

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
 WEEKLY OFFERING £1316
 FAITH AND PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT
 FUND £540

Parish non-stop Draw Week 40
 £100 Caitlin Hagen
 £50 Sharon Harper
 £50 Debora Taggart
Hearty congratulations to the winners



Parish of Newtownards & Comber

(a parish within the Ards Family of Parishes)

Sunday 25th January 2026

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time— Year A



DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR

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.marriageencounter.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

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 belfast-be@yahoo.com

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
 ST PATRICKS FUNERAL CATERING TEAM 07769796997

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

Facebook: Parish of Newtownards & Comber

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 to 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

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Catholic Church celebrates Sunday of the Word of God on Sunday, 25 January 2026, under the motto: *"The word of Christ dwells among you"* (Col 3:16). Observed each year on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, this day invites the faithful to reflect on, celebrate, and share the Word of God in their daily lives.

The celebration was established by Pope Francis in his 2019 Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*, emphasizing the essential connection between the Risen Lord, Christian communities, and Sacred Scripture. The Pope calls on all believers to make the Word of God a living presence in their hearts, guiding their actions and inspiring their witness.

This year, the celebration also coincides with the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, marking the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Just as the Word transformed Paul on the road to Damascus, it continues to call Christians today to open their hearts and share the Gospel with the world.

Sunday of the Word of God is a reminder that Scripture is not just to be read or studied, it is to live within us, bearing fruit in our lives and communities.

Please note: this Tuesday, the Mass in Comber will not take place at 7.30pm but at 9.30am. The children from Saint Mary's Primary School will join us for the Mass.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

At this time of year, Catholic Schools Week is celebrated. The theme for the celebration in 2026 is, 'Normal Lives-Called to Holiness.' This theme emphasizes that holiness is not reserved for the extraordinary but is a universal calling for everyone, encouraging pupils, families and school communities to reflect on how holiness is lived in ordinary daily life. Each day of the week focusses on different aspects of holiness, such as prayer, love, friendship, family life, service and joy. The example of Saint Carlo Acutis is proposed: he was an ordinary teenager who has provided us with an extraordinary and inspirational example of love for the Mass, for Eucharistic Adoration, love of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Rosary, love for the Sacrament of Confession and love for others.

We give thanks for the work taking place within our parish schools, St Finian's and St Mary's. We ask God to bless the staff-members and the pupils as they grow in wisdom and faith. We pray that they may all come to know Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life, and that they may use the gifts the Lord has bestowed upon them to serve God and others.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Recently Deceased:

Bill Farren, Fr Brendan McConvery CSsR

Anniversaries:

Bridgid Mullan, Jim Johnston, Martha McGrath, Alan George, Ross McCann, William James McDonald, Ella Halton, Betty McCann, Nancy Crilly, Roma Mc Alinden, Margaret Colaluca, Alphonsus Tracey, Robert Brown, Johnny O'Hara, Margaret Stephens, James Foy, Francis Mc Avera, Deila Mc Cartan

IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

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

-We pray for all who work in maternity units with expectant mothers, that they may recognise that God is truly with us in each unborn child.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th-25th January 2026

As we conclude the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity today, we continue to pray for that unity of the Church for which Christ himself prayed. Sincere thanks to those who attended the Church Unity Service in St Mary's Church of Ireland in Comber last Sunday evening.

You may find the prayer below useful to include in daily prayer:

Lord our God, we confess together our faith in the mystery of your perfect unity,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one and only God.

We pray for the grace to grow in unity together as your Church. By baptism, we profess this unity in the gift of your Holy Spirit, born again as your sinless children,

yet we quickly surrender to the temptation of division.

Forgive us this sin and lead us to the miracle of being reconciled

by the love of our Lord Jesus

Christ. Sin and division lead to death and destruction.

In Jesus, who conquered death forever by

his supreme act of love, we are empowered in this world to build his kingdom of forgiveness and peace.

We pray, heavenly One, to you as our Father,

that we truly believe and trust in the promise

of the Gospel "that they all may be one."

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our brother and Lord,

in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Please remember in your daily prayer those who are preparing for the sacraments, including the children in our parish schools who will be celebrating the sacraments of First Confession, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. We also remember those who are participating in the RCIA course in our diocese, and who will be received into the Church on Holy Saturday evening.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

On February 11th, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of Prayer for the Sick, a prayer service will take place in Saint Patrick's Church at 7pm.

The time of prayer will include the celebration of the Sacrament (Anointing) of the Sick

Please spread the word to those who would benefit from receiving the sacrament. You might even consider offering a lif to family members, friends and neighbours. More details later.....

CONGRATULATIONS TO SAINT FINIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Saint Finian's Primary School was one of the schools in our diocese to received the Spirit of Catholic Award. At a special ceremony in St Mary's University College on Wednesday 21st January, the school received the award from Bishop McGuckien in recognition of the commitment, dedication and lived Christian witness in developing and nurturing the spiritual and prayer life of the school community. The focus of the award was also linked to the Jubilee Year of Hope and the invitation to 'fan the flame of faith.' Congratulations to the staff and pupils and families with a deep connection to Saint Finian's!