardspeace.ie / 01 505 3028.

Louise Irvine

“Voice of an Angel” CDs
available from Anne Quinn in the
Parish Repository.

Trinity College - Open Evenings

Trinity College warmly invites you to our
**Open Evenings on
Wednesday 10th Jan & Thursday 11th Jan
2018.** There will be an address by the Principal
at 7pm. The Opening Evening will be a great
opportunity to come and experience life in
Trinity and see all we have to offer. P7 boy and
girls will have the chance to win many prizes
including mini ipads. Please come along and be
part of our exciting evenings.

Bishop Noel Treanor's Christmas Message 2017

Emmanuel – ‘God is with Us’

The liturgy of Christmas announces:
**‘For in the mystery of the Word made flesh a new light
of God’s glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind,
so that, as we recognise in him God made visible, we
may be caught up through him in love of things
invisible.’**

This ancient prayer of the Christmas Mass draws our attention to the
mystery discovered in the Manger. It invites us to perceive the wonder, the
anguish, the hardship, and the hope revealed in the Incarnation. This
Christmas prayer turns our eyes to the divine nature of God in the flesh and
humanity of a little child. The perennial Christmas message draws us from
the visible reality of our world into an encounter and involvement with the
divine.

Christmas re-assures and reminds us that God is with the vulnerable and
needy. God, made visible and personal in Jesus Christ, is the God of the
homeless, the God of all whose lives and existence is on the edge. The God
incarnate in Jesus invites us to reach out to those in need. It is God's plan of
salvation that through our active and participative membership of the
Christian community, the Church, through our work and charity, his love
may reach and assist the vulnerable and needy. There is also spiritual power
in numbers, in the community drive and spirit promoted by local Churches.
Christmas, as in the words of this prayer, invites us to recognise the
presence of God in life and its many circumstances. For God, Emmanuel, is
with us and among us. God is with the child conceived and growing in the
womb, is with expectant mothers and fathers as they welcome the new life
and gift of love into the world. God is within the family: amidst the
complexity and dynamics of family life, we encounter the God of
forgiveness, of mercy and of reconciliation. God is with those who are sick
and infirm and especially with those experiencing isolation and loneliness.
God is with those who are seeking justice and peace. God is with those who
suffer dependency on alcohol, drugs and other addictive behaviours.

In a world that seeks confirmation of God in evidence and proof, the serene,
though profound, Christian response of faith in God's presence is
challenging and counter-cultural. And yet, the world continues to cry out in
restless angst for the divine; hearts continue to search for the invisible,
pilgrims explore new ways to embrace the mystery of God.

As with the child born in the manger, God is with us as we face the
uncertainty of life. Each year, upheavals in personal and family life, in the
life of the Church and in society highlight for us all the fragility of the
human condition. As at the time of the birth of Christ, families suffer
distress and uncertainty due to failure in the structures of society. There is
the disillusion of indecision and the fear on the part of many, not least the
ageing, of a precarious and unknown future. The spectre of homelessness
and inadequate responses to the phenomenon of migration and its causes
blight our world.

At the same time, there are the prophets of hope, the gifted Magi, the
inspiration of the love and care of the Holy Family. There are the many who
are dedicated to making a positive difference in neighbourhood and in
society. There are millions of Christians, and women and men of Good
Will, who put their minds and personal energy to helping the needy, to
championing and working for justice, for the care of the environment and
the cosmos.

God in Jesus Christ reconciled the world to himself by entering into and
living human and societal reality.
Contemplating the manger with the ‘eyes of our mind’, we begin to realise
that the presence of God is not to be found by running away from the
problematic and testing predicaments of life. The divine is present in, to be
encountered and embraced within the reality of life. God is with us, calling
us anew to provide a room for the Christ-child, to offer our gifts in the
service of others, to bring a message of joy and glad tidings to those in need
and to walk humbly with others along the pilgrimage of life, to walk with
courage, forbearance and faith amid the noise and confusion of life.

In these Christmas days, we think of family and loved ones dear to us, both
within and beyond our reach geographically and emotionally. We yearn for
the peace and harmony our hearts desire. As our gaze moves from the crib
scene to our here and now, let us dwell awhile in this Christmas season on
preparations for the forthcoming World Meeting of Families in August
2018: with so many from other lands we shall celebrate and explore the gift
of family life for faith, for society, for humanity, for the world and for the
mission of the Church in the service of divine salvation and reconciliation.
May God bless you all during this Christmas season. May God, revealed to
us in Jesus Christ, open our eyes, once more, to the mystery of the Christ-
child among us.