

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

WEEKLY OFFERING £1418

MONTHLY OFFERING £1109

Parish non-stop Draw Week 33

£100 Darren Mc Mullan

£50 Mr J Loughlin

£50 Claire Kirkwood

Hearty congratulations to the winners



Parish of Newtownards & Comber

(a parish within the Ards Family of Parishes)

Sunday 4th December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent--Gaudete Sunday Year A



DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL IN OUR PARISH

Christmas Cards are available at the churches in our parish this weekend with a minimum donation requested of £3 per pack.

The Christmas Appeal was launched last weekend of 6/7th December. Christmas Appeal envelopes can be returned at Masses this weekend and next.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Saint Patrick's Newtownards 7pm

Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber 10pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Saint Patrick's 10am

This year, Crib Offerings in both churches will be donated to the Holy Family Hospital Bethlehem Christmas Appeal. (Organized internationally by the Knights of Malta.)

Saint Columbanus' College, Bangor-Open Night

□ **Date:** Tuesday 13th January 2026

□ **Time:** 6.45pm-9pm

□ **Location:** St Columbanus' College, Ballymacconnell Road, Bangor

This is a fantastic opportunity for families to explore our school, meet our dedicated staff, and discover what makes our learning community so special.

USEFUL NUMBERS

DOWN AND CONNOR BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY 07563195580

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE 07738837984

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN SAINT PATRICK'S PARISH HALL

Mondays

Indoor Bowling 7-9pm

Tuesdays

Lacemakers 2-4pm, Dance Class 6.30-7.15pm

Wednesdays

Friendship Club 2-4pm Pickle Ball 7-9pm

Thursdays

Line Dancing 7-9pm

Fridays

Tippy Toes (parents and toddlers) 9.30-11.30am Parish Youth Club 7-9pm

Saturdays

Irish Dancing 10-12 noon

PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev. Brian McCann PP

Tel: 028 91812137

PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Derek Le Mahieu

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 (located in St Patrick's Hall)

Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 10am-1pm

Tel: 028 91812137

Email: newtownards@downandconnor.org

Parish website:

www.newtownardsandcomberparish.com

ST PATRICK'S PARISH HALL

Brian McDonald 028 91815051 for all enquiries.

CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE

Please note the parish office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am-1pm.

During this time, our Parish Secretary, Gail will be happy to deal with many matters including receiving visitors to the parish office, answering the parish telephone, issuing of sacramental certificates, collating information for the parish bulletin, and much more. Parishioners are encouraged to conduct routine matters during these hours.

In addition, outside of parish office hours, the parish now has an answering machine. In cases of **emergency**, that is, for urgent sick calls when a parishioner is seriously ill, and the immediate attention of a priest is required, the answering machine message provides clear instructions as to how contact can be made with Fr Brian in such emergencies.

MASSES DURING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

NO MASS

TUESDAY

Comber 9.30am

WEDNESDAY

Newtownards 9.30am

THURSDAY

Newtownards 9.30am

FRIDAY

Newtownards 9.30am

SATURDAY

Vigil Mass Newtownards 6.30pm

SUNDAY

Comber 10am, Newtownards 11.30am

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

You are most welcome to come along the celebrate the Sacrament of Confession at the following times:

Saturday 5.45pm+ in St Patrick's
Tuesday evening 7pm+ in Comber
Friday morning 9am+ in St Patrick's

THE DIVINE OFFICE

Morning Prayer of the Church is celebrated in St Patrick's Church on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.10am. All welcome.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

The Tuesday evening Mass each week in the Church of Our Lady of The Visitation is offered as a novena Mass in honour of Our Lady Of Perpetual Help.

PRAYING OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Tuesdays 7-7.15pm in Comber
Saturday 6-6.15pm in St Patrick's
Sunday 9.30-9.45 in Comber

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Sunday evening Advent Devotions will take place in St Patrick's Church (tonight) Sunday 14th and next Sunday, 21st December at 7pm. The devotions will take the form of a guided Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
All welcome.

