

NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER PARISH-OUR MISSION

Responding to our baptismal call, we come together in prayer and worship to celebrate the word and the Eucharist. Having been fed at these tables we are sent out to witness to Christ by announcing and living out the Gospel.
In this way we pass on the gift of faith to future generations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

WEEKLY OFFERING £1459

MAINTENANCE FUND £593

Parish non-stop Draw Week 44

£100 Joan Patterson

£50 Charlotte and Grayson O'Brien

£50 Daniel Byers

Hearty congratulations to the winners

There are two collections at Mass this weekend: **Weekly Offering** in support of the parish and **Sick and Retired Priests** of the diocese.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Every Wednesday 2-4pm in Saint Patrick's Hall
All old and new members very welcome!

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED

Thanks to the parishioners of Newtownards & Comber for their on-going support to the Saint Vincent de Paul 'red box' after the weekend Masses. The SVP also works in conjunction with Foodbank. Thanks also to those who donate to the foodbank collection boxes in the churches of the parish.

Down & Connor Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026: 8th/9th – 14th/15th July.

5 & 7 Night options available.

Please visit www.downandconnor.org/lourdes for more information or call the Pilgrimage Office on (028) 9077 0162 or email lourdes@downandconnor.org
Youth Team (10-17th July): applications now open (see website for details)

DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE

Saturday 28th February 2026

Bus will leave St Paul's Church, Falls Road at 7.30am Returning approx. 10.45/11.00pm.

Yes, a long day but well worth it,

Travel cost is £25 (bus price only) which must be paid when booking your seat.

Conference tickets to be bought individually at the venue at £35 or Euro.

Bring enough food for lunch and dinner – there are tea and coffee stations where hot drinks and snacks can be purchased. Telephone Tina McCrory – 07523824350 to book a seat on the bus.

USEFUL NUMBERS

DOWN AND CONNOR BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY 07563195580

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE 07738837984

ST PATRICK'S FUNERAL CATERING TEAM 07769796997

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN SAINT PATRICK'S PARISH HALL

Mondays

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

St Patrick's Irish Dancing Club 10-12noon



Parish of Newtownards & Comber

(a parish within the Ards Family of Parishes)

Sunday 15th February 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time-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

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, 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 7.30am & 9.30am

Comber 7pm

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

MASSES ON ASH WEDNESDAY IN NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER 18th February
 7.30am Saint Patrick's Church 9.30am Saint Patrick's Church
 7pm-Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber
 Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence
 Fasting is interpreted as one main meal and two small collations. Abstinence is interpreted as abstaining from meat and meat products.

MASSES DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

Please note: on the Wednesdays of Lent there will be an extra Mass available on a Wednesday morning at 7.30am, which also includes Ash Wednesday,
 On Tuesdays during Lent the Mass in Comber will take place in the morning time in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation. The six-week change will commence on Tuesday 24th February. The reason for the change: it will facilitate those who wish to take part in the *No Greater Love* programme on Tuesday evenings.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The monthly Eucharistic Adoration will take place in St Patrick's Church on Ash Wednesday from 10am until 4pm, when Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated. On that day, we are invited to pray for our families and parishes, that the Season of Lent will be a time of prayer and renewal for us all.

'Sign-up' sheets are available at the back of the church for those who wish to sign-up in advance to help ensure an adequate number of adorers at any given time.

PILGRIM WAY OF THE CROSS

Parishes of Bangor-Newtownards & Comber Friday evenings of Lent.
 Join us for the 'Pilgrim Way of the Cross' as we journey to the churches of our parishes during the Season of Lent. We will gather around the 'pilgrim cross' which will be our focus as we reflect on the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus in each church.

