

Parish of St MARY'S on the HILL 15th February 2026

Churches: St Mary's on the Hill & St Bernard's

PRIESTS OF THE PARISH

Fr Pat Sheehan & Fr Aidan Kerr

PARISH OFFICE 028 90832979

Lorraine Carlin & Patricia Gillespie

Opens Mon – Friday 9am – 1pm

165 Antrim Road. BT36 7QR

e-mail: stmarysoth@downandconnor.org

website: www.stmarysonthehill.online

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Bernadette McCaffrey, Hightown Rise

Mary McCoy

MONTH'S MIND: Ciaran Smyth, Eileen Mulvenna

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary McCann; Kathleen Mulholland, Colin Crawley, Mary Hughes, Kathleen Crossan, Cleary & McCausland Families, Deborah McKay, Maureen Cochrane, John Johnson, Hugh Rainey Snr, Ellen Gelson, William & Philomena Loughran, AnneMarie Mallon (nee Gillespie).

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 14th	6.00pm	Mary McCann M/M Ciaran Smyth
Sun 15th	9.00am	Special Intention
<i>SMOTH</i>	10.00am	M/M Eileen Mulvenna
	11.00am	Kathleen Mulholland
	12.30pm	Colin Crawley
Mon 16th	9.45am	Rec Deceased Mary McCoy
Tue 17th	9.45am	Philomena & William Loughran
Wed 18th ASH WED	7.30am 9.45am 7pm	Mary Hughes
Thurs 19th	9.45am	Deborah McKay
Fri 20th	9.45am	Kathleen Crossan
Sat 21 st	9.45am	Cleary & McCausland Families



We welcome
**Finnian Morelli, Charlotte Tootill
Alfred & David Kelly**
recently baptised in the parish.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION ST BERNARD'S

More adorers are required for **Tuesday and Saturday afternoons**. If you can commit to a weekly Holy Hour on either of these days, please

WOULD YOU CONSIDER TAKING OUT A STANDING ORDERS WITH THE PARISH?

Would you consider taking out a Standing Order with the parish to make your parish contributions. This would replace your Offertory Envelopes or loose plate contributions you make through the Offertory Collection Buckets. Cards to register for Standing Order available in porchway of Church or email parish office: stmarysoth@downandconnor.org

Divine Mercy Conference 2026 Saturday 28th February

Bus will leave **St Paul's Church, Falls Road** at 7.30pm
Returning approx. 10.45/11.00pm. Yes, a long day but well worth it. Travel cost is £25 (bus price only) which must be paid when booking your seat. Failure to get 30 people the bus would have to be cancelled. Travel confirmation, 1 week before departure. Unfortunately, no refund can be given in cases of sickness etc.

Conference tickets to be bought individually at the venue £35 or Euros.

Bring enough food for lunch and dinner – there are tea and coffee stations where hot drinks and snacks can be purchased. Telephone Tina McCrory 07523824350 to book a seat on the bus.

ASH WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY Mass & Ashes St Bernard's Church 7.30am, 9.45am & 7pm

Trocaire Boxes available in the Churches

Note: there will be no 7.30am mass in St Marys on the Hill on Ash Wednesday or during Lent

A BIG THANK YOU

Developing World Group-St Brigid's Crosses
raised an amazing **£2058.50**, thank you to all. This is being distributed to children in need in Africa.

Our next fund raiser is our Annual Table Quiz in Fortwilliam Golf club on Friday 20th February at 8pm - Admission £5

LENT

2026



ASH WEDNESDAY

18th February

Mass & Ashes

St Bernard's Church

7.30am, 9.45am & 7pm

Note: there will be no 7.30am mass in St Marys on the Hill on Ash Wednesday or during Lent.

SOMETHING NEW

BE STILL IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

Learn and practice Contemplative Meditation

**Monday to Thursday in
St Bernard's Church from 7.30-8am.**

Begin the day by learning how to come to 'Stillness of Body & Stillness of Mind' in the presence of the Lord before the Blessed Sacrament. This ancient prayer of the Church is going through a renewal in recent years and can be compared to a form of Christian Mindfulness.

PARISH LENTEN COURSE- Parish Centre

Wednesdays of Lent 7-8.30pm

25th Feb, 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March.

LOOKING AT THE GOSPELS

Bring along a bible (or New Testament), have a cup of tea, learn, discuss & pray together.

Register with QR code or the parish website.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT CALVARY

A Friday challenge.



