



## Parish of Downpatrick

Sunday 15 March 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent



**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,**

**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.

**Please note:** The parish office will be closed on Tuesday 17 March and re-open on Wednesday 18 March.

**Parish email:** [downpatrick@downandconnor.org](mailto:downpatrick@downandconnor.org)

**Website:** [www.stpatricksdowndpatrick.com](http://www.stpatricksdowndpatrick.com)

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

**Loop System Operating in St Patrick's Church.** Please follow your manufacturers instructions for your hearing aid in order to experience a better audio quality.



### 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month

#### Daily Masses

##### St. Patrick's

Monday 7.30pm

Tues – Friday 10am

##### St. Colmcille's

Wednesday 7:30pm

**Lenten Stations of The Cross, Monday's 7pm in St Patrick's**

Wednesday, 7pm St. Colmcille's

**Sacrament of Baptism:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month

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



### ST PATRICKS DAY MASS TIMES

#### Monday 16 March

7.30pm (Vigil) St Patrick's

#### Tuesday 17 March

St. Colmcille's 9.30am

St. Patrick's 10am

St. Malachy's 10am

### Your Prayers are Requested for:

**Recently Deceased:** Vincent Sharvin, Maurice Cassidy, Melissa Parkinson, Isabel Radcliffe (England),

**Anniv:** Sr. M. Therese O Neill, Sr. M. Perpetua Murphy, Josephine McCann, Charles & Maureen Moss,

Pat Oakes, Sean Fitzsimons, Brian & Maddeline Gilfedder, Maeve Gilfedder, Cecelia Tumelty, Geraldine Fitzsimons, Brendan Tweedie, Belle Magee, James Martin O'Hanlon, Daniel Hogg, Charles Oakes, James Galbraith, Dinny Brennan, Nellie Brennan, Marie Tumelty,

*May They Rest in Peace*

### MASS INTENTIONS:

**Saturday 14 March, 5pm, St. Patrick's**

**Month's Mind:** James Rooney

**Anniv:** Sean Fitzsimons, Walter & Austin Keating, Billy Murphy, Paddy Davvy & Joseph Coughlin,

**Saturday 14 March, 6:30pm, St. Brigid's**

**Month's Mind:** Frankie Vaughan,

**Sunday 15 March, 10:30am, St. Patrick's**

**Anniv:** Brian McConvey,

**Monday 16 March, 7.30pm, St Patrick's**

**Anniv:** Belle Magee,

**Wednesday 18 March, 7:30pm, St. Colmcille's**

**Anniv:** Vera & Ignatius Vaughan, Brian & Madeline Gilfedder,

### PARISH COLLECTIONS:

**08 March 2026**

**Offertory** £2253, **Dona** £ 145

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) please contact your bank to arrange.

Dona Card Machine is available for convenience at Our Lady's Shrine.

Offertory Envelopes will be available from St Patrick's Church from Sat 21 March Volunteers will assist in helping you locate your envelopes. Alternatively, envelopes can be collected from the Parish Office from Wednesday 18 March

*Thank You for your ongoing support.*

### Statement From Canon John Murray:

It is with great joy that I have been able to return to Downpatrick and to the parish of St. Patrick. The last seven months have probably been the most traumatic of my whole life. I could not have foreseen what was to happen when I went to celebrate my last Sunday Mass as Parish Priest on August 10th last year.

I wish first of all to pay thanks to the wonderful staff – the nurses, the doctors, the various therapists and the ancillary staff – who looked after me - and the other patients - in the Royal Victoria Belfast, the Downe and the Brain Injury Unit in the Musgrave Park hospital. I spent four and a half months in three hospitals and then was transferred to the Nazareth Care Village on the Ravenhill Road for a further two months – a grand total of 197 days! I returned to Downpatrick on February 23rd.

I am also extremely grateful to you the parishioners of Downpatrick and beyond who have prayed for me over the last few months. I can assure you that I really felt those prayers. Indeed, I feel I would not have been able to recover as I have without the help of those prayers. I thank too all those who were able to send me personal greetings whether with cards or letters or even texts and emails. I cannot respond personally to all these wonderful sentiments but I appreciate them all and will remember you deeply in my own Masses and prayers.

Though you do not know them I would wish to thank from the bottom of my heart my own close family members who have been magnificent in their outreach to me and in their many visits and acts of kindness. Given their own busy lives and sometimes the distances their generosity to me was incredible and humbling.

August 2025 was to begin the next phase of my life. I was looking forward to retirement but I did intend to continue to help out in the local Family of Parishes area of Downpatrick and Lecale. My own hope is to continue to do that.

I welcome Fr. Eugene to the parish as Parish Priest. We had intended I would do this on August 15th 2025 my last official day as PP but that did not happen. So, I welcome him now – and Fr Jim Conway – and hope they are as happy and fulfilled as I have been since 2014. I also thank my colleagues Fr. Liam Toland and Fr. Maurice Henry for their years of service and dedication with me since 2014.

I have recovered well but I am still far from where I would like to be. I hope for the next few weeks to concelebrate Mass with my colleagues in the parish and please God after Easter to be able to celebrate Mass on my own.

Once again, many many thanks. Despite everything my own faith in the Lord and His love and compassion has increased. While the good Lord has asked me to carry the cross these last few weeks - and that has been an honour - I can assure you that He has been carrying it with me. Let us continue to pray for each other in the days ahead.

**Congratulations!** We congratulate all the children in the Parish who made their First Confession this week. Thank You to the Parents, Teachers and Classroom Assistants who helped the children prepare so well.

**Trocaire:** Boxes can be returned to St Patrick's Church, following the signage in the church, or to the Parish Office. Please do not leave Trocaire Boxes sitting out in the Church – be aware that Trocaire do not collect boxes directly from parishioners' homes!

### Saint Patrick's Dawn Prayer Gatherings:

Christians from all denominations will gather at Saint Patrick's grave in Downpatrick at 5:45 am, 17th March, to pray The Our Father/ Lord's Prayer, one hundred times for peace and unity in Christ. Everyone Welcome!

**BBC RADIO 4 EXTRA** - - For those interested, Fr. Eugene will be broadcasting Daily Service on Radio 4 X on St. Patrick's Day at 9:45am. Available on any digital platform or BBC Sounds.