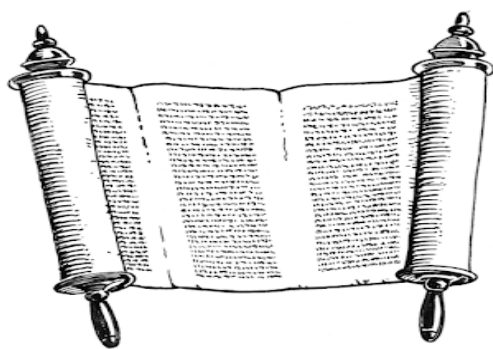




Parish of Downpatrick

Sunday 25 January 2026

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
Sunday of the Word of God



PARISH PRIEST: Fr Eugene O'Neill, **Curate:** 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



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

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 1 February 9am

Daily Masses

St. Patrick's

Monday 7.30pm

Tues – Friday 10am

St. Colmcille's

Wednesdays 7.30pm

Sacrament of Baptism: 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday of each month

Confession available in St Patrick's, Saturdays 4.15pm – 4.45pm

Your Prayers are Requested for:

Recently Deceased: Raymond Martin, Colette Rooney, Mary Teresa Heaney, Cushla Fynn,

Month's Mind: Steven Laverty,

Anniv: Aidan Vaughan, George & Kathleen Smyth, Rosemary Quinn, Jimmy & Betty Laird, Eileen Walsh,

Michael (Mickey) O'Hare, Rosie Blaney, Anthony Evans, Josie Lobb, Winifred McDowell,

Paddy Feenan, Joan Keenan, Peter McCartan,

Marie McCartan, Sarah Kerr,

May They Rest In Peace

Feast of St. Blaise: Blessing of Throats will take place at the 10am Mass on Tuesday 2 February



MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday 24 January 5pm, St. Patrick's

Month's Mind: Steven Laverty,

Anniv: Rosie Hollard, John Ritchie, Pauline McKendry,

Sunday 25 January, 10.30am, St. Patrick's

1st Anniv: Winifred McDowell,

Monday 26 January, 7.30pm, St Patrick's

Anniv: Aidan Vaughan, June Cogger, Tommy Miley, George & Kathleen Smyth, Rosemary Quinn,

Wednesday 28 January, 7:30pm, St. Colmcille's

Anniv: Malachy Craig,

PARISH COLLECTIONS:

19 January Offertory £1983.40

Faith & Pastoral Development Fund: £957.50

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. We are moving rapidly towards a cashless society. It is believed that within five years, notes and coins may start to become obsolete as more and more of us turn to cards and phones to make payments.

Conscious of this change, the Diocese has asked us to introduce a card payment terminal into the parish, which will help support the parish by making electronic payments easier. In the few weeks that it has been in place we have been please that more and more parishioners and visitors are using this as a way of contributing.

Thank You for your ongoing support.

St. Brigid's Crosses will be available in Church Porches after Mass next weekend. Proceeds to St Vincent De Paul.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a concern, suspicion, or wish to make an allegation of child abuse, or abuse in relation to an adult at risk, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Office: Philip O'Hara, Designated Liaison Person, 120, Cliftonville Road, Belfast BT14 6LA. Mobile: 07534 992124 or Telephone: 028 90 492798.

Email: philip.ohara@soddc.org or

visit <https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com>

ST BRIGID'S, OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK, AND ST COLMCILLE'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS – RECIPIENTS OF THE SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD 2026

To mark Catholic Schools' Week 2026, the Diocese of Down and Connor paid tribute to the inspiring work of thirty-one schools from across the Diocese of Down and Connor by awarding them with the prestigious *Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2026*.

It is my pleasure to announce that this year, St Brigid's, Our Lady and St Patrick, and St Colmcille's Primary Schools were three of the award-winning schools. At a special ceremony in St Mary's University College on Wednesday 21st January, the schools each received the award from Bishop Alan McGuckian, in recognition of their commitment, dedication and lived Christian witness to developing and nurturing the spiritual and prayer life of their school communities. This focus was linked to the Jubilee Year of Hope and the invitation to "fan the flame of faith".

The schools being presented with the Spirit of Catholic Education Award engaged in a whole school self-reflection process, using the *Catholic Ethos and Values – A Framework for Self-Reflection* document, on how they intentionally provided spiritual opportunities for prayer that in turn inspired acts of faith, love and service that are connected to the word of God, the message of Christ, the power and influence of the Holy Spirit and Catholic Social Teaching.

The 'Spirit of Catholic Education Award' is presented annually in conjunction with Catholic Schools' Week, to celebrate outstanding contributions to Catholic Education in terms of instilling the Gospel values and ethos of the Christian message into the daily life of the school. Within this gospel-inspired educational environment, pupils are brought to understand and appreciate the importance of their sacredness as children of God, caring for others in need within their school, parish, community, and wider society, contributing to building peace and reconciliation and being ecologically aware of the beauty and wonder of God's creation. It also provides an opportunity to affirm and pay tribute to the ongoing work of the governors, school leaders, teaching and support staff as they seek to form young people in their spiritual, intellectual, moral, and social development.

We send our warmest [congratulations](#) to all the staff who are representative of how teachers across the diocese monitor, evaluate, review, and embed an ongoing commitment to living out the Spirit of Catholic Education. Well done to everyone!

Fr. Eugene O'Neill