Each Friday of Lent 6.30am (approx. 15/20mins)

we will pray the Stations of the Cross

OUTSIDE at the Statue of Calvary in St Bernard's grounds. Bring a battery candle if you have one.

In very poor weather we will gather in St Bernard's Church.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Divine Office will be prayed on **Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays** before morning mass 9.30 am starting Monday 10th March.

SATURDAYS OF LENT

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before mass in the main body of the Church will begin at 9.15am followed by the Rosary at 9.30am, Mass 9.45am.

Confessions will also be heard during this time.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: PRAYED & SUNG

A quiet time for prayer and reflection in front of the image of the Divine Mercy, Friday evenings 7.00-7.30pm.

Confessions will also be heard during this time.

A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Booklet



Walk with Me booklets provide a thought for each day of Lent. Booklets are available in the porchway of St Bernard's Church £1 for adults.

A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Digital

Download this FREE Apps to your smartphone



Lection365 is an APP for adults which you can download to your smart phone. It gives a thought for the morning, midday and a night prayer. Play it first thing in the morning, on the

way to work in the car or when you get some quiet time before going to



Parish of St. Mary's On The Hill

Temporary Pledge for Lent 2026

Offering Prayer

*To be recited every morning and evening
Lord for your sake, for the recovery of
problem drinkers and victims of substance
abuse, to make amends to your Sacred Heart,*

and for temperance in my life

I will abstain from taking alcoholic drinks for the duration of

Lent 2026

Name

Date



Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse

In Ireland, a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse is marked each year on the Friday immediately following Ash Wednesday. This year

it will be marked across Ireland on **Friday 20th February 2026**

This day is not only for victims and survivors who have been so severely injured inside our Church, but also for the families and communities affected by the pain and grief of their loved ones.

“It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion”¹.

Abuse happened within the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Abuse happened in our Diocese of Down and Connor.



Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ will celebrate Mass in St Peter’s Cathedral on Friday 20th February 2026 at 6:00pm.

Chairs and members of Parish - Family of Parishes Safeguarding Committees are invited to attend the Mass in St Peter’s Cathedral and join with Bishop Alan in praying for all those who have been affected by abuse.



RECHARGE FORTY Lenten Challenge

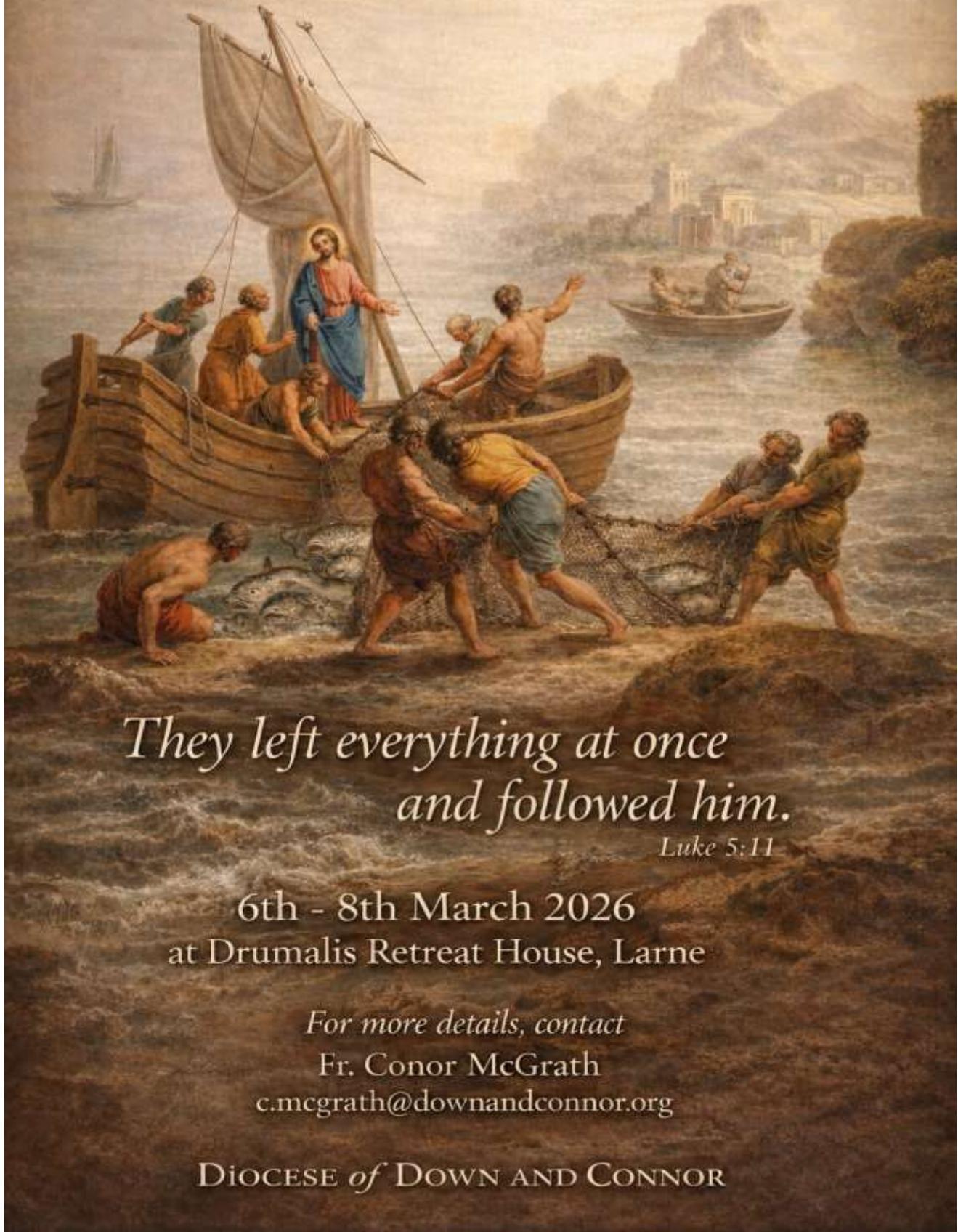
Recharge Forty is a Lenten challenge for men and women who desire more—more depth in prayer, more discipline in daily life, and stronger bonds of friendship. Throughout Lent, we will walk together in community, confronting vice, and intentionally cultivating virtue. Through a shared commitment to prayer, asceticism, and fraternity, Recharge Forty invites you to renew your relationship with God while supporting one another through encouragement and accountability.

