

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.

Thanks to those who gave generously to the Weekly Offering last weekend which totalled £1575, and to the Monthly Offering which came to £787.

There are two collections at Mass this weekend: **Weekly Offering** in support of your parish, and the **Parish Maintenance Collection**.

Newtownards & Comber Parish Non-Stop Draw Week 45

£100 Paul Donaghy Collector's Prize £50 Philomena Alexander
£50 Dominic Colaluca
£50 Michael McClean **Congratulations to all the winners and sincere thanks to the collectors!**

The Mayor of North Down and Ards Council, Gillian McCollum, has chosen Saint Vincent de Paul, North Down Women's Aid and Orchardville (a charity empowering people with learning disabilities) as her charities for her year in office.

Two forthcoming events are being organised in support of the charities.

Quiz Night in The Ivy Bar, 14 Castle Street, Newtownards, on **Friday 20 March at 7.30pm**

Donation £10 (including light supper)

Ballot tickets for prizes will be available on the night.

The Mayor's Charity Concert — a night of incredible music, community spirit, and celebration on **Saturday 28 March, 7.30pm** in Bangor Elm. Book now for the concert at : <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Ardsandnorthdownboroughcouncil/t-nrrlnr>

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Tickets for both events are now available from St Vincent de Paul members.

Marie Curie Scrabo Group

COFFEE MORNING

Stream Presbyterian Church, West Street, Newtownards

Saturday 28th March 10am-12noon Everyone 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)

MOZART REQUIEM

Performed by Capella sCaeciliana and Ulster Youth Orchestra
Sunday 29th March 6.30pm Clonard Monastery Tickets available at www.caeciliana.org

USEFUL NUMBERS

DOWN AND CONNOR BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY 07563195580
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE 07738837984
ST PATRICK'S FUNERAL CATERING TEAM 07769796997

Cap On The Wall band will welcome in St Patrick's day in style with 2 fabulous shows of traditional music song and dance including guest musicians and Lauren Smyth from Riverdance with her dance academy. Sat 14th March Bangor City Church Hall.

8pm & Monday 16th March St Patrick's Parish Centre Newtownards. 8pm

Tickets £10 available at Thomas shop Brunswick Road, Bangor, Bangor city church and eventbrite.



Parish of Newtownards & Comber

(a parish within the Ards Family of Parishes)

Sunday 8th March 2026

Third Sunday of Lent-Year A



DIOCESE OF DOWN AND CONNOR

MASSES DURING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

NO MASS

TUESDAY

Comber 9.30am

WEDNESDAY

Newtownards 7.30am & 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 morning 9.00am+ 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/morning 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

Saturday 6-6.15pm in St Patrick's
Sunday 9.30-9.45 in Comber
Mass will be preceded by 15 minutes silence

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.

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 message 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.

MASSES DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

Please note: on the Wednesdays of Lent there will be an extra Mass available at 7.30am in St Patrick's.
Also: on Tuesdays during Lent the Mass in Comber will take place in the morning time in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation at 9.30am. The reason for the change: it will facilitate those who wish to take part in the *No Greater Love* programme on Tuesday evenings.

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. continuing this Tuesday 10th March, 17th March, 24th March from 7pm. All very welcome!

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 continue our 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.

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*

Saint Patrick's Church, Newtownards 7pm

LENTEN PRAYER BY CANDLELIGHT-SUNDAY EVENINGS OF LENT

This year, on Sunday evenings during Lent, from 7-8 pm in St Joseph's Church, Ballycran, BT22 1AG, a 'Holy Hour with the Lord' will take place. 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*.

PRAYING TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

We remember in prayer the young men who are presently taking part in the vocations retreat in Drumalis this weekend. We pray that the Lord of the harvest will send labourers into his harvest.

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 for 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.

EMBRACING THE FAITH

Please remember in prayer over forty candidates and catechumens who are presently receiving instruction in preparation for their reception into the full life of the Church. May they be confirmed in faith during these last weeks of preparation before they celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST CONFESSION

Please pray for the children of the parish who will celebrate the Sacrament of First Confession this week; we pray that they may experience to mercy of God through the celebration of the sacrament and that through the help of their parents and families, they may avail of the sacrament regularly in their lives.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Months Mind: Ita Guy

Anniversaries:

Phil Dynes, Leo Fay, Margaret McCullough, Rafal Kula (1st.), Joseph McShane, Peter Doherty, Mary McDonald, Isabel Dornan, James McCabe, Leo Byers, Mary & John Carson, Evelyn West.

IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

We pray for our society. That we would promote a culture that values life, and that we would seek the protection of all humans from conception to natural death.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

The Comber Clergy Fellowship is organizing 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. Further details re-timings and location etc in next weekend's parish bulletin!

HAVE YOU GIFTS TO OFFER IN YOUR PARISH?

The diocese of Down & Connor will be offering training April to May for parish volunteers who would be interested in serving in parishes as members of Bereavement Teams.

Members of such teams would provide compassionate outreach to bereaved parishioners, supporting them through their grief, visiting the bereaved an addition to other works based on the needs of particular parishes. Further information can be obtained from the Pathways to the Future Office of the Diocese.

Tel: 02890690920 or email. Claire on c.carmichael@downandconnor.org.

RETREAT FOR CATHOLIC MEN- *Standing in the Breach*

A morning retreat for Catholic men will take place at Portglenone Monastery on Saturday 14 March from 9am to 1pm. The theme will focus on spiritual warfare and remaining steadfast in faith during Lent, with a talk by Fr Martin Graham, along with testimonies from Catholic laity. The morning includes the Rosary, Holy Mass, and refreshments. To register or learn more, visit: <https://catholicminute.co.uk/mens-retreat/> or call Thomas on 07967620435.

MASSES IN NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER PARISH FOR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

Monday 16th March Vigil Mass in Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber at 7.30pm

Tuesday 17th March 10am in Saint Patrick's, Newtownards.

The Irish Bishops have announced that a special collection for Refugees and Migrants will take place at the Masses on Saint Patrick's Day.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Every Wednesday 2-4pm in Saint Patrick's Hall

All old and new members very welcome!

DOWN & CONNOR PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK Sunday 14th June

A bus will leave from Saint Patrick's, Newtownards early on Saturday 13th June. The pilgrimage will include a visit to the Fr Peyton Centre, Attymas for celebration of Mass.

Full board accommodation in St Mary's opposite the shrine. Cost £170. To secure a booking, a deposit of £50 is required, which can be given to Brenda Cafolla or Anne Stafford. Contact Brenda on 07530156389

CELEBRATING SAINT PATRICK

Don't miss an invitation to come on St Patrick's Way Pilgrim Walk in Downpatrick with guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly on Saturday March 14 in honour of Ireland's patron saint and the 25th Anniversary of The Saint Patrick Centre. Includes the fabulous 180 IMAX film of St Patrick, with internal bus transfers, pilgrimage lunch, an authentic Camino passport and a 6 mile pilgrimage walk finishing at St Patrick's grave. A special 25% discount price is on offer of £40 (normally £55) To book ring 02844 61900 or www.thesaintpatrickcentre.com