



Parish of Downpatrick

PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday 9 November 2025

Dedication of The Lateran Basilica

Fr Eugene O'Neill

CONTACTS:

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Office hours 9.30am – 2.00pm Monday-Thursday, closes 1pm on Friday.

Parish Secretary: Mary Cullen Tel: 02844612084

You can contact us by telephone or email. Since Downpatrick is a very busy Parish Office; we can't always answer the phone immediately. Please leave a message with your telephone number and we will call you back.

Parish email: downpatrick@downandconnor.org

Website: www.stpatricksdowndpatrick.com

 [downpatrickfamilyofparishes](https://www.facebook.com/downpatrickfamilyofparishes)



Recently Deceased: Delia Smith (Saul), Brian Trainor, Jade McManus (Canada)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday 7.30pm 1st Anniv JP Marks, **Month's Mind:**

Maudie Marks, **Anniv:** David Lobb,

Saturday 5.00pm: Anniv: Brigid Skeffington, Pat Crowe, Alec McMahon & McMahon Family.

Anniv: J.P. Marks, Mary & Dennis Halpin, Eileen Halpin, Nan Henedy, Hilda Smyth, James McHugh, Clara Annett, Rosaleen & Arnold Halloran, Brian Quinn, Dymphna Rooney, Sarah Magee, Charles Magee, Sarah Savage, Daniel Gilmore Snr., Hugh Flynn, Tommy Savage, Josie & Hugh Fitzsimons, Joe Gordon Snr.,

Knock Trip: All night vigil – Sunday 07 December – stopping at (Downpatrick !2:30pm), Crossgar and Saintfield. Cost £50. To book, contact 07762211658.

MISSION IRELAND

On behalf of Pope Leo, thank you for supporting Mission Sunday. Your kindness means that overseas missionaries can continue to share the love of God with some of the world's most marginalised and vulnerable people.

NOVEMBER DEAD

November is the month of the Holy Souls – a time when the faithful departed are remembered and prayed for with great intensity. This reminds us of our ongoing connection with those who have gone before us in this life. We are still one family – those on earth, those in heaven and those being purified and awaiting paradise.

Mass is said each day, in every parish throughout the world for the dead – particularly remembering all those names included on the November Remembrance Lists. Once completed, envelopes and donations can be left either in the collection basket or designated area in the church. These lists are then placed on the altar of St Patrick's.

"In Christ the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned, that those saddened by the certainty of dying might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come."



PARISH COLLECTIONS:

2 Nov: Offertory: £1537, Monthly Offering £1705, If you wish to donate directly via Bank Transfer the parish bank details are:

Account Name: Parish of Downpatrick

Account Number: 80146471

Sort Code: 95-06-79

(please add an identifying name to your transaction) or you can contact the Parish Office for a Standing Order Form.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

PRAYER FOR THE DYING

O most merciful Jesus, Lover of souls, I pray Thee, by the agony of Thy most Sacred Heart, and by the sorrows of Thine Immaculate Mother, cleanse in Thine Own Blood the sinners of the whole world who are now in their agony and who are to die this day. Amen



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"November's quiet strength is a reminder that true growth often happens in silence."

Christ Our Anchor: Writings by James O'Kane, Priest and Theologian, ed. Fiona Lynch, with a Foreword by Bishop Alan McGuckian (Shanway Press, 2025). To order please go to: www.shanway.com Tel: 028 9022 2070 Email: info@shanway.com. RRP: £12.99.

"I heard of the death of Fr James O'Kane on the evening of Sunday 19th January 2025. By an interesting providence, I had picked up a copy of his homilies for the first time earlier that day. I turned to the homily for that particular Sunday and it made a great impression on me." Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ

Dear Friends, You will recall that last week I explained that it would be necessary to make some adjustments to our parish mass schedule primarily due to the reduction in the number of available priests.

Rather suddenly and unexpectedly, I have found myself as the only full-time priest in the parish; and while I want to provide the best possible level of pastoral service to our parishioners, the reality is that one person can only do so much - particularly with the number of funerals we have in the parish.

This week I met with the Parish Council and consulted with many parishioners to explore the best ways of meeting the needs of the parish. I would like to propose a draft schedule of masses, beginning this Monday morning.

Many people felt that having the morning mass at 10am rather than 9.30am would be better and I am inclined to agree. So, on a trial basis, from tomorrow, our morning masses will be at 10am and we will have evening mass in St. Patrick's on Mondays at 7.30pm.

At the weekend, I propose having two Vigil Masses - one in Patrick's at 5pm and the other in St. Brigid's at 6.30pm. This will hopefully make things easier for those who are physically unable to make it to St. Patrick's.

Conscious of the long history of St. Malachy's, Ballykilbeg, I propose having 9am mass there on the first Sunday of every month. St. Colmcille's will continue to be available for funerals and school events.

I have had this new schedule printed at the back of the bulletins for clarity. It may be helpful to cut it out and keep it at home.

Change is difficult and it can take time to get used to new schedules, but as I said last week, nothing is written in stone. I hope that we can try this new timetable for a while and see how it goes, then adjust it as necessary. I would like to thank all those who have expressed their views to me – particularly the Parish Council and Deacon Jackie Breen.

As well as being a timely reminder for us to pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood, these changes offer me as your Parish Priest an opportunity to reaffirm my desire to serve the people of the parish with willingness and availability.

Once again, can I say how grateful I am for your warm welcome, your kindness and prayerful support since I came to the parish. Let's move forward together with faith and confidence in God's abiding presence.

Fr. Eugene O'Neill

Parish of Downpatrick New Mass Schedule

Mass Times:

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigils
St. Patrick's 5pm
St. Brigid's 6.30pm

Sunday
St. Patrick's 10.30am

St Malachy's 9am (1st Sunday of the Month)

Daily Mass Times

St Patrick's
Monday 7.30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 10am

New Schedule Comes into effect from Monday 10th
November

