

Downpatrick Pastoral Community Area

Parish Of Downpatrick

20th March 2022

Your Prayers Are Requested for:

Month's Mind: Eva Thomson, Thomas Craig,

Anniversaries: Sr. Therese O' Neill, Gerry Doherty, Belle Magee, Jack McGrady, Elizabeth McGarry, June Hanna, Marie Mullan, Nellie Brennan, Dinny Brennan, Brian McConvey, Nellie Brennan,
May They Rest In Peace

Baptisms: Baptism can be booked by contacting Mary on 02844612084 Mon – Thurs 9.15am – 2.30pm.

Weekly Collection: Offertory £1238, Loose Plate £193, Direct Debits £1710, Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Intentions St. Patrick's @7.30pm:

Monday 21st: Month's Mind: Thomas Craig, Anniv: Belle Magee, Paddy Davey, Dessie & Vincent Savage, Josephine & Seamus Madine, Gerry Doherty, Geraldine Fitzsimons, Deirdre Robinson,

Wednesday 23rd: Month's Mind: Damien Trainor,

Friday 25th: Month's Mind: Thomas Rogan, Anniv: Margaret Murphy, Dominic Murphy, Oonagh Carson, Gerry Carson, Maureen Sheppard,

Adoration: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, will take place every Friday from 11.00am to 7:30pm (Mass time)

If there is a funeral Mass on a Friday these times will be modified and parishioners will be informed

Confession in St. Patrick's have resumed as follows: Monday's 6.45pm – 7.20pm, Wednesday 3pm - 4pm, Friday 3pm – 4pm, Saturday 12 Noon – 1pm

The Parish Bulletin Is now available in the church porch – please take a copy and bring it home with you.

Lent: Stations of the cross: will be celebrated every Wednesday at 6:30pm . This prayer can be attended in the church or also online.

Downpatrick Pro Life Group have organised a bus to take Pro Life Supporters to an event in Stormont Estate on Saturday 26th March 2022 commencing at 4.00pm. Organised by "N.I Voice for The Voiceless " remembering all the Lives of Unborn Babies lost to Abortion in our country and our opposition to Abortion being forced on us. The bus will leave from St. Patrick's Church car park Downpatrick at 3.00pm sharp. There will be pick up points along the route in Crossgar (at the old Post Office in Main St. Crossgar) and also in Saintfield at the bus stop just past the 2nd set of Traffic lights. The cost of the trip there and back will be £6.00 per head. The March will be silent and the organisers have asked that people wear black or dark clothing and carry an electric or battery light. Please book your seat by contacting the Parish office on 02844612084 and leave your name and contact details.

SYNODAL LISTENING IN OUR PASTORAL COMMUNITY.

In order to journey together, Pope Francis wants every person to take their place at the heart of the Church and to hear every voice and the voice of the Holy Spirit. As we listen attentively to what the Holy Spirit is saying, we learn how to respond to where we are being lead in the mission of the Church. Our local parishes are encouraged to come together, pray together, and enter into a Spiritual Conversation about our Church at this time. Bishop Treanor has encouraged each area of the Diocese have a time of coming together as part of the Synod. Coming together to listen and share helps us build flourishing and resilient communities for the mission of the Church today. We invite you to come along and to take part in the synod by listening and talking to one another in an authentic, meaningful, and welcoming way. If you would like to take part in this synodal moment, then please feel welcome to join us on **Wednesday 30th March (7-9pm) in St Mary's High School, Ardglass Road.** The session will be facilitated by Jim Deeds from the Living Church office and Caren Collins, a parishioner of Derriaghy Parish. **This event is open to any parishioner.**

Special Collection for Ukraine: The Irish Bishops have asked for a Special Collection to be taken up at Masses on the weekend of 26/27 March to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and especially the families and children who have had to flee their homeland in advance of the Russian invasion. The proceeds of this Special Collection will be directed to Caritas Internationalis, which is the helping hand of the Church on the ground in the Ukraine and the surrounding region. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.

Offertory Envelopes: Will be available for Collection from the Parish Office from Tuesday 22nd March. When you collect your own envelopes, it would be a huge help if you could also take envelopes for your neighbor or perhaps for your street. Collection times – 9.15am – 2.30pm Mon – Thurs.

Here are some considerations: A wise priest, years ago stated that every parish should begin with only one Mass! Here the people of God gather as One – to receive from the Word of God and the Eucharist – and to meet each other as members of the parish. Only when the numbers are too big should the parish think about a second or third Mass. Isn't it better to have one Mass with 400 people than three or four Masses with smaller numbers. Since restrictions were lifted, our numbers at Masses in St. Patrick's have SLOWLY risen. Over the weekend of March 5th/6th the total attendance at St. Patrick's was around 420 people. In a parish of 13,000 – 14,000 that is a very small percentage, in addition, that weekend there were 37 people at St Brigid's. Mass has been offered at St. Brigid's and St. Colmcille's during Covid to enable access for those who find St. Patrick's difficult. So – in order to facilitate those who find St. Patrick's difficult to attend, Mass will be celebrated as follows:

1st & 2nd 'Sundays' of the Month – St. Brigid's at 7pm (and on a 5th Sunday where applicable)

3rd & 4th Sundays – 11am in St Colmcille's

It is hoped that after Easter we could begin to have a Mass at St. Malachy's . As parishioners will know from previous bulletins, the heating in system there is broken. As a new system would entail a projected expenditure of about £25,000, the Diocese have asked the Parish NOT to spend this money until at least 2023. Remember that Diocesan and Parish finances have decreased by

roughly 40% during Covid. Once the warmer weather returns, we can hopefully look again at Mass in St. Malachy's.

Fr. John Murray P.P.

CONSECRATION OF UKRAINE AND RUSSIA:

On March 25th (Feast of the Annunciation) Pope Francis will consecrate the nations of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Join in the Pope's prayer by attending Mass at either 9:30am or 7:30pm or attending the Exposition during the day.

The 'Gift Course' continues Tuesday next (22nd March) in St. Patrick's. The evening begins at 7.30 pm and the session is called 'Encountering the Holy Spirit'. There will an opportunity during the evening to have the team prayer with you for Renewal in the Holy Spirit. We would encourage those who have been watching the Gift Session online to come to the church for this special evening of prayer, but we will also include those who are unable to come by having a special time devoted to them as they join with us in prayer at home. We are really looking forward to a special evening and we hope that as many as possible can join us in the church.

Readings for the 3rd Week in Lent

3rd Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15 Psalm 102: 1-4, 6-8,11
1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12 Luke 13: 1-9

Monday 21st Exodus 17: 1-7 John 4: 5-42 or
Kings 5: 1-15 Luke 4: 24-30

Tuesday 22nd Daniel 3: 25, Matthew 23: 1-12

Wed 23rd: Deuteronomy 3: 25, 34-43
Matthew 5: 17-19

Thurs 24th Jeremiah 7: 23-28 Luke 11:14-23

Friday 25th Feast of the Annunciation
Isaiah 7: 10-14; 8:10 Hebrews 10: 4-10
Luke 1: 26-38

Sat 26th Hosea 5: 15 – 6:6 Luke 18: 9-14