PLEASE NOTE:

This coming Tuesday, the Tuesday Mass within the parish will take place in the morning at 9.30am in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber. (There will be no 7.30pm Mass!)

PENITENTIAL SERVICES WITHIN OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT 2025

Tuesday 16th December	St Patrick's, Ballygalget 6pm, St Patrick's, Portaferry 7pm
Wednesday 17th December	St Joseph's, Ballycran 7pm
Thursday 18th December	St Patrick's, Newtownards 7pm
Monday 22nd December,	St Comgall's, Bangor 7pm

The priests within the Family of Parishes will be available in all locations to hear confessions.

'PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD!'

The monthly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place this coming Wednesday 17th December from 10am until 4pm in Saint Patrick's Church., concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

During that time you are invited to spend some time in the presence of Our Divine Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Many graces are available to those who will come to adore, graces for themselves, for their families, those whose intentions are presented to the Lord during that time.

'Sign-up' sheets are available in both churches....Please consider signing-up in order to ensure that an adequate number of adorers are in place at any given time during the day.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Anniversaries:

Rose Gamble, Isobel Breen, Eileen McGuigan, Pat & Norman McMullan, Rose Barritt, Claire Haverin, Phil Jones, John Curry, Margaret Curry, Brendan & Kathleen Donlon, Felice Magliocco, Marco Cafolla
Peggy Cherry.

IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

During this week we are asked to pray for the following intention:

— *On Friday, we commemorated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We ask for the intercession of this patroness of the unborn, saying: 'Let us implore the gift of children for families without children, respect for conceived life and the openness of hearts to Gospel values.'*

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER-BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

One of the traditions of the third Sunday of Advent is that of blessing the baby Jesus taken from the crib. You may like to consider bringing along the figure of the baby Jesus from your family crib and have it blessed at the Masses in our parish this weekend.

An Examination of Conscience based on the Ten Commandments in preparation for the Sacrament of Confession

I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.

Have I treated people, events, or things as more important than God?

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church, or people?

Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Do I go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation which fall on 17th March, 15th August, 1st November, 8th December?

Do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes worship to God, joy for the Lord's Day, and proper relaxation of mind and body? Do I look for ways to spend time with family or in service on Sunday?

Honor your father and your mother.

Do I show my parents due respect? Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible? Do I criticize them for lacking skills I think they should have? Do I treat children and young people with patience?

You shall not kill.

Have I harmed another through physical, verbal, or emotional means, including gossip or manipulation of any kind? You shall not commit adultery. Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another?

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

Have I gossiped, told lies, or embellished stories at the expense of another?

You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse.

Have I honoured my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love?

You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.

Am I content with my own means and needs, or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily

The Act of Sorrow

O My God, I am heartily sorry for all my sins, because they offend You who are so good, and with the help of Your holy grace, I will not sin again. Amen.



Dear Parishioners,

You will notice this weekend that we now include the new Ards Peninsula Family of Parishes logo within the parish bulletin. Newtownards and Comber Parish is one of the parishes within our grouping of parishes; the other parishes within the family are; Bangor, Ardkeen(Kircubbin,) Ballygalget and Portaferry. The *Family of Parishes* project arose out of the significant work of Bishop Noel Treanor during his tenure as Bishop of our Diocese. He established the Pathways to the Future initiative which will inform the pathway in our diocese over the next twenty years. Last February Bishop McGickien decided upon the map of the diocese, formulating over twenty families (groupings) of parishes. Parishes can no longer be considered isolated from a neighbouring parish. Over the coming decades, parishes are being asked to focus more on mission, evangelization, catechesis and faith development. In addition, bearing in mind the rapidly declining number of clergy within our diocese, parishes will have to cooperate creatively and collaboratively to provide for the spiritual and pastoral care of the faithful within and across parishes. Very soon, parishes will have to identify how they can share resources, share personnel, devise/revise Mass timetables which can be covered by the clergy within the family of parishes, in addition to many other administrative and pastoral matters. It is an exciting time. Please pray for the success of the initiative. Let us also pray for vocations within our diocese. Fr Brian

Fr Brian