



Parish of Newtownards & Comber

(a parish within the Ards Family of Parishes)

Sunday 29th March 2026

Palm Sunday- Year A



DIocese of Down and Connor

NEWTOWANRDS & COMBER SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
SVP are asking for help in recruiting a new member for the treasurer role. Anyone with financial experience or interest would be perfect but not essential. Training and support would be provided. Anyone interested can have a chat with any SVP members or call Tracey Colaluca on 07809471007

Thanks to those who gave generously to the Weekly Offering last weekend which totalled £1535. The St Patrick's Day Collection for migrants and refugees came to £994
There is one collection this weekend: the *Weekly Offering* in support of your parish.

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

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.

NEWTOWANRDS & 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK
Sunday 14th June A bus will leave from Saint Patrick's, Newtownards, Saturday 13th June. Pilgrimage will include visit to the Fr Peyton Centre for Mass. Full board accommodation in St Mary's opposite the shrine. Cost £170. Deposit of £50 secures booking. Brenda Cafolla . 07530156389 or Anne Stafford.

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 tel the Pilgrimage Office on (028) 9077 0162 or email lourdes@downandconnor.org (see website for details)

St Columbanus' College- Temporary Caretaker
St Columbanus' College invites applications for a Temporary Caretaker post. This position will involve three days of work per week and will commence as soon as possible. Duties will include general maintenance, caretaking responsibilities, and supporting the smooth, safe operation of our school environment. For further information and to request an application form, please contact our School Bursar: Email: info@stcolumbanuscollege.bangor.ni.sch.uk Telephone: 02891270927
Spring Concert – All Welcome!
St Columbanus' College warmly invites parishioners to join us for our Spring Concert on Thursday 23rd April at 7pm in the College Assembly Hall. Tickets are £5, and everyone is very welcome to attend. We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening of music with you!
St Columbanus' College 65th Anniversary Gala Ball
We are pleased to announce that our 65th Anniversary Gala Ball will take place on 22nd May 2026 at the Clandeboye Lodge. Tickets are priced at £65 per person, and the event is strictly for over-18s. The evening will include dinner, music, and a celebration of this significant milestone. For further information and to purchase tickets, please visit our website or follow us on social media.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY WEEK IN NEWTOWANRDS & COMBER PARISH
Tuesday of Holy Week
Mass in Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber 9.30am
Wednesday
Mass in Saint Patrick's 7.30am & 9.30am
Holy Thursday
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper in St. Patrick's at 7.30pm
-followed by Adoration at the Altar of Repose continuing with a Holy Hour at 10pm, and concluding at 11pm.
Good Friday
Celebration of Our Lord's Passion in St Patrick's Church at 3pm
Stations of the Cross in St Patrick's Church at 7pm
Holy Saturday
Celebration of the Easter Vigil in St Patrick's Church at 9pm
Easter Sunday
Mas at 10am in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation at 10am
Mass in St. Patrick's at 11.30am

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Good Friday is a day of *Fasting and Abstinence*;
Fasting: usually interpreted to mean one main meal and two small collations.
Abstinence: usually interpreted as abstaining from meat and meat products.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION DURING HOLY WEEK

ARDS FAMILY OF PARISHES LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Sunday 29th March	7pm	Saint Patrick's Church, Newtownards
Monday 30th March	7pm	Saint Comgall's Church, Bangor
Tuesday 31st March	6pm	Saint Patrick's Church, Ballygalget
	7pm	Saint Patrick's Church, Portaferry
Wednesday 1st April	7pm	Saint Joseph's Church, Ballycran

The priests of the Family of Parishes will be present at the penitential services to help us all prepare for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter through our celebration of the Sacrament of Confession.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION & GOOD FRIDAY WITNESS

The Comber Clergy Fellowship had organized a Palm Sunday Procession in Comber town centre on the afternoon of Sunday 29th March. Please consider bringing the family along to participate with our Christian brothers and sisters. Begins at the Parkway carpark at 2.30pm and continuing to the Square and concluding at St Mary's Church of Ireland.

Also: Good Friday Witness at 1pm in the Square, Comber.
Join with fellow Christians in celebrating the Passion and Death of Our Lord.
You are encouraged to come along and support both events.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHRISTIANS OF THE HOLY LAND

On Good Friday, the universal Church unites for the traditional Good Friday Collection to support the work of the Franciscans dedicated to supporting and preserving the Christian community and heritage in the Holy Land. This centuries-old tradition is an expression of solidarity with Christians in the region who rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection.

Its proceeds support the mission of the Custody of the Holy Land, which operates across several countries, including Israel, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Cyprus, but also countries where Eastern Christian communities are present, such as Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey. Please be mindful of the many brothers and sisters suffering terribly in the region of the Holy Land at this time.

