PARISH OF NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR B

29TH NOVEMBER 2026 DIVINE OFFICE PSALTER: WEEK 1

PARISH PRIEST

Very Rev. Brian McCann PP
Tel: 028 91812137
PERMANENT DEACON
Rev. Derek Le Mahieu

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH
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CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION
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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-1st Sunday of Advent-Year B
First Reading-Isaiah 63:16-17-64:1, 3-8
Psalm 79
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel-Mark 13:33-37

Next Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent-Year B
First Reading-Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalm 84
Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel-Mark 1:1-8

PRAYING WITH POPE LEO XIV

As we approach the end of November, we remember Pope Leo's invitation to join with him in prayer for the following intention:

-Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity with those who have less.

During December, we will be asked to pray for the following intention: for single-parent families
Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or father, that they may find support and accompaniment in the Church, and help and strength in the Faith during difficult times.

THE MEANING OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT

A four-week season, Advent, begins this year on 29th November and concludes on Christmas Eve, December 24th. It marks the beginning of the new liturgical year in the Church. The season of Advent holds profound meaning. It serves a twofold purpose:

Preparation for the Birth of Christ: Advent is a time to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the arrival of Jesus. We reflect on the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament, their fulfillment in Jesus our hope (1 Tim. 1:1), and thus the mission of salvation he's given to us as members of the one Church he founded.

A Call to Conversion: It's also a season of introspection and renewal. The liturgical colour purple reminds us of our imperfections and the need for repentance. By acknowledging our shortcomings, we open ourselves to God's grace and prepare ourselves to receive the gift of Christ. Also, penance—such as through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—helps us quiet and discipline our hearts for the joy of Christmas (see *Catechism* 1434). In that light, without an Advent fast it's harder to prepare for a Christmas.

In essence, this season is a bridge between the past, present, and future. It allows us to look back on the hope for the Savior of the World, experience anew the joy of his arrival and also his reign in the present through his Church, and to prepare ourselves for his glorious return at his Second Coming. A new liturgical year is a time for new beginnings! Let us embrace this opportunity to live each day in a more Christ-like way!

In Newtownards & Comber Parish, a Holy Hour of Prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament will take place this afternoon (Sunday) in St Patrick's at 3.30pm. Do come along if you are free to spend some time in prayerful preparation to welcome Christ.

PRAYING FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Recently Deceased: Tom Watters, Katie Lynch

Anniversaries:

Peter Kearney, Margaret Paden, Bill McIlroy, Frankie Copeland, Davey & Molly Smyth, Mary McGuigan, Susie Trolan,
Kathy Armstrong, Pat Hollinger, Henry Harkness, Maureen Bleakley, Harry Bleakley, Tom Halton, Anne Stewart, Elizabeth Rowley.

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

This weekend, there is one collection-the ***Weekly Offering*** in support of the parish.

Thanks to those who contributed so generously to recent collections:

Weekend of 7/8th November

Weekly Offering £1534
Parish Maintenance Fund £709

Weekend of 14/15th November

Weekly Offering £1507
Irish Bishops Commissions £539

Weekend of 21/22nd November

Weekly Offering £1539
Family Fast Box for Aid to the Church in Need £75.34

NEWTOWNARDS & COMBER PARISH NON-STOP DRAW

Week 29 10/11/26

£100 no.118 Billy Rowley
£50 no.191 Ron Drain
£50 no.208 John Kelly
Collector's Prize £50 Philomena Alexander

Week 30 17/11/26

£100 no.291 Joshua & Kaya
£50 no.86 Don Mullan
£50 no.195 John Loughlin

Week 31 24/11/26

£100 no.375 Marian Clarke
£50 no.40 Kevin Denvir
£50 no.315 Mr. S. Noble
Collector's Prize £50 Marian Denvir

Hearty congratulations to all the winners!

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:

- *as we ponder the hope found in the second coming of our saviour, we pray for all those in need of hope. We pray especially for those contemplating having an abortion, that they would be reminded of the hope God brings and His fundamental desire for our good.*

TIDY-UP SATURDAY

Thanks to all those who participated in the most recent 'tidy-up' last Saturday. There was a great turnout of volunteers armed with shovels, rakes, brushes and various pieces of gardening equipment! Thanks also to the ladies of the hospitality team for their offering of refreshments. Well, well done to all!

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

Tea/coffee and toast will be on offer in St Patrick's Parish Centre following the 11.30am Mass this weekend, Sunday 29th November. Please come along to meet fellow members of the parish family! Sincere thanks to the hospitality team for all their labours!

CONTINUOUS PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

This Saturday 5th December, we will have an hour of silent Eucharistic Adoration in St. Patrick's 5.30-6.30pm as part of our preparation for the Parish Prayer Day which will take place on Monday 7th December from Midnight to Midnight. Please come along to spend a time in prayer and adoration. Parents could think of bringing their children along to experience it too!

The particular intention proposed for our prayer for Marriage & Family Life is: ***During Advent, may every home become a dwelling place for Emmanuel-God with us***

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

(30th November until 8th December)

Copies of the novena booklet are available after Mass this weekend. The members of the welcome team will distribute them. You are encouraged to pray the novena prayers with family members at home during these days. In addition, the prayers will be prayer at the end of Masses during the days of the novena.

On Tuesday 8th December, the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception,** Mass will be celebrated as follows:

St. Patrick's, Newtownards 9.30am
Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber 7.30pm

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Sincere thanks to all those who so generously contributed to the Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Envelopes can still be returned over the next few weekends, following which a final total will be announced. The parish conference of Saint Vincent de Paul works very closely with the *Link* and the *Warehouse*. Donations of food-items can be deposited in the *Link* or the *Warehouse,* alternatively, feel free to contact SVP members. The *Warehouse* is also accepting donations of new toys to help needy families this Christmas.

Christmas cards are available after Mass-minimum donation of £3.

The Christmas dinner will be on Sunday the 6th of December at 3pm in St. Patrick's Parish Hall-tickets at £10 available after Mass.

LOCAL HISTORY

History of St. Comgall's Parish & School, Bangor including 19th century Newtownards Parish-by Patricia Norrington. Copies are available in North Down Musuem, McMullan's Shop, Brunswick Road and also at St. Comgall's Presbytery, Bangor. The publication would make a good Christmas present for anyone interested in local and parish history. Profits to Saint Vincent de Paul.

CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS EVE

(Thursday morning 9.30am Mass as usual in St Patrick's)

7pm in St Patrick's -***Family Mass***

11pm-***Midnight Mass*** by candlelight in St Patrick's preceded by singing of Christmas Carols from 10.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

9am-***Dawn*** Mass in Our Lady of the Visitation, Comber
10.30am-***Mass of Christmas Day*** in St Patrick's.

Masses as usual for weekend of 26/27th December