



**PARISH OF NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER**  
**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**



**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](mailto:newtownards@downandconnor.org)

Parish website:

[www.newtownardsandcomberparish.com](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A*

First Reading Isaiah 51:1-7

Psalms 80

Second Reading Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel Matthew 21:33-43

*Next Sunday-28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A*

First Reading Isaiah 25:6-10

Psalms 23

Second Reading Philippians 4:12-20

Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

**CONTINUOUS PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE**

This Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October, we will celebrate our Parish Prayer Day. We are invited to spend time in prayer from midnight to midnight for the following intention: 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 (18<sup>th</sup> 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!

**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.*

## PRAYING FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

### Recently Deceased:

Bridie West, Fr Aidan O'Kane C.P. Clara Gaw (nee Kearney)  
Sr. Rosarie Prendergast, Michael Lombard

### Anniversaries:

Peter Heverin, Teresa O'Rourke, John Brett, Rose Donaghy,  
John Kane, Peter McGuigan, Anne & Billy Hurley

## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

To celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary this Wednesday 7th October, the Lourdes Grotto in the grounds of St Patrick's will be re-dedicated at the 9.30am Mass. Please God, the weather will be pleasant. We will meet at the grotto at 9.30am for the blessing and re-dedication, and then process into the church for the celebration of Mass. May the grotto continue to be location for prayer.

## OUR LADY'S ROSARY FESTIVAL

-will take place from 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 *Monthly Offering* in support of the priests of the diocese.

Thanks to those who contributed so generously to the collections of last weekend. The Weekly Offering came to £1396.30. The Family Fast Box donations for Aid to the Church in need came to £106.

## NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER PARISH NON-STOP DRAW

Week 23 29<sup>th</sup> September 2026

£100 no.302 Joan Smyth

£50 no.61 James Murray

£50 no.65 Marie McGuigan

£50 Collector's Prize-Ronald Smyth

Congratulations to all the winners!

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The club has resumed for the new season and 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!

## TIPPY TOES MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

Meets every Friday morning during term time in St Patrick's Parish Centre 9.30-11.30am

Join us for some breakfast. £3 includes toast, juice, tea/coffee.

## 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 be organized for volunteers

## IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN LIFE

During this week we are asked to pray for the protection of life: - *Today is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, we pray with his powerful intercession for governments, that their ability to support the vulnerable would increase and that they would anchor themselves on the desire to protect all human life.*

**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!

## RELECTING ON MERCY & FORGIVENESS

*In our Catholic understanding of marriage, mercy and forgiveness are not simply helpful qualities; they are part of the sacrament's spiritual life. Marriage brings two imperfect people into a lifelong covenant in which each is called to reveal something of Christ's faithful and merciful love.*

*Mercy sees the person before the fault. A husband or wife may act selfishly, speak carelessly or disappoint the other. Mercy does not pretend the wrong did not happen, but refuses to reduce the person to that failure.*

*Forgiveness is a decision as well as a feeling. A spouse may choose to forgive before the hurt has completely disappeared. Healing can take time, but forgiveness can prevent resentment from taking root and can open the way to reconciliation and peace.*

## THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

The celebration of the Month of the Rosary goes back to a moment in history when prayer changed everything. In 1571, during the Battle of Lepanto, Christians across Europe prayed the Rosary for peace and protection. Against overwhelming odds, victory came, and the Church recognized this as the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Soon after, the Church established October as a month dedicated to the Rosary, inviting the faithful to turn to Our Blessed Mother in times of need. Today, that invitation is still open to all!

### The Rosary: A Global Prayer That Unites the Church

The Rosary isn't just a personal devotion, it's a global mission.

Right now, over 1.3 billion Catholics worldwide are united in prayer; the Rosary is prayed daily on every continent and missionaries often rely on the Rosary as a primary spiritual tool in remote communities. From villages in Africa to urban centers in Latin America, the Rosary crosses language barriers and cultural differences.

It's simple. It's accessible. And it's powerful!

### Why the Rosary Still Matters in Today's World

We live in a world filled with anxiety, division, and uncertainty.

The Rosary offers something different:

- Peace in the middle of chaos
- Hope when situations feel impossible
- Connection to God through Mary's guidance
- A source of comfort for families
- A way to teach the Gospel
- A tool for building faith communities.

## 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!'

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This weekend Deacon Derek celebrates the first anniversary of his ordination as deacon. May the Lord continue to bless his ministry and his family!