In the words of Pope Leo:

"I would like to thank God for the Christians, who, especially in the Middle East, persevere and resist the temptation to abandon their lands. Christians must be given the opportunity, not only in words, to remain in their lands with all the rights necessary for a secure existence.. I beg you, let us commit ourselves to this!" (Audience with participants in Jubilee for Eastern Churches 14 May 2025)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Would you like your soul to be as pure as on the day you were baptised?

If the answer is yes, read on. St Pope John Paul II canonized a Polish mystic, Sister Faustina (1905 – 1938) on the Sunday after Easter in 2000 and declared that from then on, the second Sunday of Easter would be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. In a revelation to Sister Faustina (recorded in her Diary 1109) Jesus told her, 'I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy' (Divine Mercy Sunday). The conditions for receiving this great grace, including going to confessions, can be fulfilled by attending any of the following Churches on Divine Mercy Sunday, 12 April this year. St Peter's Cathedral at 2pm, Mater Dei, Crumlin at 2pm, Sacred Heart, Oldpark Rd at 2pm and All Saints Ballymena at 3pm

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH-OFFERTORY PROMISE ENVELOPES

Sincere thanks to all who regularly support the various collections taken up within the parish of Newtownards & Comber.

The envelopes boxes for the new financial year are available for collection either before or after Mass.

Those who are already envelope box-users will receive as per usual.

-For those who are not *Offertory Promise* (envelope box) users, or those who are new parishioners or if you have moved into the parish recently, please consider signing-up for a box of envelopes, thereby supporting the parish, the diocese and the priests of the diocese through your regular giving. You can apply this week end!

For those who wish to apply to become a standing-order donor, application forms for this purpose are also available after Mass. Please speak to the volunteers at the back of the Church.

Please return application forms either to the post-box at the parish office, or alternatively deposit into the collection basket next weekend.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Months Mind: Maree McGrattan, Bobby Arthurs

Anniversaries: Jimmy McMenamin, Isobel Faloona, Marie Copeland, John Cardy, William Meredith, Noel Megarry, Edith Williams, Robert McCullough, Mary Shaw, Annie McMullan, Mary O'Neill, Walter McAlorum, Teresa Denvir, Bernie Kelly

CHRISM MASS

The annual Chrism Mass, during which holy oils are blessed will take place on Spy Wednesday, 1st April at 12noon in St Peter's Cathedral.

PARISH NON-STOP DRAW

Just a reminder to Parish Non-Stop Draw Members, that the Easter weekend will see the winners of the top prize draw of £2,000; £750 and £250 announced. Make sure your subscriptions are paid up! Good luck to everyone.

The next year of the Draw will begin at the end of April. New members would be very welcome. This Draw provides invaluable resources for the Parish. It celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and during its life it is estimated to have raised in excess of £800,000 in funding. This has gone towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Parish infrastructure and, in more recent times, towards the restoration work in St Patrick's Church. We need your support to keep this valuable resource going.

New parishioners are especially asked to consider joining the Draw. Membership is £78 per year or £6 every four weeks.

Annual prizes total over £15,000 with special Bonanza draws taking place in July Christmas and Easter.

Application forms for new members are available from today outlining the Prize Money and cost of membership. Remember our catchphrase... "IF YOU ARE NOT IN YOU CAN'T WIN"

Newtownards & Comber Parish Non-Stop Draw Week 48

£100 Aidan Denvir

£50 Brian McDonald

£50 Carol Wellington Congratulations to all the winners!!!

Congratulations to all the winners and sincere thanks to the collectors!

MASSES DURING EASTER WEEK

Thursday 9th April

Friday 10th April

Saint Patrick's, Newtownards 9.30am

Saint Patrick's, Newtownards 9.30am

Saturday 11th April

Sunday 12th April

Saint Patrick's, Newtownards Vigil Mass at 6.30pm

Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber, 11.30am

St Patrick's, Newtownards 11.30am

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE

A temporary arrangement will be in place over coming weeks, in respect of access to the Parish Office. Where possible, parishioners are encouraged to use the parish telephone currently in operation, where a messaging service is available in respect of requests for sacramental certificates, parish bulletin notices etc. Alternatively: email newtownards@downandconnor.org. Also, a letter box has also been installed at the door of the parish office, to accept notes and requests. Please feel free to use any of these facilities available to you for the foreseeable.

Outside of this, and in the case of emergencies, that is, for urgent sick calls when a parishioner is seriously ill, and the immediate attention of a Priest is required, the parish answering machine provides clear instructions as to how contact can be made with Fr Brian in such emergencies. Thank you for your on-going support and co-operation.