

St Clare's Hall, What's on? – Monday Bootcamp with CM Fitness 6am – 7.20am, Table Tennis 6pm – 8pm, Pilates 7pm – 8pm, Bowls 8pm – 10pm **Tuesday**, Brazier School of Dance 4.45PM – 7.45PM, Pickle Ball 8pm – 10pm **Wednesday** Bootcamp with CM Fitness 6am – 7.20am, Friendship Group 10.30am – 12.30pm, Yoga 5.45pm – 8pm, Bowls 8pm – 10pm (Matches) **Thursday** Pilates 10am – 11am, Judo 6pm – 7pm, Bingo 8pm – 9.30pm **Friday** Bootcamp with CM Fitness 6am – 7.20am, Mums & Tots 9.30am – 11.30am, Coffee Morning 10 – 11.30am **Monthly Events** Book club 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm – 9.30pm, Traditional night 1st Sunday 7pm – 9pm, Whist Last Friday 7pm – 9pm. Also available for private, community & business functions, including birthday parties, fund raisers and funeral's Contact 07517779334 or stclareshallbooking@hotmail.com

Glenavy St Vincent De Paul will be holding its Annual Senior Citizen's Dinner at 1pm on Saturday 9 December in St Clare's Hall. Anyone who would like to attend should contact a member of the local Conference before Monday 4 December or ring 07764797963. All are welcome.

Funeral Lay Ministry We are recruiting for a small number of Parishioners to take the lead in Funeral Lay Ministry. The successful applicants will undergo training. The role will involve, in the future delivering prayers at the home of the deceased and at the graveside or crematorium, as and when required. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in this most important Ministry.

The Glenavy Branch of Apostolic Work would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas Sale and Church Door Collections last weekend. We raised £4,500 to help Missionaries working in underdeveloped countries. Many thanks for your generosity.

PARISH Youth Program for Advent! 3-part video series, group discussions, activities & icebreakers providing a fresh perspective on the First Christmas. Aimed at 9–14-year-olds, suitable for your Primary School/1st Year Students, or Parish. Contact Grace McCann for more information and access to the resource. A workshop for parish leaders on running this program can also be provided upon request. Email: g.mccann@downandconnor.org Tel: 028 90690920.

Mary's Meals – Double the Love Amongst the many challenges we see in today's world, from conflict to the cost-of-living crisis, your little acts of love can go further thanks to Double the Love, bringing hope to desperately hungry children and their families. Please pray that we can reach even more children around the world with our life-changing school meals this Christmas. Find out more and browse our Christmas gift cards at marysmeals.org.uk or freephone 0800 698 1212.

Spiritual Preparation for Christmas - For Adults Saturday 16 December - St John the Baptist PS, Finaghy Road North Belfast. Hosted by the Legion of Mary and Fr Darren Brennan PP. Registration 9:30am - 3pm Finish. Talks and Testimonies followed by Confessions, Adoration and Holy Mass. Cost is £10 - Includes Lunch. For more information or to book, please contact Luke on 07955386288. Prepare your Soul for Christmas!

Family Care Adoption Services is an Adoption Agency, There are currently more children waiting to be adopted in Northern Ireland than families approved to adopt and there is an urgent need for new families to come forward. To find out more about adoption, contact us! Tel 02890 691133, www.familycareadoption.com or email familycareadoption.org.

Anam Cara Belfast is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Monday 11 December at 7:30pm in the Balmoral Hotel, Belfast. There is an online meeting on 2nd Thursday to join please ring 028 95213120.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 3 DECEMBER 2023

Very Rev Canon Colm McBride PP: St Joseph's Presbytery, 59 Chapel Road, Glenavy, BT29 4LY 94459560 (If unavailable and in an emergency only, contact Fr Declan Mulligan P.P. Aghagallon 92651214)

Parish Office at St Joseph's Glenavy: Monday- Friday 10am - 3pm Secretary: Joan McShane **Tel: 94 422278**

Email: glenavy@downandconnor.org
Parish Website: glenavyandkilleadparish.com
www.facebook.com/glenavyandkilleadparish

A member of Lisburn Pastoral Community

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday 8 December 2023

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Times

Mater Dei Thursday @ 7.00pm (Vigil Mass)

St Joseph's Friday @ 9.30am

The Invitation


I like these words of the late Cardinal Hume: "There are times when I can visualize Our Lord at the break of day standing by my bed and saying: "Get up, follow me. Whether I am conscious of it or not, in effect that invitation, that loving but insistent command, is given to me every day. Each new morning is the opportunity to start again. Yesterday there may have been inadequacies and failures but today Christ renews his call: "Follow me. I have chosen you. I need you. "Who can fail to respond to the thought that God needs our willing collaboration."

