

Downpatrick Pastoral Area

Parish of Downpatrick

Sunday 4th February 2024



Your prayers are requested for:

Recently Deceased: Sr. Mary Frances McCashin,

Anniversaries: Sr. M. Catherine, Sr. Brigid Fitzsimons, Robert McCallister snr, Robert McAllister jnr, Alice Boyd, Patrick Fee, Margaret Savage, Brendan Rice, Charles Newman, Matthew Fleming, Joseph (Joe) Blaney, Mary Rice, Malachy McGrady, Rita Quinn, Malachy Craig,

Weekly Collection: Offertory £1,075, Loose Plate £416, Direct Debits £1880. Thank you for your generosity

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

Mon 5th Feb: 1st Anniv: Damien Fitzsimons, **Anniv:** Damien Trainor, George Trainor, Margaret Trainor, Hugh Trainor, Barney Trainor, Cabrini Curran, Patsy McDonald, Noel McGrady,

Wed 7th Feb: Month's Mind: Eileen Doherty, **1st Anniv:** Alice Deegan, **Anniv:** Dominic Deegan,

Fri 9th Feb: Month's Mind: Margaret Robinson **Anniv:** Oliver McMullan, Jean Kearney,



The Parish of St. Patrick welcomes the appointment by Pope Francis of Alan McGuckian as Bishop of Down and Connor.

Church Carparking: Could we invite parishioners to park their cars in the designated spaces – there are 100 in total in the carpark.

Please do not park in the area just below the steps – except the 3 designated special needs places. This is to ensure the easy access for an ambulance should need arise – as has happened 3 times in recent years. Thank you for your consideration. Could we also encourage parishioners and visitors to park within the white lines so as to maximise the facility of the carpark, especially at the Sunday 10:30am Mass.

Parish Mass Schedule for February 2024:

Date	Church	Time
Sat 3 rd Feb	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sat 3 rd Feb	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 4 th Feb	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 4 th Feb	St. Colmcille's	10am
Sat 10 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 11 th	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 11 th	St. Malachy's	10am
Sat 17 th	St. Brigid's	7pm
Sat 17 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 18 th	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 18 th	St. Colmcille's	10am
Sat 24 th	St. Patrick's	5:30pm
Sun 25 th	St. Patrick's	10:30am
Sun 25 th	St. Malachy's	10am

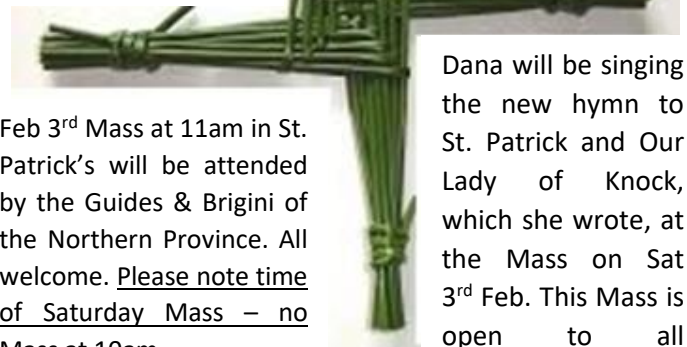
'Evening of Mercy': Monday 5th February 2024

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

This year – 2024 – is the 1500th anniversary of the death of St. Brigid. To mark the occasion there will be Mass in St. Patrick's on Saturday 3rd February

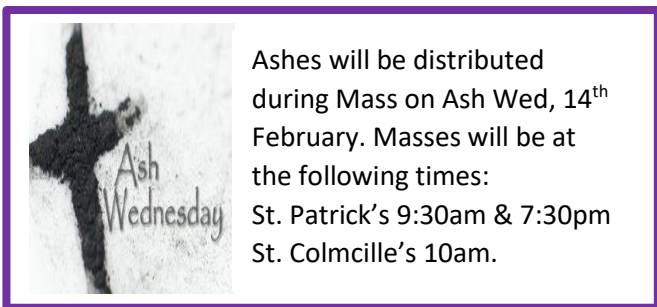


Feb 3rd Mass at 11am in St. Patrick's will be attended by the Guides & Brigini of the Northern Province. All welcome. Please note time of Saturday Mass – no Mass at 10am.



Dana will be singing the new hymn to St. Patrick and Our Lady of Knock, which she wrote, at the Mass on Sat 3rd Feb. This Mass is open to all parishioners.

The annual 4 Corners Festival is set to return in February 2024 with a packed line-up of events which include everything from talks, discussions and exhibitions to music and literature. Now in its 12th year, the festival was conceived as a way to inspire people from across the city to transform it for the peace and wellbeing of all. The festival features a range of music, discussion, sport and faith-inspired events and will run from February 1st to 11th in venues in all four corners of the city. All festival events are free of charge, with most open to the public, although advance booking of tickets is mandatory. Select events will be streamed online on the official 4 Corners Festival YouTube and Facebook accounts. Tickets for the event will be available to book on the website. For more information about the festival and to keep up to date with programme updates go to www.4cornersfestival.com



Safeguarding Certificates: A small number of people have not collected their certificates. These are available from the parish office.



Safeguarding Sunday. Today is Safeguarding Sunday. In his pastoral letter about Safeguarding in Down and Connor, Bishop Mc Keown wrote: "Safeguarding Sunday is an opportunity to highlight the fact that Safeguarding is a vital ministry that touches all aspects of Parish life. It is a responsibility shared by all of us, making our Parishes and Church Spaces safe and welcoming for young people and adults at risk." The full content of the letter is on the Parish web site. He also draws attention to the recent National Board report on Safeguarding in Down and Connor. That report can be accessed by the Down and Connor web site and Parish App. Current Members of the Safeguarding Committee are:

Canon Murray, Fr. Henry, Patricia Magee, Carmel Fitzsimons and Colette Connor. We aim to

1. Create a safe environment for all our parishioners and those who use church premises.
2. We aim to create awareness among all our clergy, staff and volunteers of the key message of Safeguarding.
3. We ensure that all who carry our specific roles in our Parish with children or adults have the knowledge and skills to carry out their role.
4. We organise training and vetting through the Safeguarding office in Belfast for those parishioners who need it.
5. We carry out an annual audit of Parish and external groups who use Parish premises. This was submitted last week.

Information about Safeguarding is displayed in every church, Patrick's Place and in the Parochial house. The information can also be downloaded at www.downandconnorsafeguarding.com

Copyright and Music Licensing: This topic has been on the agenda of the Diocese for some time, and arrangements have now been made to offer advice and guidance to parishes to help them overcome some of the difficulties they may encounter if they do not have compliant processes in place. Presentations covering Copyright and Music Licensing will be held at the following venues from 7.30pm until 9pm. Tea/coffee will be served from 7pm.

- St Brigid's Hall, Belfast on 15th February.
- All Saints' Parish and Community Centre, Ballymena on 27th February.
- Patrick's Place, St. Patrick's Church, Downpatrick on 5th March.

The presentations will be particularly relevant to choir directors, choir members, cantors, psalmists, parish musicians and parish contemporary music groups. Those who are responsible for setting up or maintaining parish websites are especially welcome. This will be an invaluable resource for our parish that will help us to be compliant, and I would encourage as many participants as possible to attend one or other of these presentations.

Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre: We continue our series of conversations on life, faith and hope. On Tuesday 13th February we host Duncan Morrow from Ulster University, and on Thursday 22nd February we welcome Naomi Long MLA. Sessions begin at 7pm. All welcome. Voluntary donation but registration is required to secure a seat. Tel: 02844830242 – email: secretary@tobarmhuire.com