



# Parish of Newtownards & Comber

**Sunday 18th May 2025**  
*Fifth Week of Easter Year C*

## THIS WEEK

<b>SATURDAY 17TH May</b>	6pm—6.20pm <i>Confessions</i> Vigil Mass 6.30 Newtownards
<b>SUNDAY 18TH May</b>	10 am Comber 11.30 am Newtownards
<b>MONDAY 19H May</b>	9am-9.20am <i>Confessions</i> 9.30am Mass Newtownards
<b>TUESDAY 20h May</b>	7pm-7.20pm <i>Confessions</i> 7.30pm Mass Comber
<b>WEDNESDAY 21st May</b>	9am-9.20am <i>Confessions</i> 9.30am Mass Newtownards
<b>THURSDAY 22nd May</b>	9am-9.20am <i>Confessions</i> 9.30am Mass Newtownards
<b>FRIDAY 23RD MAY</b>	9am-9.20am <i>Confessions</i> 9.30am Mass and Benediction Newtownards

## WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Maria Johnston, Gerald Dowd,  
Joseph McCullough (Snr),  
Anthony Arthurs, Roseleen Arthurs,  
Raymond Heron, Hieronim Mielnick,  
Joseph Edgar, Clara Coffee.

SMA African Missions collection  
amounted to £1,600

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

*Weekly Offering* £1279  
Maintenance Fund £745

## Non-stop Draw Week 3

£100 Ann Pinnance.  
£50 Mathew Hagen.  
£50 Rita Copper.  
*Hearty congratulations to the winners*

## ST PATRICK'S PARISH HALL

Brian McDonald 028 91815051  
for all enquiries.

## PARISH OFFICE 10am—1pm

Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Tel: 028 91812137

Email: [newtownards@downandconnor.org](mailto:newtownards@downandconnor.org)

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

**POPE LEO XIV** celebrates the Mass of Inauguration as Sovereign Roman Pontiff in St Peter's Square Rome on Sunday 18 May. As we pray for God's abundant blessing upon the Holy Father and the whole Church we will mark this occasion at the 11.30am Mass in Newtownards to coincide with the Mass of the Holy Father in Rome.

**ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX** To mark the Centenary of the Canonisation of St Thérèse Fr Paul Murray OP will deliver a talk on the life and wisdom of St Thérèse and the relevance of her message for today. Holy Family Church Limestone Rd Belfast Thursday 22 May 7pm.

**KNOCK 2025** All Pilgrims travelling to Knock on 7th/8th June. The final payment is now due. Please make payment to Brenda Cafolla as soon as possible please. Contact Brenda on 07530156389.

**SVP** A huge thankyou from SVP to the very kind Parishioner who donated the bunk beds. They will make a big difference to a family and we are very grateful.

**LOUGH DERG** Down and Connor Diocesan three day Pilgrimage led by Bishop Alan and Jim Deeds cost £100. For further info and booking contact Claire on 02890690920. Thankyou.

**ANAM CARA** Bereavement information evening. Supporting parents after bereavement. Thursday 22nd May at 7pm. Contact number 02895213120.

**LECTIO DIVINA** This will be held in Bangor Parish Centre on Monday 19th May 7.30pm all very welcome.

**SENSORY MASS** There will be a sensory friendly Mass at St Colmcille's Church Ballyhackamore, on Saturday 28th June at 12 noon. All very welcome.

**MONTH OF MAY** is the Month of Our Lady consider bringing children and loved ones to say a Hail Mary at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Newtownards.

## PRIESTS OF THE PARISH

Very Rev. Martin O'Hagan PP  
Rev. Andrew Black SSL

Tel: 028 91812137

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH  
71 Upper North Street  
Newtownards BT23 4JD

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE  
VISITATION

Killinchy Street Comber BT23 5AP

SVP HELPLINE  
07738837984



BETHANY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT  
07563195580



# Parish Census 10-11 May 2025

<b>Newtownards Vigil Mass 10 May 2025</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
0 - 11	2	1
12 - 18	4	2
19 - 29	2	4
30 - 39	8	6
40 - 49	6	9
50 - 59	4	8
60 - 69	6	27
70 - 79	13	36
80 - 89 +	4	7
	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Comber 10am Mass 11 May 2025</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
0 - 11	11	11
12 - 18	5	3
19 - 29	2	3
30 - 39	2	6
40 - 49	4	8
50 - 59	8	12
60 - 69	9	9
70 - 79	11	15
80 - 89 +	6	4
	<b>58</b>	<b>71</b>

<b>Newtownards 11.30am Mass Sunday 11 May</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
0 - 11	13	15
12 - 18	13	7
19 - 29	7	3
30 - 39	5	10
40 - 49	11	13
50 - 59	6	15
60 - 69	8	18
70 - 79	8	23
80 - 89 +	6	7
	<b>77</b>	<b>111</b>

<b>Collated Parish of Newtownards and Comber</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
0 - 11	26	27
12 - 18	22	12
19 - 29	11	10
30 - 39	15	22
40 - 49	21	30
50 - 59	18	35
60 - 69	23	54
70 - 79	32	74
80 - 89 +	16	18
	<b>184</b>	<b>282</b>

Many thanks for heeding the call to come and be counted for the Parish Census 2025 and to all who assisted with the counting. I am pleased to present the results so that we as a parish can see a realistic picture of where our Parish finds itself. There were a total of **466** people attending Mass last weekend. This number does not include the many faithful sick and housebound or those who were otherwise unable to attend Mass but who are otherwise faithful members of the Parish.

According to the *NI Census 2021* the population of Newtownards was recorded as 29,395 with 7% declared as Catholic which is the equivalent of 2,057 people. The population of Comber is recorded as 14,445 with an average of 5% declared Catholic which is the equivalent of 722 people. Statistically there are roughly **2,779** Catholics living in the Parish of Newtownards and Comber, with a total population of roughly 43,840 people. The percentage rate of practice could be estimated therefore at around **17%**.

There are many signs of new life in the Parish however with many people having come from far away to make their home here and the goal of our Christian life is that God will be worshipped and adored in Newtownards and Comber. Many people came to Masses for Easter and had prepared before hand through the sacrament of Confession. Whilst the percentage rate of practice may seem very low, each soul coming to pray in our churches and the many homes inviting Jesus' blessing upon them are the reason for the hope that is in us.

Let us pray that many more souls will come to the fullness of their Catholic faith and to experience the love of God in their hearts and for each one of us to continue to grow as a missionary disciple of Jesus to encourage and support others to come back to the sacraments and to make Sunday especially an important moment to invite God's blessing into their lives.