

Downpatrick Pastoral Area

Parish of Downpatrick

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023



**Your prayers are requested for:**

**Recently Deceased:** Desmond Grant, Darryl Cassidy-Perry

**Anniversaries:** Pope Benedict XVI, Maura Savage, Maurice Hayes, Aidan Hennedy, Brian Galbraith, Mary McCrissican, Patrick Taggart, James Taggart, Mary-Anne Craig, Carmel Coffey, George Peacock, Emmett Perry, Thomas & Sheila Perry, Darren Perry, John Perry snr, John Perry Jnr, Kathleen Vance, Francis & Theresa Vance, Senan Sharvin, Mary Blythe, Jim Blythe, Brian Blythe, Leo McCormick, Peter McCormick, Alan Gordon, Susan McCrissican, Tom & Annie Mary O'Hare, Annie & Gerry Tully, Dermot Cusack,

**Weekly Collection:** Offertory £1,511, Loose Plate £504, Mission Sunday £744, Direct Debits £1880. Thank you for your generosity

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

**Fri 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Anniv:** June Clarke,

**Anniv:** Gracey & Fitzsimmons Family, Dermie, Gwen, (Joe, Paddy, Micky & Mary Gracey), Clare Taggart, Catherine McLeigh,

**Christmas Crib:** This year if you visit the crib in St. Patrick's you may wish to make a small offering. The offerings this year will be forwarded to the charity 'Friends of the Holy Land' to help Christians in the Holy Land whose livelihood has been devastated by the war. There are no pilgrimages to the places associated with Jesus – Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem – and the Christians depend on pilgrimages for their livelihood. Please be as generous as you can.

**The Parish Office is now closed – Re-opening Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

**The next Parish Bulletin will be published on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Parish Mass Schedule for December 2023:

Date	Church	Time
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) December 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am: Feast of the Holy Innocents: Those who may have lost a child in pregnancy or early childhood are welcome to bring a flower during Mass to place in the crib. The priest will offer prayers during Mass for your intentions.</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
<b>Masses first week of January Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024 St. Patrick's 12 Noon (please note no 9:30am or 7:30pm Mass) World Day of Peace. The evening of Mercy will resume on Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Masses (Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>) 9:30am Mass only.</b>		
<b>Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Jan – Feast of Epiphany Holy Day of Obligation Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Jan St. Patrick's 7:30pm (Vigil) Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Jan St. Patrick's 10am</b>		

**Please note: The evening of mercy will resume on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**Confessions in Advent St. Patrick's Parish**

**Downpatrick:** St. Patrick's Church Dpk:

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> 3pm – 4pm Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> 12pm – 1pm

Tobar Mhuire, (Crossgar):

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> 4pm – 6pm, Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> 4pm – 6pm,

**Following Christ** is a seven week journey that provides the tools to help Catholics grow in discipleship, including daily personal prayer, hearing God in Scripture, the power of the sacraments, forgiving one another, etc. The weekly sessions include prayer time, video teaching, chat, and small group discussion. We begin on Tuesday 16 January. The course will end on 27 March and will include a day-long retreat on Saturday 17 February. Venue: Patrick's Place. If you completed the Discovering Christ Course or Life in the Spirit Seminars or Alpha we would highly recommend that you consider taking part. Register in advance for Following Christ by ringing the Parish Office (02844612084)

**Fr. Murray, Fr. Henry, Fr. Toland, Deacon Breen & Canon Conway would like to wish all Parishioners & Friends a Happy and Holy Christmas.**



**Connect 25**  
Connect to Jesus Connect with others

Connect 25 is a group for young Catholics typically in their 20's - 50's. Our group is focused on Faith, Fun and Friendship! We meet monthly and begin with Adoration, music and prayer, followed by an informal social gathering.

Open to people at all stages of faith – whether you're deep in your faith, trying to grow your faith or only contemplating faith. YOU are welcome!

Connect 25 invite YOU on **Saturday 6th January 2024** at 6:45pm in St. Patrick's Church Downpatrick. We welcome everyone from inside or outside our parish. What better way to begin the New Year! We would love to see you there!

The Vatican has published Pope Francis' Message for the 57th World Day of Peace, to be celebrated on January 1, 2024, with the theme "Artificial Intelligence and Peace."

The Holy Father's Message was released on 14 December 14, at a conference given at the Holy See Press Office. The Pope's Message, divided into eight sections, examines the question of the progress of science and technology as a path to peace and reflects on the future of artificial intelligence (AI). The Pope also encourages that the ethical dimensions of AI, including issues of privacy, prejudice, and impact on human dignity, be addressed in the sphere of education and in the development of international law. The Holy Father further highlights some of the potential risks posed by AI, for example misinformation and social control, stressing the need for the regulation and monitoring of the development of AI technologies, such that they serve the human family and the protection of our common home.

**Bishop Donal McKeown** has issued a message for Christmas 2023 – a copy of this is available in the Church porch or by visiting [www.downandconnor.org](http://www.downandconnor.org)

**Feast of The Epiphany: January 6<sup>th</sup> 2024** (Holy Day of Obligation): Vigil Mass in St Patrick's on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Mass on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 10am in St. Patrick's.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS** Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Belfast to mark the end of the Old Year and welcome the New Year. At 11pm on December 31<sup>st</sup>. All Welcome! Homilist Fr. Brian McCann and Cantor Mr Louis McVeigh

**Queen's University Catholic Chaplaincy – Alumni and Friends\* Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St Paul:** Departing Dublin on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the alumni and friends of the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University will make pilgrimage to Greece and Malta over 10 days, following in the footsteps of Saint Paul. Our tour with Marian Pilgrimages will offer a profound journey through various significant locations associated with St Paul's life and missionary travels, among them Athens, Thessaloniki, Phillipi, Corinth and Valetta. Pilgrims can experience a profound connection to the apostle, his teachings, and the early Christian communities with which he is associated, while traversing these historically rich destinations. The pilgrimage is fully guided, with half-board accommodation in 4\* hotels. The University Chaplain, Fr Dominic McGrattan, will provide spiritual direction and the Chaplaincy's Director of Sacred Music, Marcella Walsh, will animate liturgies with music and song. For more information and details on how to book, email Chaplaincy Director, Shannon Campbell, at [catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk](mailto:catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk) \*Please note, if you or a family member have studied at Queen's or served as a member of staff, know that we consider you among our alumni and friends.