Each week, we will meet in one of the churches to offer the Way of the Cross for a particular intention:

- Friday 20th February *For all our families*
Saint Patrick's Church, Newtownards 7pm
- Friday 27th February *For those who have lapsed from our faith*
Saint Comgall's Church, Bangor 7pm
- Friday 6th March *For all our sick*
Church of Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber 7pm
- Friday 13th March *For all those who suffer from addictions*
Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Ballyholme 7pm
- Friday 20th March *For all vocations*
Saint Comgall's Church, Donaghadee 7pm
- Friday 27th March *For all our deceased*

NO GREATER LOVE

Join us for a spiritual, prayerful, journey with Our Lord, through His Passion and death. With prayer, scripture, and beautiful short films that will take us on a virtual walk along the Via Dolorosa, with refreshments fitting for the Lenten Season. *Venue:*: Minor Hall, St Patrick's Parish Centre, Newtownards. Tuesday 24th February, 3rd March, 10th March, 17th March, 24th March from 7pm. All very welcome!

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Recently Deceased: Diane Dorman, Jean Lennon
Anniversaries

Joan O'Hagan, Theresa Patterson, Elizabeth Cairns, Norma Haxton(nee Cardy), Seamus McGuigan., Harry & Teresa Bleakley, Nancy Cromie, Mary O'Neill, John and Margaret Johnston, Bertie and Martha, Smyth, Eileen and Robert Johnston Fr Leo Mc Keowen

PRAYING WITH THE WORD OF GOD

Sacred Scripture is the living word of God

Lectio Divina, a method of praying with the sacred scripture takes place every Monday evening, alternating between the parishes of Bangor and Newtownards & Comber. The scripture readings of the following Sunday's Mass are the focus each week, thereby enabling participants to prayerfully prepare in advance of the weekend celebration. It takes place every Monday evening at 7.30pm, one week in St Dymphna's Hall in Bangor Parish Centre, and the following week in the minor hall at St Patrick's Parish Centre. Bring along a bible! The next meeting will take place Monday 16th February at 7.30pm in Saint Dymphna's Hall, Bangor Parish Centre. For further information feel free to speak to Deacon Derek on 07549 362907.

LENTEN PRAYER BY CANDLELIGHT-SUNDAY EVENINGS OF LENT

This year, we will gather on Sunday evenings during Lent, from 7-8 pm in St Joseph's Church, Ballycran, BT22 1AG, for an hour with the Lord. The evening will include Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, a Gospel reflection, meditative prayer, and music from the choir. We will welcome the clergy from the Ards Family of Parishes, who will lead the reflections each week on the theme: *Baptised and Sent*. There was a wonderful turnout last year. All welcome. Please spread the word!

TAIZE HOLY HOUR

You are invited to a candlelit hour of adoration, quiet prayer and reflection with Taizé Chant. Wednesday February 25th- in Church of Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber, 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Wednesday and March 25th-St Comgall's Bangor, 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

at St Mary's Retreat Centre, Knock, Co. Mayo
 Friday 20th-Sunday 22nd March

Rediscover the joy of your love-a weekend to reconnect, renew, and rekindle your relationship.
 Open to couples married in Church, and presented by Marriage Encounter Ireland
 Visit www.marriageencounter.ie

DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD 6th-8th March 2026

For young men who are open to the question: "Is God calling me to be a priest?" A chance to step away from the noise and busyness of everyday life. Time for prayer, silence, and honest conversation.
 No pressure to decide anything — just space to listen and reflect.
 For more information, contact Fr Conor McGrath c.mcgrath@downandconnor.org

IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

We pray for all considering abortion. We pray that the love and kindness of those around them would support pregnant women everywhere to continue with their pregnancy and find peace and joy in what the future holds.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 6th March

'I will give you rest-Come!.'

Where? Regent Street Methodist Church, Newtownards

Time? 7.30pm

Everyone is welcome!

For more information visit wwdp.org.uk

DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

In Ireland, a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse is marked each year on the Friday immediately following Ash Wednesday. This year it will be marked across Ireland on Friday 20th February 2026. This day is not only for victims and survivors who have been so severely injured inside our Church, but also for the families and communities affected by the pain and grief of their loved ones. Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ will celebrate Mass in St Peter's Cathedral on Friday 20th February 2026 at 6:00pm. Chairs and members of Parish - Family of Parishes Safeguarding Committees are invited to attend the Mass in St Peter's Cathedral and join with Bishop Alan in praying for all those who have been affected by abuse.