

Our Lady of Lourdes Steelstown



PARISH INFORMATION

Priest : Fr John McDevitt john.mcdevitt@derrydiocese.org

Postal Address: Our Lady of Lourdes Church,
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Email: steelstownparish@aol.com. **Website:** steelstownparish.com

Webcam: churchservices.tv/steelstown

Facebook: Our Lady of Lourdes **Instagram:** steelstownparish.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church: Gavin, son of Gavin and Rebecca and Sienna, daughter of Gary and Aisling.

ANNIVERSARIES

Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Florence Twells, Mary Donnelly and Irene Kavanagh.

EASTER MASS BOUQUET CARDS

Available from the Parochial House Wednesday to Friday from 10am to 3pm.

PARISH SCHEDULE

All Masses will be streamed live on our Parish Webcam (www.churchservices.tv/steelstown) or visit our Web page

Steelstownparish.com for a direct link.

Sunday 21 Mar.	9am, 11am and 12.15pm Mass
Monday 22 Mar.	7.45am and 10am Mass and Rosary 7pm Time of Adoration
Tuesday 23 Mar.	7.45am and 10am Mass and Rosary
Wednesday 24 Mar.	7.45am and 10am Mass and Rosary: 7pm Scripture Reflection
Thursday 25 Mar.	7.45am and 10am Mass and Rosary
Friday 26 Mar.	7.45am and 10am Mass and Rosary: 4pm One hour of Adoration: 7pm Stations of The Cross
Saturday 27 Mar.	10am Mass and 6.30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 28 Mar.	9am, 11am and 12.15pm Mass

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Please prayer for the intentions of all those who live or work in the areas listed each day.

Jesus, help us to make you the centre of our lives. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to repent of the wrongs we have done, that we may be refreshed in spirit and renewed in hope.

Through that same Spirit, help us to be good to one another and to be faithful to you, as we live out our vocations: married, single, priest, religious, so that our homes and our parish may be filled with your presence and be powerful sources of your peace. **Amen.**

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us

St Bernadette, Pray for us

Sunday 21 March Portlock Place; Boomhall Park

Monday 22 March Racecourse Road East

Tuesday 23 March Rockfield

Wednesday 24 March Springfield Road South

Thursday 25 March St Elmos; Greenhaw Manor

Friday 26 March Steelstown Gdns; Steelstown Village; Marion Hall

Saturday 27 March Tara Park; Steelstown Road

Parish prayer leaflets are available at the back of the Church.

LENT 2021: 40 DAYS TOGETHER WITH JESUS

Lent is an opportunity to pray, fast and give as a Parish community with other Christians throughout the world. You are invited to join the Parish Lenten programme each day.

It is an invitation to come together and closer to Jesus for these forty days.

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday 7.45am, 10am, Saturday 10am.

Each day we will pray for the members of our Parish community in different streets. The list will be printed in the Newsletter, on the facebook page and on prayer cards at the back of the Church.

Evening Session

There will be prayer at 7pm for half an hour:

Monday Time of Adoration

Wednesday Scripture Reflection: *Taking the time* led by Thornhill ministries

Friday Stations of the Cross

Lenten Talks

Every Thursday Fr Columba will give a series of talks, *Little by Little*. He will focus on how we live our faith day by day and little by little. These talks can be accessed on our Facebook page every

Thursday.

Bishop McKeown

On the Tuesdays of Lent at 7pm Bishop Donal is hosting a series of conversations with members of the wider community reflecting on Lent and our present reality.

**STATEMENT BY THE NORTHERN BISHOPS ANNOUNCING THAT PUBLIC WORSHIP MAY
RESUME IN NORTHERN IRELAND FROM FRIDAY 26th MARCH**

- Bishops in the North announce a cautious return to public worship for the faithful from Friday 26th March, in time for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter.
- Bishops emphasise the need for continued caution and a rigorous application of all mitigations and safeguards required to ensure the safest possible return to public worship in our Churches.
- 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.
- Bishops, together with other Church leaders, encourage all on Easter Sunday to pray and reflect in a spirit of remembering, solidarity and hope in the context of the current pandemic.

