



PARISH OF NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
11TH OCTOBER 2026 DIVINE OFFICE PSALTER: WEEK 4



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

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

You are most welcome to come along to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession at the following times:

Tuesday 7pm+ in Comber

Friday 9am+ in St Patrick's

Saturday 5.45pm+ in St Patrick's

PRAYING OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Saturday 6-6.15pm in St Patrick's

Sunday 9.30-9.45am in Comber

Tuesday 7pm in Comber

Mass will be preceded by 15 minutes silence.

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

DIVINE OFFICE

Morning Prayer of the Church is celebrated in St. Patrick's Church on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning at 9.10am. All welcome!

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

The Tuesday evening Mass in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber is offered as a novena Mass in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. All welcome!

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM & MARRIAGE

For enquiries, contact the Parish Office on 02891812137

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

-every Sunday during the 11.30am Mass in St Patrick's
Children aged 6-11yrs welcome.

PARTICIPATION IN THE HOLY MASS-- Scripture Verses.

For those who would like to prepare for Mass in advance:

This Sunday-28th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A Next Sunday 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year A(Mission Sunday)

First Reading Isaiah 25:6-10

First Reading Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Psalm 23

Psalm 95

Second Reading Philippians 4:12-20

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

CONTINUOUS PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

During this month of October we are asked to pray for MERCY and FORGIVENESS in marriage and in family life.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THIS MONTH

Pope Leo invites us to pray with him during the month of October, for mental health ministry:

-Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

OCTOBER-MONTH OF PRAYER FOR THE MISSIONS

During the month of October each year we are asked to consider the needs of the Church on the mission fields. Later in the month (18th October,) we will celebrate World Mission Sunday. Why not consider praying the daily rosary with family, or with friends, for the missions during this month!

Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support *Missio* – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the Missio envelopes, call [00353 1 497 2035](tel:0035314972035) (office hours) or visit www.wmi.ie to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

PRAYING FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Months Mind: Patrick Donaghy

Anniversaries:

Bryce Haggan (1st.) May & George Hollinger, Mary & Jim O'Neill, Patrick McDonagh, Marie Carville, Danny Murray, Richard McKee, Kathleen McCabe, Maeve O'Hara, Angela O'Neill, Kathleen Megarry, Peter Eagleson, John Kennedy, Andrew McMullan.

OUR LADY'S ROSARY FESTIVAL

-will take place from 12th to 18th October 2026. Join us for a week of events to honour Our Blessed Lady, ending with the annual Belfast Rosary Procession. The procession will leave St Malachy's Church, Alfred St, Belfast at 2.30pm on Sunday 18th October, and finish at St Peter's Cathedral. A full list of events can be found on the poster at the back of the Church and online at belfastroaryfestival.com

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Sincere thanks to those who regularly donate to the SVP box at weekend Mass. Your generosity helps many needy individuals and families in these challenging times. In addition, donations of non-perishable items can be deposited in the designated containers in both churches. Donations will be passed on to the local foodbank for distribution.

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

This weekend there are two collections: the *Weekly Offering* in support of the parish and the *Parish Maintenance Collection*.

Thanks to those who contributed so generously to the collections of last weekend. The Weekly Offering came to £1706 and the Monthly Offering came to £1290.

NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER PARISH NON-STOP DRAW

Week 24

5th September 2026

£100 no.324	Alicia Edgar
£50 no.357	Sylvia & Daye Rice
£50 no.355	Betty Carnduff

Congratulations to all the winners!

GIVING THANKS FOR THE HARVEST

At harvest time we give thanks to God for all the gifts we have been given. Next weekend 18th and the following (25th) October, we intend to decorate St Patrick's Church with some of the produce of the harvest. If you would like to donate some small items, fresh fruit or vegetables to decorate the church, feel free to do so. Bring the items along early to weekend Mass (or better still to weekday Mass,) and they can be placed into the baskets in front of the sanctuary. The donations will then be given to local charities.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The club meets in St Patrick's Parish Centre, Newtownards every Wednesday 2pm-4pm. Do come along to form and renew friendships. The club provides many opportunities for company, conversation and activities with many events organised throughout the year. Please spread the word-invite friends along too!