We are carers of creation and of his people. Take this seriously, it is our world. God has made himself so vulnerable and this gospel reading is just before the passion. An area or parish improves if enough people do something. We look at areas in a locality which are now clean of drugs, more prosperous and just. This has been the work of people co-creating the world with God. Making it a better place. Doing the world, a world of good.

Gospel today says – Don't give up. God is always near! Live in hope and preparation. Stay awake to the season – the ways we can deepen and grow in our faith --- maybe do a retreat, do something good for others with your time or finance, notice God in the events of the next few weeks, pray a bit every day, make time to be awakened to the centre of our world who is God, and to his central action in creating the world each day, sending Jesus Christ his Son.

Donal Neary SJ
CatholicIreland.net

4 December — 10 December Mass Intentions

	St Joseph's	Mater Dei	St James
Mon	9.30am Communion Service		Monday Adoration 7pm—8pm
Tue		7.00pm Jack & Margaret O'Brien (Anniv) Rosary at 6.30pm Divine Mercy Chaplet 7.30pm Adoration 7.30pm—8.30pm	
Wed		9.30am Grace Kelly (Anniv) Bill McCleave (Anniv) Adoration 10am—12pm	
Thurs	9.30am Annie McCann (Anniv) In Memory of Archbishop Fulton Sheen Adoration 7pm—9pm	7pm Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Vigil Mass)	Feumore Mass Centre Sun Adoration 6.30pm—7.30pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, Chaplet for Holy Souls & Rosary afterwards starts at 6.15pm Mon Adoration 11.00am—12.00pm
Fri	9.30am Feast of the Immaculate Conception		
Sat		5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation 6.00pm Aaron Webb (2nd Anniv) Mary Donnelly (Anniv)	
Sun	9.30am P.P. 12.00pm Hugh Brankin & Elizabeth Fleeton (Anniv) Terence Kennedy (Anniv)	10.45am Gerardine Cummins (Anniv)	

Anniversaries Jack & Margaret O'Brien, Paddy & Margaret Gillen, Hugh Brankin, Annie Angelone, Lily McCullagh, Bill McCleave, Mary & Mick McCorry, Kathleen Strickland, Annie McCann, Grace Kelly, Ellen Moore

Baptism We welcome to God's family Zara Mary Feeney, Adam Daniel Feeney, George Richard Harper, Clara Ellen Rose Cardwell

Adoration Can you spare 1 hour for your church. Please contact the parish office to leave your name and telephone number.

Collections 26/11/23

Weekly Offering: £2,698

Thank you for your generosity

Parish Draw 2023—24, Week 31

Winner £100 Paul Clenaghan (Upper Ballinderry)

Winner £50 D.K. Henry Phillips (Crumlin)
Congratulations to our winners

Grand Parish Christmas Bazaar

This Sunday 3 December 2023

in St Clare's Community Hall. Doors open 2pm – 5.30pm.

Magnificent Prizes on the Rickety Wheel, Santa will be making a visit, Christmas Stalls & Tombola. Mulled Wine, Tea, Coffee & Biscuits. Come Along, Meet Friends & Neighbours, Enjoy the Craic, Everyone Welcome. The Bazaar Committee would like to thank all who donated to and prepared for the bazaar. **ALL PROCEEDS ARE IN AID OF OUR PARISH**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL The St James' Aldergrove/Crumlin and St Joseph's Glenavy Conferences of St Vincent de Paul are holding their Annual Christmas Appeal at the weekend Masses on **9 & 10 December**. We are asking for donations of gift vouchers or cash for those children, families and individuals within our community who need help. Providing gift vouchers enables those receiving them to make their own decisions on how to best meet the needs of their children, families, or themselves. If you would like to donate vouchers or cash, please place your donation into the Blue SVP Envelopes which will be available at the back of Mater Dei and St Joseph's Churches and **return** to the same churches **via the SVP Red Box on or before 17th December 2023**.

(Please remember to fill in the Gift Aid section on the envelope). Alternatively, you can **donate directly into our bank account: St James' Aldergrove/Crumlin Conference Account No. 41965035, sort code 980460. St Joseph's Glenavy Account No. 41966009, sort code 980460** Members of St James' Conference will also be collecting in Tesco's Supermarket in Crumlin on Saturday 9th December from 12-6pm. We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and extend our sincere thanks for the continued and immense generosity of our parishioners, particularly during this period of extreme financial pressures.

Thank you for being more than kind this Christmas.

Open Evening – St. Joseph's Primary and Nursery School, Crumlin

—Parents/guardians of prospective Nursery or P1 children are invited to our Open Evening on Tuesday 5th December between 6pm – 7.30 pm. Tour the school, meet the staff & children & find out about all the extras we have on offer. Current parents and parishioners are welcome. If you know of any new families who are interested in finding out more about our school or the P1 application process, please share these details with them. We look forward to seeing you then!

