



Parish of Downpatrick

Sunday 28 December 2025 & 3 Jan 2026

Double Issue Bulletin

Feast of The Holy Family



Downpatrick Parish Mass Schedule:

Weekend Masses

Vigils

St. Patrick's 5pm

St Brigid's 6.30pm

Sunday

St Patrick's 10.30am

St. Malachy's – Sunday 4 January, 9am

New Years Day: Mass in St Patrick's at **12 Noon**

Feast of The Epiphany, 6 January

Mass in St Patrick's 10am & 7.30pm

Your Prayers are Requested for:

Month's Mind Mary Ellen Nugent

Anniv: Aidan Hennedy, Eileen Doherty, Teresa & Francie Vance, Gerard & Brigid Blaney, Kathleen Vance, Kathleen Kearney, William John Vance Snr, Veronica Quail,

Edwin John Vance, Sheila & Tommy Perry, Susan McCrissican, Jim Murphy, Gerald Mullan, Patrick Taggart, James Taggart, Mary-Anne Craig, Carmel Coffey, Tommy McManus,

George Peacock, Ursula Duffy, Darryl Wade,



MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 27 December, St Patrick's 5pm:

Anniv: Aidan Hennedy, Jim Denvir,

Sunday 28 December 10.30am:

Month's Mind: Mary Ellen Nugent

Saturday 3 January 5pm

1st Anniv: Caroline McAteer,

Anniv: Margaret Fitzsimons, Mary Jennings,

Sunday 4 January, St Patrick's 10.30am:

Month's Mind: Aidan Campbell,

1st Anniv: Ursula Duffy

Monday 5 January, St Patrick's, 7.30pm

Anniv Nan & Charlie McStay

PARISH COLLECTIONS:

December Collection

Offertory: £2190.06

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.

There is now a card machine at the main door to St Patrick's, donations can be made using the secure card machine. Follow the instructions on the machine to donate.

Thank you for your continued support

Convent of Mercy Bell:

This Sunday marks a special historical occasion in our parish. The bell of the Convent of Mercy was rung for the first time 150 years ago and for generations served as a call to prayer in our town. The bell was a gift to the Sisters in 1875 and is now a beautiful feature of St.Colmcille's Church. On the anniversary of the ringing of the bell, we pray that the joy exuded from its chimes will live in our hearts during these days when we celebrate the birth of our saviour. We remember too with profound gratitude the immense contribution of generations of Sisters of Mercy who served our people with dedication and commitment, and give thanks to God for all that they have done for so many people over the years.

Feast Of The Epiphany: The Feast of The Epiphany commemorates the arrival at Bethlehem of the Three Wise Men from the East. It is a Holy Day of Obligation and there are two Masses for the Feast, 10am and 7.30pm. Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas and marks the end of the Christmas season.

Fr. Jim Conway: A warm welcome to Fr. Jim Conway who has come to work in our Parish. We hope that your time amongst us will be enjoyable and enriching.

Welcome, Fr. Jim!



Personal Message from Fr. Eugene.

My dear friends, as we approach the celebration of our Lord's birth, I want to wish you and your families a joyful, happy and peace-filled Christmas.

There is something magical about Christmas and yet for many people it's a poignant and difficult time of year, so we hold in our hearts those who experience this as a challenging or painful time.

On a personal note, on this my first Christmas in the parish, I want to sincerely thank you for your kindness and warm welcome since I arrived here. My arrival in the parish coincided with my father's sudden illness and death - and I was deeply moved and consoled by the outpouring of support that I received from so many kind parishioners. Like many recently bereaved families, this will be a sad time for my sisters and myself yet I am so thankful to you all for your support and encouragement in these difficult times.

This is a wonderful parish with a deep history of faith and dedication, and I feel blessed to be here. There are so many committed, faithful people here and it makes my work both a joy and a pleasure. Sadly, due to declining numbers of priests, as you know we recently implemented some changes to reflect the realities in which we live - but as always, the parishioners were generous, supportive and accepting and I am deeply grateful.

In that regard, I would also like to extend our best wishes and prayerful gratitude to Canon Murray, Fr. Toland and Fr. Henry for their long years of service in their parish. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all God's blessings for a happy and healthy retirement.

Once again, my dear friends, I wish you, your families and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas and New Year, filled with joy, health and peace.

Fr Eugene O'Neill

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Eugene O'Neill & Fr Jim Conway

Contacts:

Parish Office: 028 44612084

Address: 54 St Patrick's Avenue, Downpatrick, BT30 6DN

Office hours 10.00am – 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)

Parish Office: Is closed until January 5 2026.

Sign Of Peace: As a precaution, and to protect our more vulnerable parishioners, the Sign of Peace has been suspended during this current cold/flu season.

