

Downpatrick Family of Parishes

Parish of Downpatrick

Sunday 22nd, 29th December, 5th January



Your prayers are requested for

Recently Deceased: Anne-Marie Gordon, Betty Rice, Elizabeth Labrosse, Maureen Flanagan,

Month's Mind: Bridie O'Neill, Angela Dunn,

Anniversaries: Sr. Mary Frances McCashin, Ellen & Cyril Nicholl, May Leonard, Deacon Paul McCormick, Maurice Hayes, Margaret Fitzsimons, Thomas Rooney, Deceased Members of the Rooney & Stratton Families, Aidan Hennedy, Patrick Taggart, Mary Ann Craig, Tommy McManus, Jim & Mary Blythe, Brian Blythe, Leo McCormick, Tom & Annie May O'Hare, Jim Lowry, Brian Galbraith, Emmett Perry, Kathleen Vance, Francie & Teresa Vance, William John Vance, James Taggart, Carmel Coffey, Edwin Vance, Peter McCormick, Brian McKeown, Darryl Wade, Mary & Susan McCrissican, Ida McConvey, Joe Williams, Alan Gordon, Liam McGlogan, Jim Denvir,

Weekly Collection: Offertory £1220, Loose plate £405, Direct Debits £1900. Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Intentions, St. Patrick's @ 7:30pm:

Monday 23.12.24: Month's Mind: Angela Dunn,
Anniv: Dermot Cusack, Tommy Rooney, Rooney & Stratton Family, Ethna Kennedy, Winnie & Charles Reid, Jim Denvir,

Friday 03.01.2025: Month's Mind: Angela Lavery,
Anniv: Sr. Mary Frances McCashin, Thomas Jervis,

Monday 06.01.25: Anniv: Clare Taggart, Catherine McLeigh

Wednesday 08.01.25: Month's Mind: Jay P Marks,
Anniv: Charlie McStay Snr.,

Friday 10.01.25: Anniv: Eileen Doherty, Ida McConvey

Mass Schedule December 24 / January 25

| Date | Church | Time |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sat 21 st | St. Patrick's | 5:30pm |
| Sun 22 nd | St. Patrick's St. Malachy's | 10:30am 10am |
| Thurs 26 th & Fri 27 th 9:30am – No Evening Mass | | |
| Sat 28 th | St. Patrick's St. Brigid's | 5:30pm 7pm |
| Sun 29 th | St. Patrick's St. Colmcille's | 10:30am 10am |
| Wed 1 st Jan 2025 12pm – No other Masses this day | | |
| Mon 30 th , Tues 31 st Dec, Thurs 2 nd Jan – Daytime Masses only (9:30am– No Evening Masses.) | | |
| Fri 3 rd Jan 9:30am and 7:30pm | | |
| Sat 4 th Jan | St Patrick's | 10.00am |
| Sat 4 th Jan | St. Patrick's | 5:30pm |
| Sun 5 th Jan | St. Patrick's St. Malachy's | 10:30am 10am |
| Mon 6 th Jan | St. Patrick's | 9:30am |
| Feast of Epiphany | St. Brigid's St. Patrick's | 10am 7:30pm |
| Tuesday 7 th Jan Normal Mass times from today | | |

'Evening of Mercy': Monday 23rd Dec 2024

6:45pm Confessions,

7:00pm Rosary,

7:30pm Mass

8.10pm After Mass there will be a time of prayer for those struggling with addiction to drugs or alcohol, followed by Benediction.

Parish of Downpatrick

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Vigil)

St. Patrick's Vigil 6:30pm and 9:30pm

St. Brigid's Vigil 7:30pm

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

St. Patrick's 10:30am

St. Malachy's 10am

St. Colmcille's 12Noon

Confessions:

St. Patrick's

Monday 23rd 6.45pm – 7.20pm

Invitation to Opening of Jubilee Year – 29th December: On Christmas Eve 2024, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and the Jubilee of Hope will begin in Rome. The theme the Holy Father has chosen for this year of special graces is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and he invites the whole People of God – clergy and laity – to celebrate God's Gift of Grace through their expressions of Deep Faith, Lively Hope and Active Charity. The Holy Year in the Diocese will begin on the Feast of the Holy Family. All parishioners are warmly invited to join Bishop Alan McGuckian at the Solemn Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year of Hope on Sunday, 29th December at 3pm in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast. We encourage everyone to attend and be part of this celebration for the Jubilee Year. The webcam will allow for people to view the Mass from home: www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral *Places are limited for this Mass – attendance must be pre-booked, Parishioners wishing to attend should contact Fr Murray or ring the Parish Office on Monday 23rd December between 9.30am -12 Noon*

Parish of Downpatrick:

Exposition resumes on Friday 10th January 2025

Evening of Mercy Resumes on Monday 6th January at 7.00pm with Rosary, followed by Mass at 7.30pm

