Parish of Blans

Sunday 15th December 2024 The Third Sunday of Advent

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH Masses Monday – Friday 10.00am Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm Sunday: 10.00am & 12 noon

LIVE WEBSTREAMING OF ALL MASSES

Please note many parishes in the Diocese have webcams installed which provide live coverage of various Masses taking place daily throughout the Diocese. These can be accessed by visiting www.downandconnor.org Links to Parish Webcams. Live Church webcam links: CHURCH SERVICES. TV & MCN MEDIA CHURCH WEBCAMS

Someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am.'

Luke 3:16



Fr. Dermot McCaughan, PP: 028 9266 2341 Fr. Eamon Magorrian, CC: 028 9266 2348

Parish Office Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 10.30am-4.00pm. Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm.

Parish Office: 028 9266 0206 Fax: 028 9266 5690 Email: lisburn@downandconnor.org Pastoral Centre: 028 9260 7110 www.parishoflisburn.org

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Congregation stands

Entrance Hymn or Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. All Indeed, the Lord is near.

GREETING

Priest:	In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All:	Amen
Priest:	Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

- Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
- All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

Striking your breast as you say:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

- Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, foraive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen
- All:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer

Priest: O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Congregation Sits

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God. All:

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Sing and shout for joy (R) for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

- 1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (R)
- 2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. (R)
- 3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

ACCLAMATION

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Is 12:2-6. R v.6

All: Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. All: Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the

people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation sits

HOMILY

All:

Congregation stands

THE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow your head up to the words 'and became man')

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Congregation sits

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Procession

The gifts of bread and wine which will become the Lord's body and blood are brought to the altar. The celebrant raises the host on the paten saying:

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever. All:

The celebrant pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:

By the mystery of this water and wine Priest: may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

> The celebrant then raises the chalice above the altar and says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Bowing, the celebrant says quietly:

Priest: With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Then the celebrant washes his hands, saying quietly:

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Priest: May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

All:

Congregation stands

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

The Lord be with you. Priest: And with your spirit. All:

Priest:	Lift up your hearts.
All:	We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. All: It is right and just.

PREFACE (Advent II)

Priest: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

> For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came.

It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

ACCLAMATION

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Congregation kneels

Priest: You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

- Priest: The mystery of faith.
- All: My Lord and my God.

Priest: Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

> Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Francis our Pope and N our Bishop and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Congregation stands

THE COMMUNION RITE

- Priest: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
- All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
- Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,

and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. All: Amen. The peace of the Lord be with you always. Priest: And with your spirit. All: May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Priest: Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it. All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Congregation kneels The celebrant says quietly: May the receiving of your Body and Blood,

Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgment and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection in mind and body and a healing remedy.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

- Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes Priest: away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
- All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.
- May the Body of Christ Priest: keep me safe for eternal life.
- May the Blood of Christ Priest: keep me safe for eternal life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Is 35:4

All: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Purifying the chalice the celebrant says quietly: What has passed our lips as food, O Lord, may we possess in purity of heart, that what has been given to us in time may be our healing for eternity.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation kneels

Priest: Let us pray. We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

All:

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: All:	The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.	
Priest: All:	May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing. Amen	
Priest: All:	As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity. Amen	
Priest: All:	So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty. Amen	
Priest: All:	And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen	
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Then the celebrant, with hands joined and facing the people, says:

Priest:	Go forth, the Mass is ended.
All:	Thanks be to God.

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GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today we light the third candle on the Advent wreath, the pink candle. God of joy, as we get closer to the celebration of the birth of your Son, we remain filled with joy. We know that life often presents us with challenges and that it is difficult to always be optimistic and cheerful. However, we know that you wish us to be a joy-filled people. Help us to focus on our blessings, to be appreciative of the many people who support us, and to be mindful of your constant presence. As we approach the celebration of Jesus' birth, may the peace and joy of the season fill our hearts.

God of Hope and Joy, we enter your holy season of Advent giving thanks to you for the love you have for all of us.

We begin to prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Your Son, Jesus. With the promise of your Son, we live with great hope and anticipation. Hope in the knowledge of the love you continue to give us.

Hope in the knowledge that Jesus is coming into our lives and hearts to heal and love us.

We are a people of hope, and no matter how difficult times sometimes are,

We know that Your Son is coming and that you continue to shower us with your love.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS ARRANGEMENTS **COUNTRY CHURCHES**

3rd Sunday of Advent – 15th December, Magheragall Church, 10.00 a.m. 4th Sunday of Advent – 22nd December, Reilly's Trench, 10.00 a.m. Feast of the Holy Family – 29th December, Magheramesk Church, 10.00 a.m.

FR. DERMOT & FR EAMON WILL ATTEND THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY – WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER **CHRISTMAS MASSES – ST PATRICKS, LISBURN**

6.30PM CHRISTMAS EVE To facilitate families with young children & the elderly.

