

Downpatrick Pastoral Community Area

Parish Of Downpatrick

25th June 2023



LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES.

Your Prayers Are Requested for:

Recently Deceased:

Eamon Hogan (Newcastle & Downpatrick),

Month's Mind: Patrick (Pat) Feenan,

Anniversaries: Alfie Linehan, George Flood,
Anne Cahalane, Etta Miley, Francis McAllister,
Ciaran Taggart, John Gargan,

Weekly Collection: Offertory £1,870.70p,
Loose Plate £631, Direct Debits £1155.
Thank you for your generosity.

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

Mon: 26th June 7:30pm: Anniv:

Dermot Trainor, May Bell,

Wed 28th June 7:30pm: Month's Mind:

Patrick (Pat) Feenan **Anniv:** Peter Jennings,

Fri: 30th June 7:30pm: Anniv: David McGrady,

Confessions this week: Mon 6:45pm, Fri
3pm-4pm, Sat 12pm-1pm.

Cemetery Sunday in the Parish of Downpatrick:

Killough Road, Sunday 25th June @ 3pm.

Struell, Sunday 2nd July @ 3pm.

Visitors & Parishioners are invited to join us for readings, prayers and the rosary. Individuals, please bring Holy water for Blessing of graves. Service will be 30 mins approx.

Parish Mass Schedule for June/July 2023:

Date	Church	Time
Sat 24 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 25 th	St. Patrick's	9am & 12Noon
The Priests of the parish are also covering another parish this weekend in order to give the priest a break.		
Sun 25th – Cemetery Sunday – Killough Road 3pm		
Sun 2nd July – Cemetery Sunday – Struell 3pm		
Sat 1 st July	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sat 1 st July	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sat 1 st July	Ardglass	5pm
Sun 2 nd	St. Patrick's	9am & 12Noon
Sun 2 nd	St. Colmcille's	11am
Sat 8 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sat 8 th	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sun 9 th	St. Patrick's	9am & 12Noon
Sun 9 th	St. Malachy's	10am
Sat 15 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 16 th	St. Patrick's	9am & 12Noon
Sun 16 th	St. Colmcille's	11am
Sat 22 nd	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sat 22 nd	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sun 23 rd	St. Patrick's	9am & 12Noon
Sun 23 rd	St. Malachy's	10am
Sat 29 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 30 th	St. Patrick's	9am & 12Noon
Sun 30 th	St. Colmcille's	11am

'Evening of Mercy': After 12th Sunday OT, Monday 19th June.

6:45pm Confessions

7:00pm Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30pm Mass

8:10pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament including prayers for healing from anxiety and depression

8:40pm Benediction

All welcome for all or even part of the evening.

Holy Water has now been restored to the church fonts after the COVID interruption. If parishioners want to have Holy Water for their homes then please bring an empty plastic bottle to the sacristy before or after any Mass and the priest or sacristan will fill your bottle with Holy Water.

Downpatrick Pro-Life Group hope to organise a bus to the 'Rally For Life' in Dublin on Saturday 1st July. If you are interested in travelling, please contact the parish office on 02844 612084.

Baptism Course: One of the 'casualties' of Covid was the Baptism Course which the parish offered to young parents prior to the birth of their child. It is hoped to restart this course in the early Autumn. There will be a couple of training sessions in the presbytery in preparation for this course. The second training evening will take place on Tuesday 27th June at 7:30pm – 8:30pm in the presbytery. This is a separate evening from the last – and it is for those who wish to help in bringing on the faith to the next generation. All welcome.

Fountain Foodbank: We acknowledge, with sincere thanks, a donation of £30. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

