

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
WEEKLY OFFERING £1128
MONTHLY OFFERING £1196
 Family Fast £697-for Aid to the Church in
 Need

Parish non-stop Draw Week 37
 £100 John Donaghy
 £50 Mr N McGuigan
 £50 Josie Price
Hearty congratulations to the winners



Parish of Newtownards & Comber
 (a parish within the Ards Family of Parishes)
Sunday 11th January 2026
Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord-Year A



DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL IN OUR PARISH

Sincere thanks to those who contributed to the Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Over £8,000 was raised in Newtownards & Comber Parish. As a result many needy individuals and families were assisted over Christmas.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

Experience transformation in the marriage relationship! All married couples welcome.
 Takes place in St Mary's Retreat Centre, Knock Co Mayo Friday 20th March till 22nd March.
 For further information, please visit www.marriagecounter.ie

DOWN & CONNOR LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

9th-14th July 2026

We are seeking doctors, registered nurses and volunteers to care for pilgrims who need medical, nursing and personal care or assistance to make their pilgrimage to Lourdes possible. This year we are especially seeking new brancardiers (adult men helpers) in addition to our medical, nursing and handmaidens teams.
 For more information, please email your contact details to lourdes@downandconnor.org

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.

Ards CCE Traditional Music classes in St Columbanus College Bangor, Sunday afternoons also Sunday evenings in St Josephs Belfast. All instruments and all levels welcome. For more information, contact Niall on 07960072218. Also Mc Clean family concerts in the Courthouse Bangor.

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 7.30pm

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

Mass will be preceded by 15 minutes silence

A PRAYER ON THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Heavenly Father,
On the day Your beloved Son was baptized in the Jordan,
You revealed Him as the Light of the world and the hope of all nations.
Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
You sanctified the waters and opened the way to new life.
Renew in us the grace of our own baptism.
Wash away all that keeps us from You,
and strengthen us to live as true children of Your Kingdom.
May we listen to the voice of Your Son,
follow His example of humility and love,
and bear witness to His mercy in all we do.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEDICATION OF THE DAYS & MONTHS OF THE YEAR

Each month of the year is dedicated to a particular devotion within the Catholic faith. The dedication of each month is based on historical events or a particular aspect of the liturgical calendar, focused on some particular mystery of the faith, or particular saint. Focusing on the particular devotion can help bring variety to the forms of prayer and help growth in understanding of the various mysteries of the faith. You will find the suggested devotions for the particular months:

January --	The Holy Name of Jesus
February --	The Holy Family
March --	Saint Joseph
April --	The Holy Eucharist
May --	The Blessed Virgin Mary
June --	The Sacred Heart of Jesus
July --	The Precious Blood of Jesus
August --	The Immaculate Heart of Mary
September --	The Seven Sorrows of Mary, the Sorrowful Mother
October --	The Holy Rosary
November --	The Holy Souls in Purgatory
December --	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Similarly, each day of the week is dedicated to a particular intention in our prayer:

Sunday	The Blessed Trinity
Monday	The Holy Angels
Tuesday	The Holy Apostles
Wednesday	Saint Joseph
Thursday	The Holy Eucharist
Friday	The Passion of Our Lord
Saturday	The Blessed Virgin Mary

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Recently Deceased: Anthony Waugh Stuart Griffen, Patrick Black

Anniversaries:

Belle Watson, Jim Eagleson, Rena McConnell, Angela Collins, John Mc Cullough, Eusebio Desilva Ferreira, Dr Edmund Querry, Barny Mc Mullan, Cissie Gallen, Norman and Idena Graham, Joseph Donaghy

IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

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

– As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we pray that, like Christ who entered fully into our humanity, we may show compassion and care for all who are elderly, suffering, or nearing the end of life.

SUPPORTING THE SUFFERING CHURCH



Sincere thanks to all who regularly donate to the 'Family Fast Box' in St Patrick's Church. In recent months a total of £697 has been donated into the box. The parish's chosen charity for such donations will be *Aid to the Church in Need*.

Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church, a charity founded to help Christians in need where they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need through support, charitable work and generating awareness. Our objective is to advance the Christian faith by supporting and promoting the Church, especially in countries where Christians are suffering persecution or discrimination. We also seek to further the other charitable work of the Church by providing practical assistance and pastoral care for persons in need, especially those who are living in, or are refugees from, such countries. Each year *Aid to the Church in Need* makes grants to help fund over 5,000 projects, primarily in the following areas:

- provision of catechetical material and books to spread the word of God
- broadcasting the Faith to those who wish to watch and listen
- help with church buildings so even the most remote faithful can have a place to worship
- support for the training of seminarians to grow the future of the Church
- subsidies for priests through grants and Stipends through Mass offerings
- emergency aid and humanitarian support during times of crisis
- provision of transport for those involved in the Church's mission

PRAYING THE MASS

Mass response cards are available in both churches of the parish; they contain the prayers and responses used during the celebration of Mass. An idea for parents: you may consider helping your child to follow the Mass by helping him/her to learn and use the various responses. Please ask the ministers of welcome for a copy or copies.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The monthly Eucharistic Adoration in Newtownards & Comber parish will take place in St Patrick's Church on Wednesday 21st January 10am until 4pm. 'Sign-up' rota sheet will be available at Masses next weekend. Please consider spending some time in prayer on that day.

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS

During the month of January, our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV invites us to join with him in prayer for the following intention:
For prayer with the Word of God.
-Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

THE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

Beginning Experience is a peer ministry to the bereaved, separated and divorced, based within the Family Ministry of the Diocese of Down and Connor. We are offering a support programme over three Saturdays during the spring and would be most grateful if you could include the following information in your Church Bulletin at your earliest convenience. The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Beginning Experience is offering a programme of bereavement support in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast on three Saturdays (31st January, 28th February and 28th March) Booking essential. To find out more, contact Pauline 07519289185 or Marie 07896119669 or email belfastbe@yahoo.com