

Please note: the parish bulletin will not be printed next weekend

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

WEEKLY OFFERING £1172
MAINTENANCE FUND £635

Parish non-stop Draw **Week 34**
£500 Scarlet Kozlowski
£250 Alison Cassidy
£150 Bernard Noble
Hearty congratulations to the winners

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL IN OUR PARISH

Thanks to all who so generously donated to the Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal in support of needy families and individuals. Also, a word of sincere thanks to all the members of the parish conference of the SVP for their tireless work throughout the year!

St Patrick's Irish Dancing Club

Introducing *Little Cygnets* beginning Saturday 17th January 2026 at 10am in St Patrick's Hall; a class for toddlers and their parents, to explore music, movement and rhythm. For more information check out our face book page or email Gemma and Angela at stpatrickscdc@gmail.com.

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 of Newtownards & Comber

(a parish within the Ards Family of Parishes)

Sunday 21st December 2025

Fourth Sunday Of Advent –Year A



DIocese OF DOWN AND CONNOR

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 7 30PM

WEDNESDAY

Newtownards 9.30am

Please see Christmas timetable on the reverse for the times/locations of Masses over the Christmas Season.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

During the days leading up to Christmas, there will be opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession at the following times:

Tuesday evening -Comber 7pm

Wednesday morning -St Patrick's 9am

'God never tires in forgiving us; we tire in asking for His forgiveness!' (Pope Francis)

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

Mass will be preceded by 15 minutes silence

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Sunday evening Advent Devotions will take place in St Patrick's Church (tonight) 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.

MASSES IN NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER PARISH DURING THE SEASON OF CHRISTMASTIDE

Christmas Eve

Saint Patrick's Newtownards 7pm
Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber 10pm

Christmas Day

Saint Patrick's 10am

Saturday 27th St Patrick's 6.30pm

Sunday December 28th

Comber 10am St Patrick's 11.30am

Wednesday December 31st St Patrick's 9.30am

Thursday January 1st, Feast of Mary the Mother of God St Patrick's 11am

Friday January 2nd St Patrick's 9.30am

Saturday January 3rd St Patrick's 6.30pm

Sunday January 4th Comber 10am, St Patrick's 11.30am

Tuesday January 6th– Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord

St Patrick's 10am Comber 7.30pm

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Recently Deceased: Patricia Deaney

Anniversaries:

Anna Mayberry, Billy Mc Crory, Martha O' Sullivan (1st anniversary), Nancy Crawford, Annie & Marie Brennan, Anne Carnie, Maggie and John Wells, Freda Corcoran, Wyndham and Lily Scott, Aidan Noble, Margret Noble,, Christina and Jim Johnston.

IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

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

Let us pray for all parents expecting a new child, that they might be blessed with a safe and healthy pregnancy for mother and baby.

CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Bishop Alan McGuckian will celebrate the Rite of the Closing of the Jubilee Year with Mass at 3.00pm in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast on Sunday 4th January 2026. He would like to invite as many as possible, from across the Diocese, to join him for the Mass and some refreshments afterwards in St Comgall's Centre. While the Jubilee Year of Hope will formally close, the task ahead will be to carry it's Message of Hope with us into the New Year 2026.
Please consider attending the closing Mass, thereby representing your parish.

An Examination of Conscience based on the Ten Commandments n 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.

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace
for which they sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness, and purity.
Awaken in their hearts
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.