9.00PM MID-NIGHT MASS CHRISTMAS EVE

Carols from 8.45pm We would encourage as many parishioners as possible to attend the 9pm Christmas Vigil Mass.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

9.00am & 11.00 am



CHRISTMAS MISSIONARY APPEAL

Again, this year we are supporting our Christmas Missionary Projects. Donations received will be forwarded to Medical Missionaries of Mary working throughout Africa and Dominican Sisters, Zambia in support of their work with orphans, vulnerable and disadvantaged children. Envelopes are available in church porch. Thank you.



We remember our faithful departed:

FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Imee McCaugherty

ANNIVERSARIES: Jeanie Curran: Sheila & Philip McNally: Esther O'Leary: James Drake: Dan McAlister: Colette Goan: Thomas McGauran (Jun): Joe & Molly Adair: Gary Stewart: Annie Kelly: Gerry Watters: Martin & Agnes McKendry: Michael Carr: Annie Toland: Baby Jonathan Scullion: Richard Gallagher (Snr): Kathleen (Kate) Gorman: James & Martha Lundy: Harry Murray (Snr): Canon John Robertson: Fr. James Smyth: Brigid & Susan Hughes: Sean & Bridie Adair: Damian Brown: Brendan O'Hara: Rosaleen Wilson: Sheila McKitterick.

Rest In Peace

ALTAR SERVERS: The Christmas Eve 9.00pm vigil rehearsal, will be in St Patrick's Church on Monday 23 December, from 3.00-4.00pm. Only the servers who attend this meeting, will be allowed to serve this Mass.

> You are invited to join LAGAN VALLEY VINEYARD CHURCH CAROL SERVICE In St Patrick's Church, Sunday 22nd December at 5.30pm or 7.30pm. If interested, please contact Damian in Pastoral Centre. Seats limited.

PLEASE NOTE PARISH OFFICE AND PASTORAL CENTRE WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER. **REOPENING TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY, 2025**

ST ALOYSIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL

All parishioners are most welcome to join the P4-7 Carol Service on Monday 16 December, at 1.30pm in St Patrick's Church.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, LISBURN

Morning for parents of children who are due to start school in September 2025 Tuesday 17th December, 10am-12pm Principal's Address at 10am and 11am Come along and see what our wonderful school has to offer! Principal: Miss Cristiona McGuinness, 42 Castle Street, Lisburn T: 028 92 674901, E: info@stjosephsps.lisburn.ni.sch.uk



Every year for the 9 days before Christmas, 16-24 December, at 6.00am St. Vincent De Paul Parish, Ligoniel Road, Belfast invite you to our, 'Misa De Gallo.' (Mass of the Rooster.) It is a wonderful tradition in the Philippines and is continued by the Filipino Diaspora wherever they may be. This year on Christmas Eve we welcome Bishop Alan for the first time as our main Celebrant. A warm invitation is extended to all.

RECHARGE is a young adult group based in Down and Connor for people aged 18 to 35. The group meet twice monthly on the first and third Tuesday of each month to "recharge" the spiritual batteries through Adoration, intellectual formation and social gatherings. Next meeting 17th of December at 7.30pm in St Colmcille's Church, Ballyhackamore. All welcome!



POPE FRANCIS TWEETS:

Please, let us continue to pray for peace! War is a human defeat; it does not solve problems but only brings destruction. So many children and innocents die! Let us pray for all countries at war. Let us always pray for peace.

 MODIFIED PILATES CLASSES COMMENCING IN THE PASTORAL CENTRE TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 8-9PM

 Taught by Chartered Physiotherapist and Certified Modified Pilates instructor with The Australian Physiotherapy and Pilates Institute APPI For all levels and abilities. Six week block of, 1 hour classes £52

 For more information, and to book your place contact:

 Phone/Text 07905542490

BORN AMONG THE POOR

Lord Jesus, You took on our human weakness and chose to be born among the poor. Open our hearts to feel your love for everyone in the world. May we recognise you in the face of the poor and suffering. May we offer them a share in your plenty. May we always seek you, always find you, always follow you. Amen *(Fr Pat Sayles)*

CONFESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Before and after 10.00am Mass on: Thursday 19th December, Friday 20th December Monday 23rd December There will be no 10.00am Mass on Christmas Eve.

SYRO MALABAR INDIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Mass in Syro Malabar Rite will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Church at 3.00pm this afternoon (Sunday 15th December). (1.00pm -8.00pm Retreat).

TO ENSURE PUBLICATION OF ANNIVERSARIES AND BULLETIN NOTICES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD PLEASE HAVE ALL REQUESTS IN PARISH OFFICE NO LATER THAN

MONDAY, 16TH DECEMBER BY 12 NOON FOR BULLETINS:

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER,

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY 2025

Where possible, please email requests to: lisburn@downandconnor.org or contact 028 92 660206

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS. Previous address - stpatricksparish@hotmail.com is now OBSELETE. Please use new email address - lisburn@downandconnor.org Thank you.



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