

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
WEEKLY OFFERING £1443
MONTHLY OFFERING £1046

Parish non-stop Draw Week 42
£100 Carrol Black
£50 Claire Diaz McGivern
£50 Sylvia and Day Rice
Hearty congratulations to the winners



Parish of Newtownards & Comber
(a parish within the Ards Family of Parishes)
Sunday 8th February 2026
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A



At Mass this weekend, there are two collections at the offertory of the Mass, the usual *Weekly Offering* in support of the parish and the *Parish Maintenance Fund*.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

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

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)

VACANCY

'VOCATIONS SUPPORT OFFICER'

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the recruitment of a Vocations Support Officer to be based within St Colmcille's Parish, 191 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3JB.

Reporting to the Director of Vocations, the role holder will be required to support, promote and sustain a culture of vocations across the Diocese of Down and Connor by co-ordinating outreach, communications, events and relationships that encourage discernment and prayer for vocations. The terms are based on a permanent appointment for 20 hours per week. Full details relating to the vacancy, along with salary, can be found on the Diocesan website at: <http://www.downandconnor.org> clicking on the tab: job vacancies and on the Community NI and nijobs.com websites, where terms and conditions relating to the role can also be accessed. Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Tuesday 10 February 2026

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

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

St Patrick's Irish Dancing Club 10-12noon

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.

DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR

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 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

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.*

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

This Wednesday, 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 evening will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and Anointing of the Sick. Please spread the word to those who would benefit from receiving the sacrament. You might even consider offering a lift to family members, friends and neighbours.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

A course of instruction is being organized, shared between the parishes of Newtownards & Comber with Ardkeen (Kircubbin) for adults who wish to explore the Catholic Faith, and who intend being received into the Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). The course will take place over a period of months and will be held locally. For further details, please contact Fr Brian on 028 91812137

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

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

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: Ita Guy
Anniversaries:

Billy Smith, Pascal & Jecineha Lasrado, Joan McDonald, James Clarke William McCullough, Paddy Falls, Stanley Fulton, Edna Lowery, Susan Murray, Janice Hawthorn (1st,) Fr Patrick McFerran, Edward West (Jur)

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 9th February at 7.30pm in the Minor Hall, Saint Patrick's Parish Centre. For further information feel free to speak to Deacon Derek on 07549 3692907

THE CHURCH-SUPPORTING SUPPORTING THE VOCATION OF MARRIAGE

Accord (NI) and Couples for Christ (NI/Ireland) are having a *St. Valentine's Thanksgiving Mass* with the Blessing of Rings for Engaged Couples and the Renewal of Marriage Vows for those celebrating marriage anniversaries. The main celebrant is Auxiliary Bishop Michael Ruter, Archdiocese of Armagh, This will take place on Saturday 14th February 2026 in St. Colmcille's Church, Upper Newtownards Belfast BT14 3JB, at 2pm, followed by a meal in Stormont Hotel. This special occasion is an opportunity to highlight Sacramental Marriage and honour married and engaged couples who have chosen the Sacrament of Matrimony as their vocation in life. Accord (NI) and 'Couples for Christ' believe in the dignity of marriage and commend the need for effective marriage preparation, and we affirm the irreplaceable value of specialized Couple Counselling, especially when undertaken early and the potential for healing through forgiveness, communication, and support. In the words of the late Pope Francis, "Marriage is not a static ideal but a lived witness to total, faithful, and fruitful love. Even in brokenness, hope remains."

Also: 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

During this week we are asked to pray for the following intention:-*On Wednesday, we commemorate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Let us especially pray for all those who are nearing the end of their lives, that they may experience God's comfort and peace.*

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

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.

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.