



# Parish of Newtownards & Comber

**Sunday 27th July 2025**

*17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C*

## THIS WEEK

<b>SATURDAY 26th July</b>	Vigil Mass Newtownards
<b>SUNDAY 27th July</b>	10am Comber 11.30am Newtownards
<b>MONDAY 28th July</b>	9.30am Mass Newtownards
<b>TUESDAY 29th July</b>	9.30am Comber
<b>WEDNESDAY 30th July</b>	7.30pm Newtownards
<b>THURSDAY 31st July</b>	9.30am Newtownards
<b>FRIDAY 1st AUGUST</b>	9am Mass Newtownards

## WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Frank Mc Garvey  
Ann Busby Philomena Busby  
Mick Malony, Michelle Wishart,  
Richard and Anne Murray,  
Roy Patterson, Samuel Cairns,  
Edward Cairns, Kathleen Tracy,  
Ann Falls, Kathleen Mc Donagh,  
Fr William Mc Auley, Noria Cafolla  
Giuseppe Cafolla, George Wing,  
Connie Frances, Rebecca Munroe  
Hamilton Cowan, John Greer  
John Bennette, Bibiana O'Connell  
Maureen Henderson (Nee Ennis)  
John Mc Geehan, Richard Gray

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Weekly Offering £1381  
Diocesan Pastoral Services £549.05

## Non-stop Draw Week 13

£100 P Stinson  
£50 Helena Grimes

## ST PATRICK'S PARISH HALL

Brian McDonald 028 91815051  
for all enquiries.

**WELCOME HOME FR MARTIN** We Look forward to welcoming Fr Martin back to the parish this Sunday evening from his well deserved sabbatical. There will be tea and coffee in the hall after the 11.30 Sunday Mass to give Fr Andrew a chance to say goodbye.

**SCHOOL UNIFORMS** The SVP Conference are available to support any family who may need assistance for upcoming costs relating to uniforms, please contact them on the helpline below.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE** A meeting will be held in St Patricks Parish Centre on the 2nd August 7.30pm to finalise all the details. The coach will pick us up from St Patricks at 12.30pm. The cost for each person is £35 if you could bring that with you on the 2nd so we can get all monies collected we would be very grateful. Look forward to seeing you all then..

**THE MEMORARE** is a powerful prayer asking Our Lady's intercession, consider teaching this prayer to your children and grandchildren.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help,  
or sought thy intercession,  
was left unaided.  
Inspired by this confidence  
I fly unto thee,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To thee do I come,  
before thee I stand,  
sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

## PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev. Martin O'Hagan PP

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

**PARISH OFFICE** 10am—1pm  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Tel: 028 91812137

Email: newtownards@downandconnor.org

**DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR**

SVP HELPLINE  
07738837984



BETHANY BEREAVEMENT  
SUPPORT  
07563195580





With grateful thanks to God for a very blessed and peaceful six months I take my leave of the Parish of Newtownards and Comber. I can truly say that the tremendous sense of welcome and generosity that I have received here has been the fruit of prayer. In the months before I arrived in the parish, whilst still in the Holy Land, I was praying very decidedly that all would go well and that I could serve the parish happily.

Returning to the place of my birth, and to get to know the place and the people in a new way brought me a particular joy. The celebration of my tenth anni-

versary of priestly ordination at the start of May was an equally memorable moment that brought me renewed enthusiasm to the promises I made on the day of Ordination. From the very beginning I was deeply impressed by the commitment and engagement across of the parish, and I must commend Fr Martin O'Hagan for the notable impact that he has had upon the parish in his years of dedicated priestly ministry. I am entirely confident that at this new juncture in the life of the parish Fr Brian McCann will find a home as readily as I did.

My fervent prayer is that the Parish will continue to grow and become a beacon for souls seeking God in Newtownards and Comber. When we took the annual census in April, I was heartened to note the good number of faithful people who continue to make their commitment to God and this community, you have been a great source of edification to me. To the great number of souls who have yet to experience the sense of belonging and belief in the parish, I hope that Jesus will touch your hearts to come home and find your place here. To the young people who come to Mass I congratulate you on your witness and encourage you in your faith, with Jesus we truly receive a peace that the world cannot give.

I am particularly indebted to the Altar Servers and young musicians who played such a pivotal role in our Sunday Masses and hope that your service at the altar will lead to a greater service of God in your daily lives. To the sick and housebound, I thank you for your prayers for the parish and for your struggling on in the midst of great adversity, may Jesus bring you his comfort and support. I had the privilege of getting to know so many people here and of collaborating in particular ways with many dedicated parishioners, for which I will remain truly grateful.

As I prepare to return to Jerusalem I assure you of a remembrance in my prayers in all the holy places. I commend Derek Le Mahieu in these final weeks of preparation for your ordination to the Diaconate in October and thank you for your ministry. I pray in particular that vocations to the priesthood will come from the parish and that they will be welcomed with humble joy. To serve in this parish is truly a great honour and I am thankful that I have been able to add my small contribution to the illustrious men who came before me, and who will follow.

With heartfelt thanks I bless you in the name of Jesus and invoke the intercession of Mary the Mother of God and St Patrick upon you and your families. May God pour out his blessings abundantly upon the whole parish and fill your hearts with his peace

Fr Andrew T. Black

27 July 2025