

Downpatrick Pastoral Area

Parish of Downpatrick

Sunday 10th December 2023



Your prayers are requested for:

Recently Deceased Other Parishes:

Margaret Mulhull (Ardglass), Rita Kennedy - (Drumaness), Isobel McKibbin (Killyleagh),

Anniversaries: Fr. Chris Nellis Dpk, Sr. M. Joseph, Sr. Brigid, Darryl Wade, Frank O'Connor, Kathleen McKeating, Joey McKeating, John Rooney (England), Michael McAleese, Rea Pleasants, Paddy & Jim Hamilton, Liam McGlogan, Gerry White, Austin Dawe, Jerome McCabe, Jean & Frank Connolly, Rosaleen Byers, Martha Diamond,

Weekly Collection: Offertory £1,698, Loose Plate £320, Mission Sunday £744, Direct Debits £1880. Thank you for your generosity

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

Mon 11th Dec: 1st Anniv: Darryl Wade, **Anniv:** Hugh Kearney, Jean Smyth, Herman McConvey, The Morgan Family, Emily Russell, Margaret Whinnery, Jerome McCabe,

Wed 13th Dec: Month's Mind: James Crilly, **Anniv:** Irene McKinney, Mary McCann, Colm Fay, Frank & Kathleen Fitzsimons, Rea Pleasants, Paddy & Jim Hamilton, Frances Fitzsimons, Liam McGlogan,

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



Parish Mass Schedule for December 2023:

Date	Church	Time
Sat 9 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 10 th	St. Colmcille's	10am
Sun 10 th	St. Patrick's	10:30am
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		

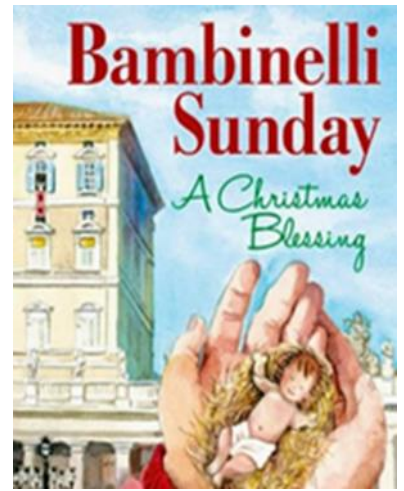
'Evening of Mercy': Monday 11th December 2023

6:45pm Confessions
7:00pm Rosary
7:30pm Mass.
8:10pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers for those with addictions.
8:40pm Benediction,
All welcome for all or even part of the evening.

Dates for your Diary: Parish Carol Service in St. Patrick's on Sunday 17th December at 5pm. Parish schools and our parish choir will be participating. ALL WELCOME.

Church Unity Service in St. Patrick's Church on Sunday 21st January 2024 at 7:30pm with participation of the Christian Churches in Downpatrick. Guest preacher: Fr. Andrew Black (lecturer – St. Mary's College Belfast).

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.**



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.

Our Lady & St. Patrick PS Carol Service will take place in St. Patrick's Church on Wednesday 13th December at 1:30pm. ALL WELCOME.

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.

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.

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!

Holy Land Christians: Dear Parishioners we are all sadly aware of the terrible events in the Holy Land since the massacre on October 7th. 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*

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)

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!