USEFUL NUMBERS

Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline	07738837984
Down & Connor Bereavement Support	07563195580
St Patrick's Funeral Catering Team	07769796997

SAINT PATRICK'S YOUTH CLUB

The club caters for the P3-P7 age group on Friday evenings during term-time. In order to comply with statutory and diocesan requirements, volunteers are required for the re-commencement of the Youth Club. As an adult, if you are interested, or to find out more, please provide your name and telephone number and kindly leave your details into the sacristy or the post-box at the parish office. Expressions of interest will be passed on to the youth club committee. Training and safeguarding training will organized for volunteers

IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

During this week we are asked to pray for the protection of life: - *this Friday is the feast day of St Gerard Majella, the patron saint of unborn children and expectant mothers. We pray for all who work in maternity units with pregnant women, that they may recognise that God is truly with us in each unborn child.*

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saint Patrick's Church 10am-4pm on the following Wednesdays:

21st October, 25th November, 16th December, 20th January, 17th February, 10th March, 14th April, 19th May, 17th June

TIDY-UP' SATURDAY- Saturday 17th October 10am-12noon.

Have you an hour or two to spare on Saturday 17th October?

We plan to host a *tidy-up* of the grounds around St Patrick's Church. As autumn sets in, and in advance of winter, you are invited to come along to help. Refreshments will be provided. We will meet at St Patrick's Minor Hall at 10am. Bring along your brushes, rakes, shovels, and gloves!

TAIZE HOLY HOUR

The monthly Taize Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, including Taize chant, scripture reflection and opportunity for silent prayer will take place in Saint Comgall's Church this Wednesday October 14th at 7.30pm. In November the Holy Hour will take place in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber.

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS

Children in our parish schools continue to be prepared for the sacrament. For those who attend schools other than St Finian's and St Mary's, and who wish to be enrolled for the sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, parents can contact the Parish Office newtownards&downandconnor.org. The deadline for enrolment is Saturday 31st October.

CARE OF SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

Volunteers are required to help care for St Patrick's Church, in terms of regular cleaning. We have four cleaning teams at present, providing an effective service on a Friday morning after Mass. Parishioners and visitors often comment on how well-presented the church is, thanks to all involved. At the time, some of the teams require additional volunteers. Would you be interested? If so, please leave your name and contact details into the sacristy; after-all, 'many hands make light work!'

ABIDE IN HIS LOVE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

November 20-22nd in Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran.

Speakers include: Sarah Swafford, Danielle Noonan, Nashville Dominicans, Kimberlee Wooling, Fr Barry Braum and Bishop Fintan Gavin (Cork & Ross.) Book on Eventbrite:- tickets 70 Euro, 50 Euro for students.

COELIAC INTOLERANCE

For those with a gluten intolerance, special hosts are available in both churches. The special hosts enable those with the intolerance to receive the Holy Eucharist. Please speak to the sacristans before Mass if you wish to be included.

MASS RESPONSE CARDS

Mass response pamphlets are available in both churches for those who wish to use them. The cards can be helpful in aiding participation, particularly for the more complicated prayers of the Mass. Just speak to the members of the welcome team and they will be happy to help.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

In anticipation of the Feast of Saint Luke, the Physician which takes place on 18th October, the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated during the 9.30am Mass on Friday 16th October in Saint Patrick's Church. Please spread the word! You may also consider providing transport to those who may like to receive the sacrament.

WORLD MISSIONS SUNDAY-18th October

Pope Leo XIV has recorded a special video message for the celebration of World Mission Sunday which can be accessed at VaticanNews.va

Missio, the Holy Father's charity for world mission and tasked with coordinating World Mission Sunday, is appealing for prayers and donations to support missionaries who serve communities in need, often in some of the poorest and most challenging places on earth. This year's theme, chosen by Pope Leo, is 'One in Christ, united in mission.' Being 'one in Christ' calls us to keep Our Lord at the centre of our lives and communities, and our mission is lived by witnessing to God's love through our words and deeds. In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Leo XIV shared:

'Your prayers and practical support, particularly on World Mission Sunday, will be a great help in bringing the Gospel of God's love to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need. Every gift, no matter how small, becomes a meaningful act of missionary communion.' This year's celebration encourages every Catholic in the world to bring to life the mission given to them through baptism – to share the love of God with everyone, everywhere – by supporting missionaries who live alongside and serve communities in greatest need, wherever they are. Missionaries' work is rooted in peace, dignity and hope, and offers help to everyone, regardless of their background or belief.