NUA Christmas if you are aged between 9 and 14 years come along and join us for fun, games, food, crafts and most importantly to learn the real meaning of Christmas. Starting on Monday 4 December for 3 Mondays and taking place in St Joseph's Annex, Glenavy between 4.30pm & 5.30pm. All welcome, please ring Brenda Gallagher on 07928979292.

Rosary on 8 December 23 at 7pm at the Grotto, St Joseph's, Glenavy in Honour of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

Enrolment of the Pope John Paul II Award Group. If you are aged 16/17, year 13/14 and are interested in joining JPPII, please contact Brenda Gallagher on 07928979292.

Parish Office will be closed on Friday 8 December 2023

Making your offering to the church Parishioners are encouraged to make donations to the parish either by using the parish envelopes or by means of bank transfer. It is of great benefit to the parish when we can record donations so that gift aid can be claimed, if applicable. If you would like to donate using envelopes, please contact the parish office. Alternatively, if you are able, you are encouraged to make a monthly offering to the Church by means of a Bank Transfer to: Parish of Glenavy and Killead Sort Code 98 04 60. Account 10654677. The relevant forms are available at the back of the Churches. Both forms need to be completed with one sent to your Bank and the other to the parish office. If you have any queries, please contact in confidence the parish secretary or Canon McBride.

Web Camera's Mater Dei Church and St Joseph's are both equipped with web-cameras. All Liturgies are broadcast. The cameras are live 24/7 and are focused on the Sanctuaries and first three seats at the front of each Church. To access the broadcasts, go to: www.churchservices.tv/stjosephglenavy or www.churchservices.tv/materdeicrumlin. The web-cams enable us to attend Mass, however they do not allow us to receive the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. When possible, we should attend Mass in the Church whenever our circumstances permit in order to receive Holy Communion.

Glenavy and Killead Baptism Preparation The Parish Baptism preparation team are seeking volunteers to help with the delivery of this programme. Baptism preparation is important for new parents and godparents to gain an understanding of the sacrament, the rite of Baptism and their undertaking on behalf of their child at the start of their relationship with God. The programme is one-hour session provided twice per month, remotely via Zoom and will require you to have computer and internet access from home. Training and support will be available. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Parish Office and leave your contact details. Thank you.

CCTV Camera's Please be aware that St Joseph's Church and graveyard and Mater Dei Church and grounds are monitored by CCTV.

Trócaire Christmas fundraisers needed to help respond to the urgent need of poor communities around the world. For more information, Tel 028 9080 8030 or email Mark McMahon at infoni@trocaire.org

Sanctuary lamp intentions: A Sanctuary Lamp burns for a week in each of our two churches. If you would like to dedicate a lamp for a loved one or a special intention please contact the Parish Office. There is a suggested offering of £5.

The 2024 Pioneer calendar is available from Pioneer centres and from Central Office (01 805 4226). The calendar is designed to offer spiritual support to families which are being impacted by alcohol and addiction. The calendar is priced at €5. Further information from www.pioneerassociation.org/calendar.

Saint Vincent De Paul—Crumlin Conference (St James) Emergency helpline 07754427088. Donations can be made via the Crumlin SVP conference bank account. Account number 41965035, sort code 980460. **St Joseph Glenavy Conference** Emergency helpline 07784955647. Donation can be made to our bank account, Sort Code 98-04-60. Account Number 41966009. Your support is very much appreciated as we support those most vulnerable in these challenging times in your local community.

Parish Groups—Volunteers Required New members are welcomed/ needed for the following Parish Groups; Gardening Team, Altar Society, St Vincent De Paul (St Joseph's Glenavy and St James, Crumlin Conference), Housekeeping, Adoration, Ministers of the Word, Folk Group, Children's Liturgy and SPRED. Your participation is essential to ensure that these groups can continue within our Parish. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office email at glenavy@downandconnor.org, Tel 028 9442 2278, or contact the Sacristan's.

Sanctuary lamp intentions: A Sanctuary Lamp burns for a week in each of our two churches. If you would like to dedicate a lamp for a loved one or a special intention please contact the Parish Office. There is a suggested offering of £5.

Veritas Encourages Shopping for Meaningful Gifts this Christmas Christmas is a time of rejoicing, when we remember the birth of Our Lord. At Veritas you will find devotional books or beautifully illustrated children's books that will entertain but also fill our hearts, nativity sets, Advent candles, memorial gifts, thoughtful cards, beautiful Christmas decorations, and much more. Visit Veritas stores in Dublin Abbey Street, Blanchardstown, Tallaght, Cork, Limerick, Letterkenny, Derry, and Newry—or shop online at veritas.ie Share more meaningful gifts this Christmas with Veritas. Wishing you a joyous and blessed Christmas .