

Downpatrick Pastoral Area

Parish of Downpatrick

Sunday 17th December 2023



Parish Mass Schedule for December 2023:

Date	Church	Time
Sat 16 th	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sat 16 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 17 th	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 17 th	St. Malachy's	10am
Sat 23 rd	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 24 th	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 24 th	St. Colmcille's	10am
Christmas Eve Evening – vigil Masses –		
Sun 24 th	St. Patrick's	6:30pm
Sun 24 th	St. Brigid's	8pm
Sun 24 th	St. Patrick's	9:30pm
Christmas Daytime Masses		
Mon 25 th	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Mon 25 th	St. Malachy's	10am
Mon 25 th	St. Colmcille's	10am
Tues 26th – Fri 29th St. Patrick's 9:30am (No evening Masses this week) December 28th 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.		
Sat 30 th	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sat 30 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 31 st	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 31 st	St. Malachy's	10am
Masses first week of January Mon 1st 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 8th Masses (Jan 2nd to 5th) 9:30am Mass only.		
Sat 6th Jan – Feast of Epiphany Holy Day of Obligation Fri 5th Jan St. Patrick's 7:30pm Sat 6th Jan St. Patrick's 10am		

Your prayers are requested for:

Recently Deceased: Eddie Dagens, Desmond Grant,
Recently Deceased Other Parishes:
Darryl Cassidy-Perry (Derry),

Anniversaries: Msgr. William B. Tumelty, Florence Carson, Brendan Rice, Terence Walsh, Jim Mullan, May Leonard, Gerard & Brigit Blaney, Sarah-Jane Digney, Teddy Tweedie, Harry & Donnach Robinson, Richard Fitzsimons, Alex McMullan, Kathleen Morgan, William 'Doc' Morrison,

Weekly Collection: Offertory £705, Loose Plate £385, Mission Sunday £744, Direct Debits £1880. Thank you for your generosity

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

Mon 18th Dec: Month's Mind: Ita Frances Cunningham
Anniv: Sarah-Jane Digney, Noel Sweeney, Terry Ritchie

Wed 20th Dec: Anniv: Jim Denvir, Terence Walsh, Gerard & Brigit Blaney,

Fri 22nd Dec: Month's Mind: Bill Reid,
Anniv: Jean Smyth, Aidan Kennedy, Ethna Kennedy, Charles & Winnie Reid, Stratton & Rooney Families,

Annual Parish Carol Service: St. Patrick's Church, Downpatrick, Sunday 17th December at 5pm. Everyone welcome.

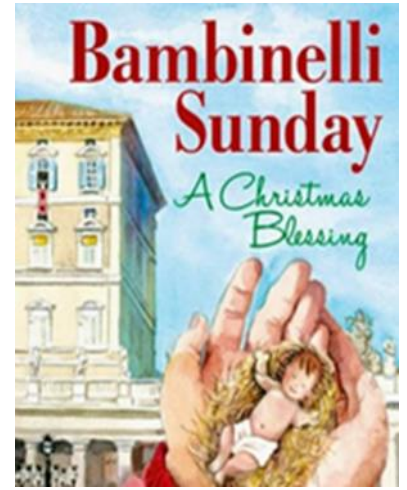
Christmas crib: This year if you visit the crib in St. Patrick's you may wish to make a small offering. The offerings this year will be forwarded to the charity 'Friends of the Holy Land' to help Christians in the Holy Land whose livelihood has been devastated by the war. There are no pilgrimages to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

'Evening of Mercy': Monday 18th December 2023
6:45pm Confessions
7:00pm Rosary
7:30pm Mass.
8:10pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by prayer for freedom from addictions.
8:40pm Benediction,
All welcome for all or even part of the evening.

Confessions in Advent St. Patrick's Parish Downpatrick:

St. Patrick's Church Dpk: Mon 18th 6:30pm – 7:20pm, Fri 22nd 3pm – 4pm Sat 23rd 12pm – 1pm
Tobar Mhuire, (Crossgar): Fri 22nd 4pm – 6pm, Sat 23rd 4pm – 6pm,

The beautiful Advent Tradition, **Bambinelli Sunday**, was instituted by Saint Pope John Paul II during his Papacy. The tradition follows that on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peter's Square where they are blessed by the Pope. All children and families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to be blessed. Families can make their own 'Bambinelli' if they wish. Parishes around the world now join in the celebration, encouraging young children to make the connection between the Nativity set at home and the local church where they worship each weekend. "It helps children and young people to prepare for Jesus." (Pope Francis) A suggestion is, following the blessing, take your 'Bambinelli' home, wrap it and open it as a family on Christmas morning where the youngest member of the family would place it in the crib. A gift of the presence of Christ in your home this Christmas. **Parishioners are invited to bring the 'Baby Jesus' to the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 17th for a blessing.**



800 Years! This year is the 800th anniversary of the very first crib. Way back in 1223 St. Francis of Assisi set up the first crib in the Italian town of Greccio near his home town of Assisi. When you set up your crib this year you are part of a wonderful tradition.

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)

AN ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

JOIN A SMALL GROUP TO READ GOD'S WORD TOGETHER
'LIKE YOU DID AT THE MISSION!'

THURSDAYS 7.30PM

30 NOVEMBER
 7 DECEMBER
 14 DECEMBER
 21 DECEMBER

SIMPLY SIGN THE SHEET IN THE SACRISTY

IN THE PAROCHIAL HOUSE

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 5th, 12th & 19th December at 7pm in Patrick's Place (the room below St Patrick's Church). Refreshments will be available after. All Welcome.

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!

Apostolic Work: Will hold their Annual Draw in 'Patrick's Place' on Sunday 17th December, immediately after the 10.30am Mass. Tickets are available on the morning or can be purchased from any committee member. Please help support the Missions!

Final Bulletin will be available on Sunday 24th Dec and the next bulletin will be on Sunday 7th Jan 2024. All notices should be in by Wed 20th Dec. Thank you.

Safeguarding: To all the people who attended the training in Patrick's Place on 27th November, please collect your certificates from the parish office thank you.