



ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
**SACRED HEART & ST GERARD**  
BELLSHILL ~ EST. 2018

Advent 4 C

19<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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### Services this Week

Tuesday	6.00pm 7.00pm	Confessions until 6.45pm Mass in Sacred Heart
Wednesday	10.00am	Mass in Sacred Heart
Thursday	9.30am	Funeral Mass in Sacred Heart <i>David McAlroy RIP</i>
Friday	9.30am	Mass in St Gerard's
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	5.00pm 9.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass in Sacred Heart Candlelit Carols and Christmas Mass in St Gerard's
<b>Christmas Day</b>		
Saturday	10.00am 11.30am	Mass in St Gerard's Mass in Sacred Heart
<b>Boxing Day</b>		
Sunday	10.00am 11.30am	Mass in St Gerard's Mass in Sacred Heart

### The Scriptures

**First Reading**  
Micah 5:1-4

**Psalm 80**  
God of hosts, bring us back,  
let your face shine on us and  
we shall be saved.

**Second Reading**  
Hebrews 10:5-10

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*I am the handmaid of the Lord:*  
*let what you have said be done*  
*to me.*  
*Alleluia!*

**Gospel**  
Luke 1:39-45

### Please Pray for

#### David McAlroy RIP

*whose funeral will be celebrated on Thursday at  
10.00am in Sacred Heart Church*

#### Mary McFall RIP

*Funeral Arrangements to be confirmed*

#### Elizabeth Melia RIP

*whose funeral will be celebrated on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>  
December at 10.00am in Sacred Heart Church*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

### Thank You

The collection last weekend was £1670. The parish also receives an average of £430 weekly in electronic donations.

### Christmas Masses

Masses remain open and free for people to attend without major restriction. However please bear in mind that the churches will be well ventilated and you are asked to maintain a respectful distance and hand sanitise on entry. Please wear a mask to help protect yourself and others. It is also helpful to take a lateral flow test before attending Church.

The Church will continue to open no more than 30 minutes before the start of Mass.

Please remember that the Christmas Eve 5pm Mass is likely to be busy and the Masses on Christmas morning quieter. If the pews are full, it is not permitted to have people standing around the Church. If we have the happy problem of a full church we will need to turn people away.

## Please remember in your prayers

### Sick:

Baby Felix Durnion, Jackie Chinskie, Betty McDermott, Lorraine McCarthy, Jane Curran, Leanne McGovern, Billy Mosedale, Thomas O'Donnell, Marcella Taylor, Fr Raymond Jaconelli, Avril Fannon, Matt MacDonald, Jean Murphy, Megan Carlin, Jamie Devine, Elizabeth Lunny, Margaret McMahon, Tom Downie, Mary Malone, Annie Taggart, Betty McAuley, Angela Ferguson, Mary Hughes,

**Recently Dead:** Johann Nairn, Arthur Lenagh, Jane Curran, David McAlroy, Jenny Romney, Elizabeth Melia, Mary McFall, Owen Donnelly,

**Months Minds:** Janet & James McBride, Michael McGuigan, Annie & Thomas Tulips, James Coyle, Charles Connor, Alice Connor, Mary Connor, Alice Connor, Patricia Hughes, Kitty Curran, Karen Mount, Jackie Mount,

**Anniversaries:** James Owens, Hugh Daly jnr, Alison Daly, Mary Cleary, Richard Quinn, Mary Cleary, Joseph Mount,

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## Bishop Toal's Christmas Message

In present circumstances it does feel difficult to look forward to Christmas as we are made aware of further restrictions due to the new variant of the coronavirus. Perhaps the ongoing crisis we are living through makes the happy, indeed joyful, celebration of Christmas all the more necessary as we celebrate the presence of God in our midst in the person of the Baby Jesus.

The birth of a child is a moment of great joy and of thanksgiving for the gift of life and the promise of how that life will grow and fulfill its potential through that person's time on earth. Just as the circumstances of Jesus' birth were challenging that can often be the case for others, but it is amazing how even the weakest, the most disadvantaged, do survive and find their place in the human family. Sadly not everybody does and the tragedies surrounding the loss of little children, and unborn babies, are among the hardest that parents and families face. As we acclaim the Child in the Manger as God, born as one of us, we commend to him those who have lost babies and all who are heart-broken over the loss of loved ones of all ages in recent times.

At Christmas we are invited to come to the manger ourselves in the spirit of the shepherds and wise men to do the Lord homage and present ourselves to him, seeking his grace and peace in our own lives. It is what we do constantly as we turn to God in prayer and come together to participate in the celebration of Holy Mass. Coming to the Christmas Crib is an extra beautiful expression of our faith in the Lord made flesh, who has truly dwelt among us. It is an added opportunity to express our desire to remain close to him always and to receive the fullest benefit of his presence within and among us. The words of the last two verses of Away in a Manger come to mind:

Be near me Lord Jesus. I ask you to stay Close by me forever And love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children In thy tender care And fit us for heaven To live with thee there.

I wish you and your families a very Happy and Joyful Christmas and every blessing in 2022.

With my prayers and very best wishes,

Yours in Christ, + Joseph Toal

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## Parish Building & Finance Meeting

on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January  
at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Church

Everyone is welcome to discuss the repairs and maintenance of our churches and halls as well as the financial implications of these decisions for our parish finances.

## Thank You

The Coyle family thank everyone for their prayers and condolences after the death of James Coyle RIP