This Lent, don't journey alone—grow together in faith, character and friendship.

Sign up below!



Discernment Retreat for Diocesan Priesthood



*They left everything at once
and followed him.*

Luke 5:11

6th - 8th March 2026
at Drumalis Retreat House, Larne

For more details, contact

Fr. Conor McGrath

c.mcgrath@downandconnor.org

DIOCESE of DOWN AND CONNOR



DOWN & CONNOR
LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

YOUTH TEAM 2026



8-15 July 2026

Online applications now open
to all 17 - 24 year olds (at time of travel)

Applications close Friday 7 March @ 5pm

Scan me for the
application form



Limited Places!

£810

Fare includes: flights, shared full-board
accommodation & insurance

For more information contact
lourdes@downandconnor.org (028) 9077 0162 downandconnor.org/lourdes

From Encounter to Mission

The Lord God has given me a disciple's tongue

(Isaiah 50: 4)



Parish Cell System of Evangelisation National Seminar

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March 2026,

Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, Co. Antrim

For bookings, please contact Drumalis on 028 2827 2196, or 0044 28 2827 2196 from the Republic of Ireland. Website: www.drumalis.org

For enquiries please contact:

Margaret Webb: Tel. 07779 729505. (From ROI 0044 7779 729505)
Email: magswebb1@gmail.com

Anne McFerran: Tel. 07809906792. (From ROI 0044 7809 906792)
Email: anne.mcferran@gmail.com

TRADITIONAL MUSIC MONTHLY SEISIÚN 2 ROYAL AVENUE

SUNDAY 15 February 2026

MONDAY 16 March 2026

SUNDAY 19 April 2026

SLOW SEISIÚN: 2PM-3PM

STRONGER MUSICIANS SEISIÚN: 3PM-4PM

SEISIÚNS ARE OPEN TO ALL YOUNG TRADITIONAL MUSICIANS FROM THE GREATER BELFAST AREA.

SEISIÚNS ARE LED BY EXPERIENCED ADULT TRADITIONAL MUSICIANS/TUTORS.

Led by Glengormley School of Traditional Music in partnership with other Traditional Music providers in the greater Belfast area: Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School, BelfastTrad, An Droichead, Ionad Na Fuaiseoige, Loch Lao Comhaltas and Belfast Summer School of Traditional Music.



**Belfast
City Council**

