

Parish of Newry

Saturday 25 December 2021
The Nativity of Our Lord

There is a kind of timelessness about Christmas: it takes us out of our routines; suddenly all the rush of preparation is over and there is nothing more to do. This could be the moment to experience something different from the perpetual motion that is our ordinary life. But what happens? Perhaps we turn on the TV, which is what we may have been doing every evening since last Christmas. No change. Then we say Christmas is boring, or sad, or too commercial.... Of course it is; it is just like all the other days. We have not allowed change to happen. We have not allowed space for anything new to appear. Paradoxically, all the flashing lights, the incessant television, the emailing and text-messaging... all have the effect of filling our lives and so leaving no space to move, no space for anything really different to appear; so we are enclosed in a cave of artificial lights that never lead us to the sun.

"The light shines in the darkness." But it does not shine in artificial light. We have to turn something off. We have to leave space and time for the new thing to appear.

The Child born today is God's new deed: the newest, the youngest, the latest.... But this is not announced in the excited voice of the advertisers; it is a silent deed. He is the Word made flesh, but he lies there as helpless to speak as any other infant. Only in silence can this silent Word be heard. The new blade of grass does not make a scene or a noise; neither does the Word made flesh.

The Saviour is born! – not only in Bethlehem long ago, but now today in our world, in our hearts. That birth long ago, said Meister Eckhart, has this new birth as its purpose; he was born then so that he could be born now. The Light has come into the world; even darkness itself helps to announce it.

Fr Donagh O'Shea, O.P.,
www.goodnews.ie

Mass Times

The Cathedral of SS. Patrick & Colman, Hill Street

Weekend Mass Times
Saturday (vigil Mass)
6.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am, 12noon
& 5.30pm
Weekday Mass Times
Monday – Saturday
10.30am

St. Brigid's Church, Rooney's Meadow

Weekend Mass Times
Saturday Evening (vigil
Mass) 7.30pm
Friday: 7.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Chapel Street

Tuesday: 7.30pm
Sunday: 9.00am
(Latin Mass)
Sunday: 10.30am

St. Catherine's Church, Dominican Priory, Dominic Street

Mon-Sat: 7.30am & 11.00am & 7.30pm
Sunday Masses – VIGIL [SAT] 7.30pm
8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am & 12.30

www.newrycathedralparish.org

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INTRODUCTORY RITES

Congregation stand

Entrance Antiphon

Is 9:1, 5; Lk 1:33

All: Today a light will shine upon us,
for the Lord is born for us;
and he will be called Wondrous God,
Prince of peace, Father of future ages:
and his reign will be without end.

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Priest: The Lord be with you.

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.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen

THE GLORIA

All: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of
God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray

Pause for silent prayer

(Night Mass)

Priest: O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendour of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(Day Mass)

Priest: O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity. 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

(Night Mass)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

9:1-7

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

(Day Mass)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

62:11-12

This the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
"Look, your saviour comes,
the prize of his victory with him,
his trophies before him."
They shall be called "The Holy People,"
"The Lord's Redeemed."
And you shall be called "The-sought-after",
"City-not-forsaken."

The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 95:1-3, 11-13, R.Lk 2:11

**(R) Today a saviour has been born to us;
he is Christ the Lord.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R)**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **(R)**
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **(R)**

SECOND READING

(Night Mass)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus **2:11-14**

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

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

(Day Mass)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews: **1:1-6**

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

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

Congregations stands

ACCLAMATION

Lk 2:10-11

**All: Alleluia, alleluia!
I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us,
Christ the Lord. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

(Night Mass)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Luke

2:1-14

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour".

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

(Day Mass)

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Luke

2:15-20

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

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

Congregation sits

HOMILY

Congregation stands

THE CREED

All: 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 men 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.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

Priest: By the mystery of this water and wine
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,
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

(Night Mass)

Priest: May the oblation of this day's feast
be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,
that through this most holy exchange
we may be found in the likeness of Christ,
in whom our nature is united to you.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen**

(Day Mass)

Priest: Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this
solemn day, when you manifested the
reconciliation that makes us wholly pleasing in
your sight and inaugurated for us the fullness of
divine worship. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Congregation stands

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

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

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 (Nativity 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 on the feast of this awe-filled mystery,
though invisible in his own divine nature,

he has appeared visibly in ours;
and begotten before all ages,
he has begun to exist in time;
so that, raising up in himself all that was cast
down, he might restore unity to all creation
and call straying humanity back to the heavenly
Kingdom.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you,
as in joyful celebration 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.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

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 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

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 by 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.**

riest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to you 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.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: And with your spirit.

Priest: May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our 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.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who, by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your Death gave life to the world,
free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood,
from all my sins and from every evil;
keep me always faithful to your commandments,
and never let me be parted from you.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes 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.**

Priest: May the Body of Christ
keep me safe for eternal life.

