

# Parish of St MARY'S on the HILL 22nd 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](mailto:stmarysoth@downandconnor.org)

website: [www.stmarysonthehill.online](http://www.stmarysonthehill.online)

## RECENTLY DECEASED:

Dan Casey, Glenwell Gdns

Maire McCullagh, Collinbridge Gdns

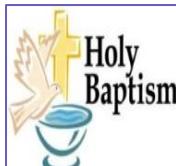
**MONTH'S MINDS:** James McKernon, Paula Gilfedder

## ANNIVERSARIES: Josie, Tommy, Tom & Matthew

Magill; Nora Hanna; Isaiah Curry; Frank McLean; Alphonsus Quinn; Bill Kerr; Gerry McGuinness; Fr. Raymond Murray; Peggy & Eddie Loughran; Michael Bradley; Michael Rogers; Francis Devlin; Rosemarie McClean; Freddie Pollock; Seamus McAleese; Patrick & Bernadette Ramsey.

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	6.00pm	Josie, Tommy, Tom, Matthew Magill & M/M James McKernon
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00am	
<i>SMOTH</i>	10.00am	Bill Kerr
	11.00am	Peggy & Eddie Loughran
	12.30pm	Nora Hanna & M/M Paula Gilfedder
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.45am	Gerry McGuinness (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann)
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Fr. Raymond Murray
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Isaiah Curry
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Frank McLean
Fri 27th	9.45am	Alphonsus Quinn
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Michael Bradley, Michael Rogers & Francis Devlin



We welcome

**Lacie Nixon, Freddie Nixon**

recently baptised in the parish.

## Divine Mercy Conference 2026 Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **The Good Brews Café**

come along to St. Bernard's Parish Centre on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March after**

**9am, 10am (SMOTH),  
11am and 12.30pm**



**Masses.** There will be free coffee, tea and treats for all. Come and share the 'Good Brews' with your fellow parishioners and the priests.

## **St Patrick's Way Pilgrim Walk**

in Downpatrick with guides Martina Purdy and Elaine Kelly on **Saturday March 14** on the 25th Anniversary of The Saint Patrick Centre. Includes the fabulous 180° IMAX film of St Patrick, with internal bus transfers, pilgrimage lunch, an authentic Camino passport and a 6 mile pilgrimage walk finishing at St Patrick's grave. A special 25% discount price is on offer of £40 (normally £55) To book ring 02844 61900 or [www.thesaintpatrickcentre.com](http://www.thesaintpatrickcentre.com) 

## **Epilepsy Awareness Day**

In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, please visit [www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie). Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday 26th March.

# LENT

# 2026



## 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.

## **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.

### **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.

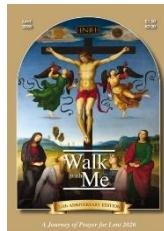
**Confessions will also be heard during this time.**

## **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 .....*

# Saturday 14th March 2026

Theatre at The Mill, Newtownabbey



# Whitewell

## Cave Hill's Lost Village



A film by Michael McKernon about a unique community on Cave Hill.  
They carried water from a local well, but despite lives of hardship and struggle  
their stories reflect humour, resilience and love of Bellevue and Cave Hill.

 Date: Saturday 14 March 2026      Booking link: <https://theatreatthemill.com/book/?show=198001>