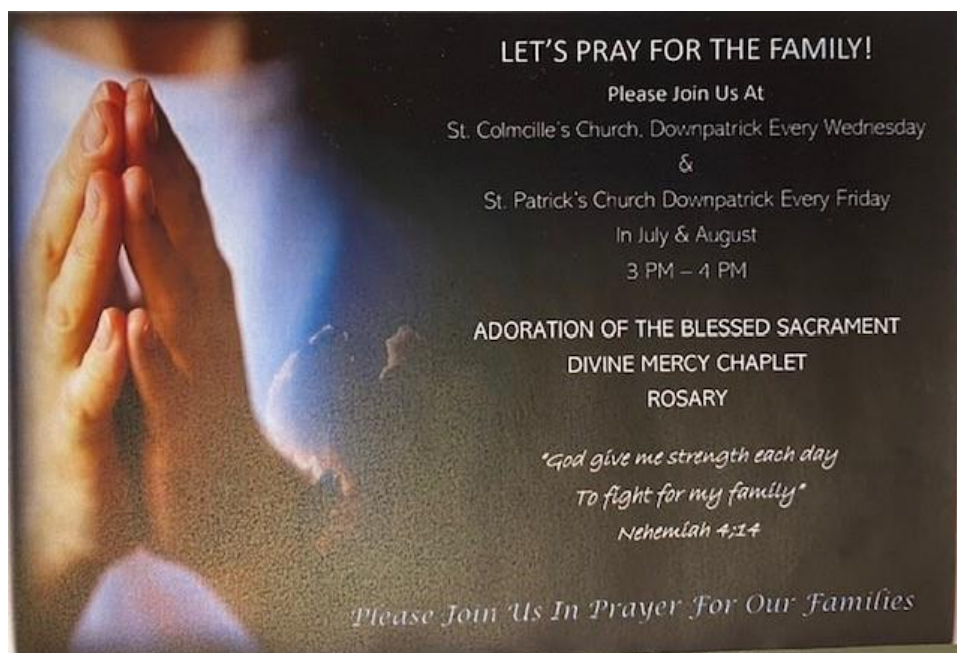
Local Cemetery Sunday Dates:

Downpatrick: Killough Road 25th June at 3pm – **Struell** 2nd July at 3pm,

Strangford: St Malachy's Kilclief Cemetery – Sunday 16th July at 3pm

Saul: Ballycruttle Cemetery – Sunday 30th July at 3pm –

Saul Cemetery – Sunday 6th August at 3pm



LET'S PRAY FOR THE FAMILY!
Please Join Us At
St. Colmcille's Church, Downpatrick Every Wednesday
&
St. Patrick's Church Downpatrick Every Friday
In July & August
3 PM - 4 PM
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET
ROSARY
*'God give me strength each day
To fight for my family'
Nehemiah 4:14*
Please Join Us In Prayer For Our Families

All day Adoration in St. Patrick's finishes for the summer on Friday 30th June at 7pm. During July and August there will be Adoration in St. Colmcille's every Wednesday from 3pm – 4pm and in St. Patrick's every Friday from 3pm – 4pm. Everyone welcome.



RESCHEDULING OF MASSES IN THE PARISH OF ST. PATRICK'S DOWNPATRICK - 2023

Recently Bishop Donal McKeown our apostolic administrator issued a pastoral letter on the feast of Pentecost. I hope you have been able to read it either as a copy in the church or online at the various parish platforms (Facebook, app, website)

Bishop Donal's letter was very positive but also challenging in terms of the future of our diocese and the provision of the sacramental occasions to which we have become accustomed.

Recently in our own parish over the last few months we have had to provide cover for neighbouring parishes for priests who were sick or who needed a break. This is something we are pleased to be able to do but it wasn't easy and it won't be possible to continue this indefinitely.

In order to be able to provide cover in a neighbouring vicariate parish (we are in the vicariate of Downpatrick and Lecale) I want to suggest a rescheduling of our own Masses times. To an extent we have been doing this already over the last year since Covid eased. But I wish to make further 'tweaks' to the schedule.

I propose this for two reasons –(a) to enable one of the priests of the parish to be more easily free to cover another parish should there be a need and (b) to maximise the attendance at our own parish Masses. So instead of having four or five local parish Masses with attendances of 120, 100, 47, 200, 35 as at present we could have two or three Masses with larger congregations. Our recent Mass survey showed that about 600 people in the parish attend Mass regularly.

This is the current situation

St. Patrick's 5.30 Vigil 9.00 12.00

With St. Brigid's on two Saturdays and St. Malachy's and St. Colmcille's on two Sundays (all at the usual times)

This is the proposal I suggest we move to at the beginning of September.

St. Patrick's 5.30 (vigil) and 11.00 (Sunday)

With one Mass each Saturday/Sunday in either St. Brigid's, St. Colmcille's or St. Malachy's so as to allow access for parishioners who find the steps at St. Patrick's difficult.

The Mass schedule for each month is available in the Parish Bulletin, on our Facebook page, the website and via the Parish App.

Change is never easy. Some people might be disappointed or annoyed that their preferred Mass time is not available but I hope you can appreciate the need for the change. I would welcome any feedback on the proposal. You can give this either by email or by phoning the parish at 44-612084.

Thank you for your generosity and understanding.

Fr. John Murray

§ The Parish Leadership Team

Dunsford & Ardglass parish retreat: At Drumalis Retreat & Conference Centre, Larne. Sunday, 10th September 2023. The parish retreat theme is "Finding the well within". Why not come away to the quiet – an opportunity to grow in your faith and deepen your prayer. To book a place, contact Pauline 02844 842146.