

# Granaghan Parish Newsletter

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Season of Advent:** Advent is the season four Sundays before Christmas in which we prepare for the coming of Christ. The word Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus', which means 'coming'. Advent is a time of waiting, conversion and of hope. Advent has a two-fold character - it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities' of the Christmas Season, in which the first coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and in its turn in anticipation of Christ's Second coming at the end of time. (Advent Season - Year B)

The four outer candles on the advent wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple signifying a time of preparation, of making our hearts open to the coming of the Lord, and one pink/rose candle for the joyful or (Gaudete Sunday - third Sunday) and represents the joy we know because God loved us so much He sent His Son, Jesus into the world. The last remaining candle is the white candle in the centre of the wreath, this candle is lit on Christmas Eve and represents the Birth of Christ in our midst. Join the journey through Advent this year at [www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/advent-calendar)

*'Lord our God, help us to prepare for the coming of Christ your Son. May He find us waiting, eager in joyful prayer. 'Come, Lord Jesus'.*

\*\*\*ADVENT DEVOTIONS SUNDAY 29TH  
NOVEMBER @ 5PM.\*\*\*

## **CHRISTENING**

We welcome as a member of God's family:

**Cáit Veronica McGuckin**

## **DEATH**

We offer our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Breandan McNally.** May he rest in peace.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### **St. Vincent De Paul**

Due to present circumstances where it has not been possible to carry out church door collections any weekend since the first lockdown, we unfortunately find the same applies to our annual Christmas collection. In previous years, your kindness at this time has enabled us in SVP to make Christmas a time of enjoyment for families rather than one of fear of going into debt.

And yet we remain conscious that these families, and perhaps even an increased number this year, are again concerned about their outlay at this time and how they are going to manage.

But we are blessed to live in a community where there are many good people who are genuinely concerned about their neighbours, and since lockdown in March have been extremely generous to SVP. In recent weeks we have received even more donations which are intended for situations where there is a need at Christmas.

It is our privilege in SVP to make sure that this money is used to lighten the burdens of heating and food etc in the families where we see a need, and we ask that you show your gratitude to these donors, who wish to remain anonymous, by remembering them in your prayers this Christmas.

The words of Pope Francis could well be applied.

“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other, no matter how difficult it is... Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you”

If we can be of any help please do not hesitate to contact us on: 07927900310  
This number can also be found on a noticeboard in the church porch and on the parish website.

## **Granaghan & District Women's Group:**

This has been a very challenging year so far for everyone and continues to be so.

Many people have suffered bouts of anxiety and experienced difficulty sleeping. With that in mind, we are delighted to let you know that we have been awarded funding from The Housing Executive Community Grant to run 12 classes of Meditation with Áine McDaid. There will be SIX SLEEP MEDITATIONS on Monday nights, 9pm-9.45pm (starting this Monday coming November 23rd) and another SIX of DAY-TIME MEDITATIONS (starting this Wednesday November 25th): 2pm-2.45pm.

We are offering these sessions completely free to anyone who wishes to join. All you have to do is simply:

1. Go on to Facebook
2. Search for Granaghan & District Women's Group Meditation Magic!

And it's as simple as that.

This meditation Page is our latest FACEBOOK "LIVE" PAGE and the best part is, if you can't join us at 9pm on a Monday or 2pm on a Wednesday afternoon, ALL these videos will be saved on this same Page so you can re-visit them 24/7!

**Prayer Resources for Advent:** A series of Prayer resources for Advent has been created by the Diocese, in conjunction with the Northern Pastoral Network and the Catechetical Centre, for family prayer at home during the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. These resources contain lots of creative ideas and tips to help families and parishes during Prayer resources for Advent the Season of Advent. A family prayer booklet has been compiled specifically with families in mind. The Gospel for each Sunday of Advent is accompanied by a family activity, prayers and a reflection. The booklet can be downloaded at this link: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/advent-prayer-service-for-use-at-home> Family activities for Advent including prayers, how to create a Jesse Tree, an Advent Wreath and lots more are available to view on the Catechetical Centre website at: <https://catecheticalcentre.org/family-resources/preparing-our-hearts-for-christmas-adventresources>.

**Sacraments of Initiation:** [MyFaith.ie](http://MyFaith.ie) is a parish-based programme of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It releases new modules every two weeks or so as the children and their families prepare for the Sacraments. Each module begins with a short lesson - for parents - on the content of that module before the next item, a taught lesson for the children. The programme is highly interactive, and learning is reinforced through challenges, quizzes and interactive games which are scored but can be repeated indefinitely. This is offered to parents/guardians as a format of instruction during the pandemic.

**Mini Advent Retreat on Zoom:** You are invited to take part in a 3-session mini-retreat during Advent that will explore the themes of Faith, Hope and Love. The retreat will be led by Fr Billy Swan, and will take place from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd December beginning at 8pm. To take part, all you need to do is send an email to [thehookoffaith@gmail.com](mailto:thehookoffaith@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link. Come and join us to prepare for Christmas.

**Diocesan Paper 'The Net':** The November edition of The Net is now available online, on [www.derrydiocese.org](http://www.derrydiocese.org). As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read The Net, on the diocesan website, at your convenience.

**ACCORD Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme - 2021**  
Course Dates: 12th/ 13th January 9th/ 10th February and 9th/ 10th March.  
Booking now online at [www.accordni.com](http://www.accordni.com).

**Sisters from the St. Elisabeth Convent:** (Minsk, Belarus) are launching the very first Online Christmas Market, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer. Please, click here to participate: <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market> . Every item purchased at the Online Market is a donation towards one of the Convent's ministries.

**GIVE  BLOOD**  
**Save Lives**

**MICHAEL DAVITT GAC,  
SWATRAGH**

**THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DEC**

**1:00pm – 4:00pm &  
5:00pm – 7:30pm**

FORM:DD:930:03:NET

**Now by appointment only.  
Please call 08085 534 653 to book.**

[www.nibts.org](http://www.nibts.org)



Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service