Downpatrick Family of Parish of Families Christmas Arrangements

Parish of Bright
Masses/ Confessions

Christmas Eve, 24th December, St Patrick's, Legamaddy, 7.00pm
Christmas Eve, 24th December, St Joseph's, Killough, 9.00pm
Christmas Morning, 25th December, St Patrick's, Legamaddy, 10.00am
Confessions
Wednesday 18th December, St Joseph's, Killough, 8.00-9.00pm
Friday 20th December, St Patrick's, Legamaddy, 8.00-9.00pm
Tuesday 24th December, St Joseph's, Killough, 10.30-11.30

PARISHES OF SAUL & STRANGFORD: CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES

ST PATRICK'S, SAUL AT 5PM
ST MALACHY'S, KILCLIEF AT 7PM
ST JOSEPH'S, BALLYCRUTTLE AT 7PM
STELLA MARIS, STRANGFORD AT 9PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
ST PATRICK'S, SAUL AT 9.30AM
ST MALACHY'S, KILCLIEF AT 11AM
ST TASSACH'S, CARLIN AT 12NOON

CONFESSIONS

ST PATRICK'S, SAUL – MONDAY 16TH AND TUESDAY 17TH AFTER 10AM MASS.
SATURDAY 20TH BEFORE 5PM MASS
STELLA MARIS – MONDAY 16TH AFTER 7.30PM MASS

Please note: This is the last bulletin of 2024. The next bulletin will be published on Sunday 12th January 2025.

The Parish Office will close at 12 Noon on Monday 23rd December and re-open at 9.30am on Monday 6th January 2025.

First Friday Calls: Fr. Murray & Fr. Toland will visit the Sick & Housebound during the second week of January on the usual days. Eucharistic Ministers will visit Fr. Henry's Sick by arrangement on an individual basis

Five First Saturdays: The First Saturday Devotion is also known as the Act of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is said that the Blessed Virgin Requested the devotion in an Apparition to Sr. Lucia in Pontevedra, Spain in 1925. Reparation being the act of making amends for wrongs and in doing so, honour Mary Acts of Reparation requires devotees to attend Confessions (within the Octave), Receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, meditate for 15 minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary.

You are invited to join us in St. Patrick's Church on Saturday 4th January 2025 at 9.15am for the first of five consecutive monthly devotions, please join us for one or all of the Saturdays. Devotions will continue on Feb 1st, March 1st, April 5th and May 3rd at 9.15am.

Feast of the Holy Innocents: Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Downpatrick on Saturday 28th December at 10am. Parents/ Guardians are invited to bring a flower to this mass in memory of their child, there will be an opportunity during Mass to place the flowers at the Crib in memory of all the children, Everyone Welcome

****Could This Be You? **** With the arrival and induction of a new bishop (Bishop McGuckian, began in Down and Connor in April) the committees and various councils of the diocese must be renewed. This is taking place on a diocesan level. This also applies to similar bodies within parishes. Our current Parish Pastoral Council has served the parish for several years. Now is the time to renew its mandate and extend its service for a further period of years. Fr. John, our Parish Priest, is inviting passionate individuals to join a new Pastoral Council in the upcoming year. This group will support Fr. John in shaping and implementing a fresh pastoral plan for our parish. Are you someone who feels inspired to help others come to faith? Do you envision a community that is welcoming, supportive, and full of life? Even if you're not heavily involved yet, Fr. John is looking for individuals with ideas and a heart for growth. Maybe you see something in the parish that is lacking or missing, and you would like to help. Maybe there is something that 'annoys' you and you would also like to do something about it. If Fr. John's vision excites you and you'd like to lend your support, we invite you to take part in an initial training session before committing. To express interest, please place your name and contact details in an envelope in the box at the front of the church over the next few weeks. **The closing date for this will be January 14TH 2025.** Fr. John would also like to extend his heartfelt thanks to the current and recent past members of the Pastoral Council for their dedicated service, wisdom, and support over the years. To borrow the phrase of Bishop Donal McKeown's pastoral letter in 2023 when he was apostolic administrator of our diocese: 'COME AND BE PART OF GOD'S DREAM.'

If you require a priest over the Christmas Period – please call 07841101678 – Strictly for emergencies only.

The Parish Facebook Page will be updated regularly over the Christmas Period – find us under Downpatrick Parish – Or visit our website www.stpatricksdowndpatrick.com

The Priests and Deacon of the Parish Wish Parishioners and their Families a Happy & Holy Christmas.



God Pitched His Tent by Patrick Pye

“The Word became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14)

“Rinneadh feoil den Bhriathar agus chónaigh Sé inár measc” (Eoin 1:14)

May the coming of Christ renew you
in faith, hope and love, now and always.

+ Alan M^c Guckian SJ

Alan McGuckian SJ

Bishop of Down & Connor