 Time: 19:00

 Venue: Theatre at The Mill

 Tickets: £11.50

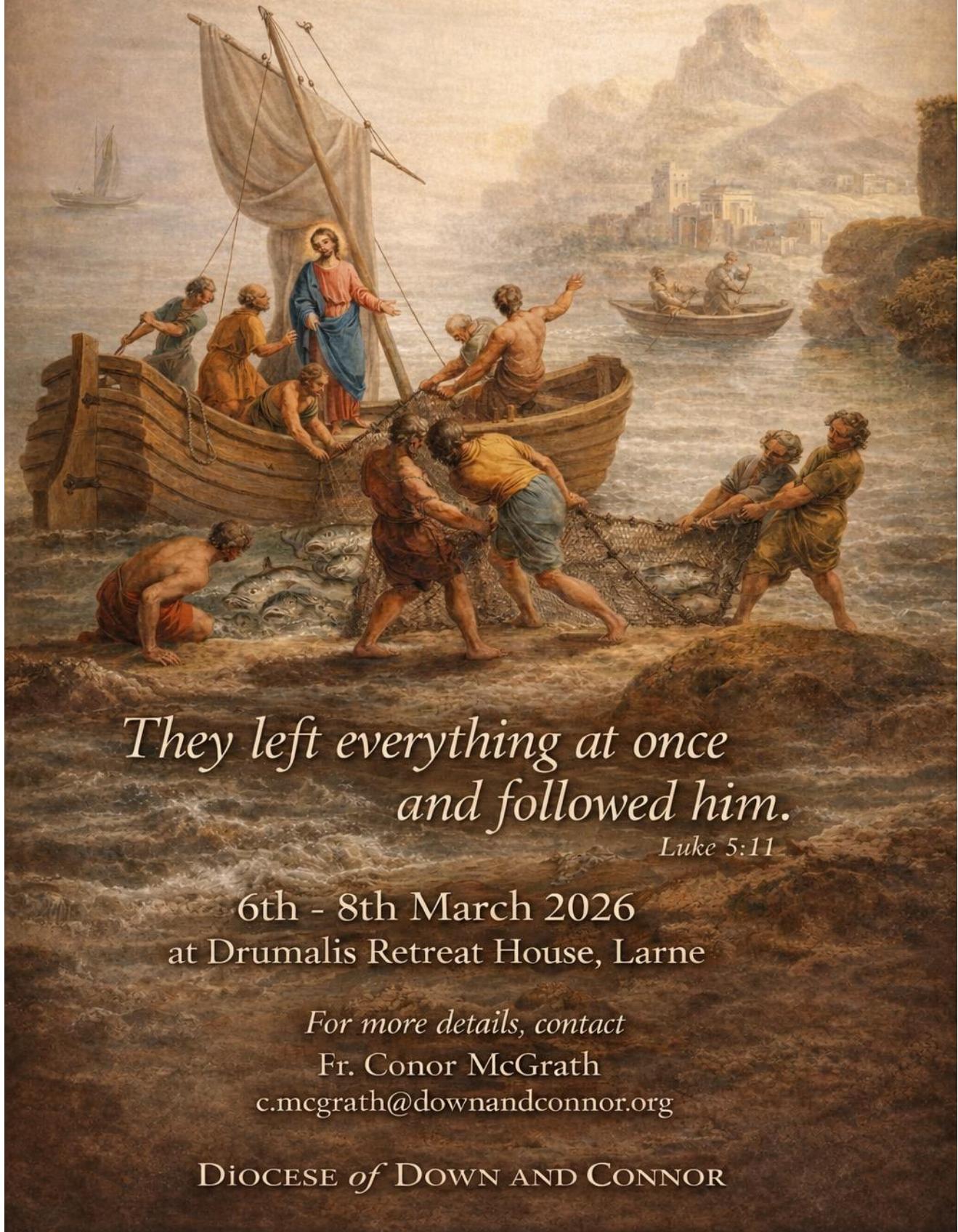


MULTIMEDIA  
HERITAGE



Thanks to  
National Lottery Players

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:lourdes@downandconnor.org) (028) 9077 0162 [downandconnor.org/lourdes](http://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](http://www.drumalis.org)

For enquiries please contact:

Margaret Webb: Tel. 07779 729505. (From ROI 0044 7779 729505)

Email: [magswebb1@gmail.com](mailto:magswebb1@gmail.com)

Anne McFerran: Tel. 07809906792. (From ROI 0044 7809 906792)

Email: [anne.mcferran@gmail.com](mailto: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**