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** and that every person should consider carefully if returning to collective worship is the safe and appropriate step for them, at this time. **We continue to strongly encourage participation, where possible, including in the ceremonies of Holy Week, by way of live-streaming.** As we continue our journey through the season of Lent in preparation for Easter, we strongly encourage the faithful to bring the intentions of all those impacted by Covid19 to the Lord’s care in prayer and petition. We are particularly conscious of those whose livelihoods have been seriously threatened by the pandemic. We keep in mind people who are coping with bereavement, families that cannot be together, those in care homes who can only have limited visits from their loved ones. The Easter period will also be difficult for Irish emigrants and migrants living in Ireland, who are unable to travel home. We pray that the time will come very soon when loving connections between families and friends can be fully restored. On Easter Sunday, we will join with Christians of all traditions in offering special prayers of intercession for those impacted by Covid-19 and provide moments for our entire society to reflect together, in a spirit of hope, on the challenges of the past year arising from the global pandemic.

For full statement see Irish Catholic Bishops Conference website.

LENTEN CONVERSATIONS ONLINE AT KNOCK SHRINE

Thursday 25 March *'Studying Christian Faith'*

The discussions will be streamed online via the Knock Shrine website and facebook page. Join us at www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live or on Facebook @knockshrine.

MINI-LENTEN RETREAT IN PREPARATION FOR HOLY WEEK 2021

In preparation for the Easter Triduum, 'The Hook of Faith' is happy to offer a 'Mini-Lenten Retreat in Preparation for Holy Week' on Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 March. The retreat will be held on Zoom and will be led by Fr Billy Swan. Each conference begins at 8pm. The three conferences will anticipate the Triduum and will therefore focus on the Eucharist (Tues. 23); the Cross and the Mystery of Suffering (Wed. 24); the Resurrection, Joy and Hope (Thurs. 25). To take part, all you need to do is send an email to: thehookoffaith@gmail.com All are welcome.

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, please see the parish website or facebook page for further details.

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.

THE NET – MARCH 2021

Sharing the fruits of the faith in the Derry Diocese. With Covid-19 restrictions still in place, the March edition of 'The Net' will only be available on the Diocesan website - <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/the-net-march-2021>. However, the publication will be available again in parishes when the restrictions are lifted. Enquiries to – editorthenet15@gmail.com.

CENSUS 2021 IS HERE!

The census happens only once every ten years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in Northern Ireland. It gives us three windows on our world.

The Past – As well as being a rich source of genealogy information, we can find out interesting facts like Putter Outter, Clod Hopper, Toe Rag all past occupations that have disappeared from census records.

The Present – It shows us what Northern Ireland looks like today highlighting current trends. For example, renewable energy in homes is included for the first time while we don't ask about outside toilets anymore.

The Future - Census data is used make decisions about how vital public services, such as health, housing and transport are planned and funded. As we get older our needs may change and it is important that this is captured so everyone has access to the services they need.

You should have received your pack in the post. It will have included an access code for completing online or details on how to request a paper form. If you have already completed your census we are very grateful. Your answers are important and completely confidential. Your personal data will never be shared. If you didn't receive a pack, have lost your access code or have any questions call our contact centre for free on **0800 328 2021** or visit our website at www.census.gov.uk/ni. Here you can find out about the support available to help you complete including guidance in Braille, Easy Read, British and Irish Sign Language and large print questionnaires.

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.

POPE JOHN PAUL II FOR TROCAIRE

This year the John Paul II parishioners have joined with Award members from Culmore Parish to look at how we can support the TROCAIRE Lent appeal. We met earlier this month with Roisin from the TROCAIRE office and she shared with us the story of Awut and Ajak two incredible women in South Sudan who are sharing their story with us this Lent. One of the challenges TROCAIRE has laid down is to try as a community to walk the complete distance from Dublin to South Sudan which is roughly 5700 miles. It would be great to see parishioners who are able get involved in this challenge and pledge miles (perhaps in fancy dress) and pounds. As a JPPII group we are pledging to walk a number of miles individually and as a group we hope to walk the two bridges if restrictions allow and would be really grateful for your support in sponsorship with all the money raised going directly to TROCAIRE. The link to support is www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jpiiculmoreandsteelstown. Happy walk and Happy Lent.

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.

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.

FREE MENTAL HEALTH COURSES

The Western Health & Social Care Trust Recovery College is running free courses on mental health and emotional wellbeing. Courses start in March, and at present will be delivered via Zoom. For further information and for some shortened courses already free to watch online see the Recovery

College page on the Trust website www.westerntrust.hscni.net/service/recovery-services/recovery-college/ and the Western Trust's You Tube channel.

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. 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.