



Saint Nicholas'

Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead



Our Lady of Lourdes

www.carrickparish.org

20th December 2020 4th Sunday of Advent Cycle B Week 4

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

Masses on the Parish Website
Fr. Peter will celebrate Sunday Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and Christmas Vigil/Day Masses from St. Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus



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



Anniversaries

Maisie Conlon
Grant Elliott
Bridie Murray
Mary Mulvenna
Sara Booth
Roisin McMahon
John O'Donoghue

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

Christmas Message

Someone who had struggled with Christian faith for most of their life once remarked: "I don't like Christmas, not because of all the superficiality, but because it's too definite for me – a baby that they say is God." In a few honest words that person captured not only the heart of Christmas but the heart of Christianity: at a given moment in history, at a given location in the world, in a given set of circumstances in the lives of certain individuals, a baby called Jesus was born to a woman called Mary and that baby was divine as well as human. There it stands: the central mystery of the Christian faith, the real meaning of Christmas. Do we believe it? Do we accept it? Do we live in the conviction that it is true? Or is it too "definite" for us, too specific, too physical, too earthy? Is it only a beautiful magical story, the product of religious make-believe and mythology? Is it only fantasy for children and the gullible? There stands the question for me and you: Who is the Christmas Child for us?

This year we find ourselves confronting this question in the time of pandemic in a world shaken to its core by COVID-19. Perhaps this year has tested our faith as it has never been tested before. Dreams and plans have been disrupted, including maybe our normal arrangements for Christmas, both at home and in church.

However we have been affected during this past year of turmoil and however we may be feeling as we move through Advent towards Christmas 2020, together we say with sincere hearts:

**Divine Child, welcome into our hurting world,
show us your love and give us HOPE!**

P.J. Owens, P.P.

New Website now live -
www.carrickparish.org
Over the Christmas period, please check out our updated website.

The next bulletin will be on Sun. 10th January 2021



A Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to all our Parishioners
Keep Safe and Well.

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
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

Christmas Masses

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



Check, the website and bulletin online for further updates.

Masses on Wednesday evenings, during the month of January

6.00 pm, Whitehead

7.30 pm, Carrickfergus

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

Covid 19 HSE link

[https://
www.publichealth.hscni.net/](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/)

Important Notice - COVID 19

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

Advent and Christmas Resources are available on the diocesan website.
<https://www.downandconnor.org/blog/2020/12/15/resources-christmas-home/>

We need to keep on protecting each other.

Hands: On entering church please use sanitiser provided.

Face: Please wear a face covering coming to and at Mass.

Space: Please keep 2m from the people around you; while walking into church; walking to communion; and when leaving the church.



Penitential Prayer for Christmas.

The Diocesan Liturgy Commission, has produced a personal penitential prayer in preparation for Christmas. A copy can be found on the Parish Website.

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

St. Nicholas' Primary School Open day 2021

Please contact the School Office to arrange a suitable date and time.
Tel 028 93351149 (see Parish Website for further details).

Readings for Sun 27th Dec

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3: 12-21
Luke 2: 22-40

'St. Nicholas' Parish Repository'

2021 Diocesan Directories and Art Calendars available.
For further details please contact Anne on 07449 749476.

Readings for Sun 3rd Jan

Sirach 24: 1-4, 8-12
Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18
John 1: 1-18

TRÓCAIRE GIFTS OF LOVE - Christmas Gift Cards.

Cards can purchased from the Parish Repository by contacting Patrick Quinn.

Readings for Wed 6th Jan

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2: 1-12



Due to Covid 19 restrictions, we have been unable to carry out visits to bereaved families in the parish. If you wish to talk to someone call 07598825187, or leave a message and someone from the group will get back to you .

Readings for Sun 10th Jan

Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
Acts 10: 34-38
Mark 1: 7-11

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' Church, and if you reside in Whitehead, please attend Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

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.