

Downpatrick Pastoral Area

Parish of Downpatrick

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023



**Your prayers are requested for:**

**Recently Deceased:** Bill Reid,

**Recently Deceased Other Parishes:** Shày Hayes (Saul),

**Anniversaries:** Christina Dickinson, Mary Kinsella, Frank & Kathleen Fitzsimons, Mary McCann, Colum Fay, Frances Fitzsimons, Sadie Savage, Pat Hunt, Kathleen O'Reilly, Alice Lannon, Patricia Ward, Eileen Fee, Margaret Keenan,

**Weekly Collection:** Offertory £1,310, Loose Plate £455, Mission Sunday £744, Direct Debits £1880. Thank you for your generosity

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

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec: Anniv:** Maudie Perry, Kathleen O'Reilly, Alice Lannon, Joan Carson,

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Dec: 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv:** Patricia Brown,

**Confessions this week:** St. Patrick's Mon 6:45pm, Fri 3pm-4pm, Sat 12pm-1pm.



**Primary 7 children reminder!** Mass on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10:30am. Parents and children preparing for Confirmation are reminded and encouraged to attend 10:30am Mass in St. Patrick's on December 3<sup>rd</sup> as part of their Confirmation preparation. We look forward to seeing you there!

Parish Mass Schedule for December 2023:

Date	Church	Time
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	St. Malachy's	10am
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	St. Colmcille's	10am
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Malachy's	10am
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	St. Colmcille's	10am
<b>Christmas Eve Evening – vigil Masses –</b>		
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's	6:30pm
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	St. Brigid's	8pm
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's	9:30pm
<b>Christmas Daytime Masses</b>		
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	St. Malachy's	10am
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	St. Colmcille's	10am
<b>Tues 26<sup>th</sup> – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's 9:30am (No evening Masses this week)</b>		
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	St. Malachy's	10am

**'Evening of Mercy':** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

6:45pm Confessions

7:00pm Rosary

7:30pm Mass.

8:10pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with prayers for worry and anxiety.

8:40pm Benediction,

All welcome for all or even part of the evening.

**A Journey With Mary.** Please join us during the Tuesdays of Advent to reflect and pray in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity. **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm** in Patrick's Place (the room below St Patricks Church). Refreshments will be available after. All Welcome.

**Safeguarding:** The Parish Safeguarding Committee continue to work to maintain good practice within our parish. Our mission is to recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and adults. We are committed to ensure their safety and wellbeing. We have continued to work since the resumption of normal activities in the Parish after COVID. All clergy, parish staff and volunteers who needed to, have been re-vetted. This week over 20 parishioners completed adult awareness training and child protection training in Patrick's Place. Thank you to them for their co-operation. Information about parish groups is at the back of St. Patrick's Church (beside the stairs to the gallery) or on the parish app or may be obtained from the parish office. All information regarding safeguarding is on all the notice boards in each church.

**We would like to remind you, that if you enter the sacristy you must sign the attendance register in all churches.**

**Holy Land Christians:** Dear Parishioners we are all sadly aware of the terrible events in the Holy Land since the massacre on October 7<sup>th</sup>. I am sure we are praying for peace in this situation. I am sure also that many of you – as I have – already have contributed something – however small – to the humanitarian aid needed in Gaza. However there is a third group in that land which is also suffering and that is the small Christian population – roughly 1% of the entire Israel population. All pilgrimages to the Holy Land have ceased for now and the foreseeable future. This is the lifeblood of many of these communities of Christians in the area of Bethlehem and Tiberias. There is talk of many of the younger Christians leaving the land of their birth and emigrating. If anyone would like to give something for the Christians of the Holy Land please put it in an envelope marked 'Holy Land Christians' and leave it in the church boxes or the presbytery. I will ensure this reaches a group called 'Friends of the Holy Land' which supports all Christians in the Holy Land. Please continue to also pray for them. Thank you in anticipation for your generosity. *Fr. John Murray*

Sands Downpatrick invite you to join us for

# Lights of Love

Saturday 9th December  
7pm, St Patrick's Church,  
Downpatrick

#LightsOfLove [sands.org.uk/lightsoflove](https://sands.org.uk/lightsoflove)

Sands Downpatrick is part of Sands.  
Saving babies' lives. Supporting bereaved families.

**Downpatrick SANDS** warmly invite you to join with other bereaved parents and families as we remember our babies at Christmas time. The Lights of Love service will take place on Saturday 9th December, 7pm at St Patrick's Church Downpatrick and online at <https://www.churchmedia.tv/st-patricks-church-downpatrick> We hope the service of readings and music will offer a sense of peace, comfort and hope for those joining. Parents/families are invited to bring along a toy for the age their baby would be this Christmas, wrap it and label boy /girl. All toys will be donated to Home-Start Downpatrick, so your baby can make a difference to another child this Christmas.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY DOWNPATRICK

WILL BE STARTING SOON!

TO TAKE PART CHILDREN (P1 - P5 AGE ONLY)  
MUST BE SIGNED UP BY COMPLETING A  
REGISTRATION FORM FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

To receive a form or sign up to volunteer with us,  
please email : [downpatrick@downandconnor.org](mailto:downpatrick@downandconnor.org)

**Down and Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima:** Direct return flights from Dublin to Lisbon afternoon flights. 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Return airport transfers included. Full religious programme. Led by Fr. Martin Graham, Fr. G McCloskey and Canon S Gilmore. Price £799 per person sharing. £100 off per person if paid in full by 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023. For more information and how to pay contact Joe Catney 07776 425631

**RGU Lotto.** This week's lotto numbers were 2-3-8-16. Five tickets matched three numbers to share £100. Next week's jackpot is £6600. PLAY ONLINE USING THE LINK ON FACEBOOK.