

Our Lady of Lourdes Steelstown

**Postal Address**

Our Lady of Lourdes Church
11 Steelstown Road
Derry. BT48 8EU
Priest: Fr John McDevitt

Parish Office Open Tues to Fri 10am to 3pm

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ANNIVERSARIES

Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Damien McCarron, Margaret McCallion, Charlie Lindsay, Eoin McGrory, John Coyle, Tony Kerrigan, Johnny Jennings, Annie Mallett and Joe Murphy.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church: Mollie-Mae, daughter of Christopher and Melissa and Amelia, daughter of Thomas and Gemma.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Started on Good Friday, 2 April and finishes on Easter Saturday, 10 April leading into Divine Mercy Sunday on 11 April. Prayer leaflets are available at the back of the Church.

ACCORD DERRY

Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme Course Dates.

July 6/7, August 10/11, Sept 14/15, Oct 12/13, Nov 9/10, Dec 7/8.

DONATION

Fr McDevitt would like to acknowledge with thanks a donation of £500.

CHURCH DEFIBRILLATOR

The Church Defibrillator is located at the front of the Church on the left hand side beside the Sacristy door.

TROCAIRE LENTEN COLLECTION

You can contribute to the 2021 Trocaire Collection by:

1. Donating online at www.trocaire.org using the Donate button;
2. Online payments to the Trocaire Bank account – details are:
Sorting Code: 93.80.92 Account No: 8822 7020;
3. By telephone on 02890808030 or freephone number 0800 912 1200;
4. By posting a cheque to Trocaire, 50 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD.
5. You can also click on the parish justgiving page set up by the John Paul II parishioners, see the parish website or facebook page for details.

Parish Collection

Our Parish envelopes will continue to be delivered over the next few days. If you would like to request a box of envelopes, a standing order form or a gift aid form please contact the Parish office. For those with online banking you should be able to set up a standing order without the need to send the form to your bank. For any assistance please contact the Parish office.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

EASTER WEEK PARISH SCHEDULE

Sunday 4 April 9am, 11am and 12.15pm Mass

Monday 5 April 10am Mass

Tuesday 6 April 10am Mass

Wednesday 7 April 10am Mass

Thursday 8 April 10am Mass

Friday 9 April 10am Mass

Saturday 10 April 10am Mass; 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 11 April 9am, 11am and 12.15pm Mass

Please note there will not be a 7.45am Mass during Easter Week.

Eucharistic Adoration will not take place on Friday 9 April.

There will be no confessions during Easter Week.

STATEMENT BY THE NORTHERN BISHOPS

Bishops in the North announced a cautious return to public worship for the faithful from Friday 26th March. Every person should consider carefully if returning to collective worship is the safe and appropriate step for them, at this time. Families are encouraged to join those celebrating the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus in Churches, from the 'domestic church' of their own living rooms, via live-streaming.

In emphasising the cautious nature of this return to public worship the Bishops remind the faithful that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended. We continue to strongly encourage participation, where possible, including in the ceremonies of Holy Week, by way of live-streaming.

BISHOP MC KEOWN'S STATEMENT ON THE SACRAMENTS

For Baptism, I would propose that there should be a limitation in each church for those attending an individual Baptism. Baptisms are limited to attendance by the parents, godparents and siblings of a minor who is being baptised.

I am concerned about the parties and other socialising which, although completely disconnected from the celebration of the sacraments (of First Communion and Confirmation) and the environs of the church, can and often do occur. I think that, as church, we should go the extra step to assist in protecting public health, by avoiding those situations which might with some regularity lead people to organise parties. Therefore, I have taken the difficult decision, after some consultation, that the celebrations of First Communion are to be deferred until September 2021. I do not take this decision lightly, but I am conscious that we must do everything we can to ensure that life is protected in the midst of this pandemic, noting that there has been some upturn in case numbers locally in recent days.

As regards the celebration of Confirmation, it is acceptable for parishes to make provisional arrangements for these in the month of June. However, I will review the situation in the middle of May.

EASTER GREETINGS AND THANKS

Monsignor Donnelly and Fr McDevitt wish all parishioners in Steelstown

Parish a very blessed Easter. Thanks to all those who helped in any way during the Holy Week Ceremonies. The congregations at all the Ceremonies and the words of appreciation spoken by those attending give great encouragement to all involved in the work and liturgy of the parish.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

Will resume from Tuesday 6 April at Holy Family Chapel, Ballymagroarty. Starting with the Rosary before mass and continuing with prayers afterward. A first class relic will be available for blessing. Social distancing and masks at all times. All welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

St Vincent de Paul volunteers continue to be available during the pandemic to offer help to those in our parish who are in need of immediate financial assistance. SVDP can be contacted by dropping a letter in the post box outside the Church Conference Room or calling the office on 028 71265489.

AID FOR THE CHILDREN OF YEMEN

Fr Neal Carlin's new book, *The Eagle, The Tiger and Covid*, is now on sale at €10/£10 and can be purchased by contacting goldenagecentre@hotmail.com. All proceeds are being sent via a direct contact to aid the Children of Yemen.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, working in Partnership with Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, offers the Masters in Catholic School Leadership. This is a post graduate degree dedicated to the professional development and spiritual formation of Catholic school leaders. It is a great opportunity for those currently in leadership roles and those who aspire to, or have an interest in, leadership roles within the Catholic School system. The next intake will be Autumn 2021. If you require any further information, please contact the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre on 004428 71264087 or email tferry@derrydiocese.org.

EQUALLY HUMAN

You have likely heard of the new Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill which has been launched in Northern Ireland to stop abortion up to birth for babies with disabilities including Down's syndrome, cleft lip and club foot. In response to the announcement of this bill, Right To Life UK has launched the [Equally Human](#) campaign to help build public support for this important law change. They are encouraging people in Northern Ireland to email their MLAs asking them to speak in support of and vote for the Bill at its Second Reading. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool that will enable members of the public to easily contact their MLAs. If you would like to contact your MLAs on this important issue, you can do so by following the link below. It only takes 30 seconds!

LIVE LAUDATO SI'

Reducing food waste is the climate action we can do 3 times a day. It is estimated that a third of all food produced is discarded. 3 Challenges!

1) CUT FOOD WASTE – Check out your carbon footprint <http://www.footprint/>

Lots of useful tips at

<http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/> <http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie/>

2) GIVE THANKS - Say Grace before meals

3) FAIR SHARE - Share locally &

globally <http://www.foyle.foodbank.org.uk/> www.trocaire.org/trocaire/gifts.