



PARISH OF NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER
THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
25TH OCTOBER 2026 DIVINE OFFICE PSALTER: WEEK 2



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-30th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A Next Sunday 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year A

First Reading Exodus 22:20-26

Psalm 18

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

First Reading Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10

Psalm 131

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

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

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

PRAYING FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Months Mind: Madge Gilmore

Anniversaries:

Mary & Carmel Rice, Kathleen Hawkins, Anne Kearney(nee Smyth), Nan Smyth, Margaret Rice, Brigid Taggart, Joan Duignan, Thomas Byers, Frank Cafolla.

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.

The SVP Christmas Appeal will take place on the weekend of 21st/22nd November.

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

This weekend is one collection, the *Weekly Offering* in support of the parish. Thanks to those who contributed so generously to the collections of last weekend. The Weekly Offering came to £1537 and the World Missions Sunday collection came to £879.

NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER PARISH NON-STOP DRAW

Week 26

20th October 2026

£100 no.98	Julia Twite
£50 no.182	Kevin Halton
£50 no.102	Yvonne West

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, and we also give thanks for the work of the farmers. Thanks to those who have donated to the display in both churches. The *Warehouse* charity is very grateful for the fruit and vegetables already received. Items donated this weekend will also be distributed to the *Warehouse*.

RELICS OF THE APOSTLES & MARTYRS

The parish of Newtownards & Comber has the privilege of being the custodian of relics of the Holy Apostles, Martyrs of the 2nd & 3rd centuries, in addition to other relics on temporary loan to the parish. As we will celebrate the Feast Day of the Holy Apostles Saints Simon and Jude this coming Wednesday, 28th October, the relics will be on display in the reliquary in St Patrick's Church. They will also be on display for the Feast of All Saints 31st Oct/1st November. Those attending Mass are invited to venerate the relics after Mass. We ask for the prayers of the apostles and martyrs and all the saints.

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

IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

During this week we are asked to pray for the protection of life:
-let us pray for all those with disabilities, including the unborn. We pray for protection for them and their mothers from the pressures of assisted suicide and abortion, and that they would instead experience overwhelming support from all who surround them.

FORTHCOMING DATE FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday 25th November in St Patrick's Church 10am-4pm

PREPARING FOR THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November Dead Lists are available after Mass this weekend. Please take a list home to record the names of your deceased loved ones, family, friends, neighbours and particularly those who have no living relatives to pray for them. Please return if possible before the beginning of November. Upon return, the envelopes will be opened, read, and place near the altar for the celebration of Masses during November. The offerings enclosed are used to support the priests of the diocese.

FEAST OF THE HOLY SOULS

Feast of the Holy Souls-a special day of prayer and suffrage for the deceased. Mass will be celebrated in St Patrick's at 9.30am, and in Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber at 7.30pm.

ANNUAL MASSES FOR THE DEAD

On the weekend of 7th/8th November we will include in the Masses those whose funerals have taken place in the churches of the parish over the last twelve months. We will also welcome their family members and pray God's consolation for them.

On Wednesday 4th November at 7pm in St Patrick's Church, Mass will be offered in memory of ALL our deceased children. As in previous years, their names will be placed discreetly in front of the Altar. The Parish Bereavement Care Team invite those who have suffered the tragic loss of a child, regardless of age, to contact them in confidence on 07563195580, or to speak to Bronagh or Aine, if they would like their child's name to be included.

In addition to the November Dead Lists placed near the altar, parishioners may like to consider displaying memoriam cards of loved ones on the display boards in the churches. The display is an expression of our love for the deceased, helping others to remember them, and encourages prayer for the happy repose of their souls.

NOVEMBER SHORT-TERM PLEDGE FOR THE HOLY SOULS

The month of November offers a special opportunity to make a small sacrifice in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We invite parishioners and friends to consider taking a **Short-Term Pledge** throughout November. **Pioneer Offering** - *"I promise, in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to abstain from all intoxicating substances until the end of November."* Please consider joining with others in prayer, sacrifice and support for those affected by addiction.

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS

Children in our parish schools continue to be prepared for the sacraments. 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.

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.

KNOCK ALL NIGHT VIGIL FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Departing Clonard Monastery 1pm on Monday 7th December, returning 8th December 12noon. Includes All Night Vigil at 11pm, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Benediction, concluding with Mass at 4am Price £75 includes dinner and breakfast. Tel: Brendan 90665211

A WORD OF THANKS!!!

A sincere word of thanks to all who took part in the 'tidy-up Saturday on 17th October at St Patrick's. There was a wonderful turnout, and a great atmosphere. All who turned up worked really hard and were treated by the ladies of the hospitality team. Thanks to one and all. For those who would like to participate in a 'follow-up', on Saturday 21st November 10am-12noon, you will be most welcome! Do come along for the final 'tidy-up' before winter!