Priest: May the Blood of Christ
keep me safe for eternal life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Zec 9:9

All: **Rejoice, O Daughter Sion; lift up praise, Daughter
Jerusalem: Behold, your King will come, the
Holy One and Saviour of the world.**

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

(Night Mass)

Priest: Let us pray.
Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
that we, who are gladdened by participation
in the feast of our Redeemer's Nativity,
may through an honourable way of life
become worthy of union with him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

(Day Mass)

Priest: Grant us, Lord, as we honour with joyful devotion
the Nativity of your Son,
that we may come to know with fullness of faith
the hidden depths of this mystery
and to love them ever more and more.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: May the God of infinite goodness,
who by the Incarnation of his Son
has driven darkness from the world
and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most
holy night (day), drive far from you the darkness of
vice and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: May God, who willed that the great joy
of his Son's saving Birth
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,
fill your minds with the gladness he gives
and make you heralds of his Gospel.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: And may God, who by the Incarnation
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,
fill you with the gift of his peace and favour
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: 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.

All: **Amen.**

*Then the celebrant, with hands joined and facing the
people, says:*

Priest: Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation stands

Imprimatur – nihil obstat: + Most Rev Noel Treanor, Bishop of Down and Connor.
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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

In the Jewish tradition rabbis tell a story that each person has a procession of angels going before them and crying out, 'Make way for the image of God' Imagine how different our lives and world would be if we lived with this as our reality and the truth that guided our lives. Everywhere we go the angels go with us announcing the coming of the image of God and reminding us of who we are. That is the truth of Christmas for us. It is also the Christmas truth for the person living next door, for those we love, for those we fear, for those who are like us and those who are different, for the stranger, and for our enemies.

Christmas is a life to be lived, a way of being. It means that Christmas is more properly understood as a verb than a noun. So maybe we should stop asking, 'How was your Christmas?' Instead, we should be asking, "How are you Christmassing"? Are you recognising the Word become flesh in your own life? Are you recognising the Word become flesh in the lives of others? Do you see the procession of angels and hear their voices?

We celebrate today the presence of God among us. Slowly and mysteriously, Jesus brings light into the web of human history. Slowly his light overcomes our darkness, so that eventually everyone is enlightened.

Today let us look at the wonderful passage from John's Gospel from a new point of view and say, 'In the beginning was the word, and the Word was LOVE. That love is creative, the beating heart of the universe. It is a love that brings light to everyone. If I allow it to shine on me, I begin to see everyone from a divine point of view. I see the potential of each person is to become nothing less than a daughter or son of God!'

This awareness will transform all my encounters. No one could ever have imagined such a project, but it is underway already around me and deep within me. Life, which before seemed ordinary and dull, now becomes a great drama. I ask the Lord that in it I may play my part well, by living in sync with the unforced rhythms of 'the love that moves the sun and the other stars' (Dante).

COVID 19 was very much present in 2021 and it would appear that it will continue to be present for the foreseeable future. We, the priests appreciate the service given to support the Church by many people. May you continue to get the grace to work together, for the building up of the parish community.

I commend the various individuals and groups in the parish who continued to work and offer support in spite of the difficulties and uncertainties encountered. Your support is appreciated very much.

We depend on the generosity of the stewards in each of our Churches. I thank everyone of them for the time they give to ensure that the highest level of safety is maintained. They do tremendous work in ensuring the Churches are thoroughly cleaned after every Mass and that it is safe for the next congregation. Their work, not easy at all times, is appreciated very much.

The readers, musicians and singers, eucharistic ministers are there to enhance our celebration of the Eucharist. We are deeply grateful to everyone involved in those very important ministries.

Sincere thanks to the Newry Parish Faith Development Team for the inspiring reflections and prayers during the four Sundays of Advent. They certainly helped us prepare for the coming feast of Christmas.

Thanks for the work of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, and the Parish Management Group. Your sense of dedication is deeply appreciated, and I have no doubt that the parish will be further enriched by your contributions.

The 'Giving Tree' in the Cathedral is a tremendous success. Many young people have benefited this Christmas, thanks for your generosity.

I extend a special thought to the Sick and Housebound. We regret that we have been unable to visit you. Please God we will be visiting you as soon as it is safe to do so. I am glad that you are able to follow Mass on the webcam.

On behalf of Archbishop Eamon Martin, Fr. Robert, Fr. Alphonsus, Fr. Callum, our student Carlos and me, I take this opportunity to wish all our parishioners in Newry & Saval a joyful and peace-filled Christmas. May you enjoy an opportunity to relax with your family.

Canon Francis Brown

Newry & Mourne MUSEUM IARSMALANN an Iúir agus an Dúin

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