

# Parish of Ardstraw East

## The Baptism of the Lord

8h Jan  
2012



Chapel - Mary Mother of God  
Weekday Masses



Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri

10.00am

Saturday Vigil

6.30pm



Confessions before Mass

Our Prayers are requested for the Souls of  
Brigid McNamee and Eddie Bradley  
Whose anniversaries occur at this time



*The Lord's is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.*



The gentle power of God is emphasised in both the First reading and in the Psalm of today's Mass. The Gospel has the combination of the terror of the heavens being torn apart and the calmness of the dove appearing at the baptism of Jesus. The pagan religions are about pleasing a powerful remote God, but Jesus introduces us to a loving generous Father and life giving Holy Spirit.

The power of God in the calm water of Baptism combined with the protective love and safe guidance of parents and family invite all who are baptised to develop and become confident in a new life of closeness and shared responsibility with others including our creator. But there are other influences on us steering us in directions we never intended. We begin

to believe that we are not loveable enough, not clever enough, not brave enough or not determined enough to matter in life, and worse still we convince ourselves that we are made that way and that we just cant change who or how we are. John is the champion of change. Instead of fear of change he promotes change as an opportunity for greater happiness.

If we determine to change the direction of our lives God will offer us a clean slate. The past doesn't have to equal the future. We can do things differently if we really want to, and help is at hand. The very same Spirit that descends like a dove in Jesus' baptism, fills us in our own baptism. With the help of the Holy Spirit we can improve our selves and our relationships. We can change the way we think. We can make changes to the way we behave. These will lead to happily changing **who we are.**



### PARISH DRAW

The Parish Draw does not begin until 23 January. We will still have 45 weeks before Christmas! I could not begin without the help and expertise of Anne who is on a well earned holiday, down under! And by all accounts enjoying herself. Most of last year's collectors have generously agreed to commit themselves for the coming year. Volunteer(s) needed for Mourne Park. Please give me a call.

### YOUTH FORUM

Activities resume in Centre 2000 from 12 Jan to 5 April 2012 for 7-17yr olds. Annual Registration Fee -£7 per child. Parents/Guardians of U-16's are asked to attend to fill in the forms.

AGM: Congratulations to the new Office Bearers elected on 15 December 2011

**Chair:** Kevin Gallagher; **Vice Chair:** Andy Mc Sorley; **Secretary:** Carolann Hannigan;

**Asst Secretary:** Margo Mc Sorley;

**Treasurer:** Edel Mc Nulty; **Asst Treasurer:**

Claragh Mc Sorley; **Child Protection Officer:** Aidan Maguire; **ICT Officer:** Kevin Hargan

**Communication Officers:** Mark Maguire and Karl Devine; **Honorary Senior Member Reps** Karla Ashenhurst; Emma O'Brien; Nial Mayse; Sean Hargan & Dean Mc Nulty

Pray—at all times  
In all places.



Wherever you are, pray secretly within yourself. If you are far from a house of prayer give not yourself trouble to seek one, for you yourself are a sanctuary designed for prayer. If you are in bed, or in any other place, pray there for your temple is there.

Author unknown.

Based on the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (6:18)  
also Gospel of St Luke (18:1)



### Church Finances

Offertory Collection £1,015.00



St. Eugene's GFC.

**Committee Meeting:** -Mon 9th January at 8.00pm. All committee members please attend.

The host a preliminary round of **Scor Sinear** in St Eugene's Hall on Saturday 28th January at 6.30pm. There will be an important player's meeting on Friday 6th January, 2012 at 7.30pm in the clubrooms. All adult players please attend. New players very welcome.

Looking for a New Year Resolution? Join the club's fully equipped gym!! Great rates. Club members £50 per year and non-members £80 for a year. Interested or to find out more, contact Carmel Maguire on 07544989791 or any committee member for more information.

The club would like to wish you all a very Happy and peaceful year and look forward to your support in 2012.

### FORGIVE AND FORGET

When we hurt each other, we should write it on sand, in case we remember it.

When we forgive each other we should chisel it on stone, so that we never forget it.

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF PRIESTS

Fr. S Kearney Parochial House 81661445

" " Mobile 07981814320

Fr. C O'Doherty, C'derg 81671393

Fr. B Donnelly, Plumbridge 81648283

Fr. J. Forbes, Gortin 81648203

### PARISH WEB SITE

[www.parishofardstraweast.com](http://www.parishofardstraweast.com)

### Bulletin Notices

N.B. All notices, including Anniversaries should be delivered in **writing** or to [ardstrawparochial@btinternet.com](mailto:ardstrawparochial@btinternet.com) before **2.pm on Thursday.**