

Parish of St MARY'S on the HILL 8th 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:

Mary Burns, Braeside Avenue

Gerry Morgan, c/o Hollybrook Heights

Stephen Bannon, Collinward Grove

Margaret Kennedy (nee Maguire) formerly of

Glebecoole Pk

MONTH'S MIND: Paul Monaghan

ANNIVERSARIES: Kenneth McCrea, Eileen McCune, Linda Gault, Anne Brown, Jim O'Prey, Joseph, Molly & Louise Gribbon, Joe Murray, Teresa Anderson, Gerry Carroll, May Burgess, Pat Quinn, Tommy Magill, Bobby Graham, Bernard McCullagh, John Loughran Jnr, Michael Horan Snr, Michael Horan Jnr, Bridget McBride, Susan McBride

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sat 7th	6.00pm	Anne Brown M/M Paul Monaghan
Sun 8th	9.00am	Kenneth McCrea, Eileen McCune & Linda Gault
SMOTH	10.00am	Pat Quinn
	11.00am	Jim O'Prey
	12.30pm	Joseph, Molly & Louise Gribbon
Mon 9th	9.45am	Joe Murray
Tue 10th	9.45am	Teresa Anderson Bobby Graham
Wed 11th	9.45am	Gerry Carroll
Thurs 12th	9.45am	Bernard McCullagh
Fri 13th	9.45am	May Burgess
Sat 14 th	9.45am	



We welcome

Croíá Walsh

recently baptised in the parish.

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

St Brigid's Day Lecture

This year, The St. Brigid's Day Lecture will be given by Fr Tom Layden, S.J. Fr Layden is a Jesuit priest, living and working in Belfast. The theme of his lecture, "The Nicene Creed: A foundation for Ecumenism", is based on Pope Leo XV1's address at Nicaea.

The Lecture will be in St Brigid's Parish Centre, Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast BT9 6FP, on Sunday 8th February, at 4.00pm. All welcome.

LENT

2026



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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.

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.

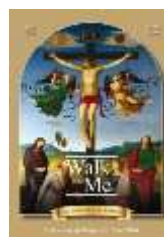
Confessions will also be heard during this time.

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



Lektion365 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 bed.



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.



DOWN and CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST

ST COLMCILLE'S PARISH

BELFAST

VACANCY

'PARISH SUPPORT OFFICER'

We are seeking to recruit a Parish Support Officer to be based within St Colmcille's Parish, 191 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3JB.

- ❖ The Parish Support Officer provides confidential, efficient, and professional administrative support to the Parish Priest.
- ❖ Ensuring the effective day-to-day running of the Parish Office and Parish Centre, supporting parish life, sacramental administration, communications, and leadership structures. This role is parish-facing, office-based, and operational.

If you are an individual with excellent communication skills and the ability to deal with sensitive and confidential matters in a professional manner, then we see this as a unique opportunity for you to join the Down and Connor Diocesan Trust Team.

The terms are based on a permanent appointment for 20 hours per week Monday to Friday - Work pattern to be agreed with the Parish Priest

Salary: £15,000 gross per annum

Full details relating to the vacancy can be found on the Diocesan website at: <http://www.downandconnor.org> clicking on the tab: **job vacancies** and on the Community NI and niijobs.com websites, where terms and conditions relating to the role can also be accessed by way of a Role Profile and Employment Application form. Application Packs are also available from St Colmcille's Parish Office.

We welcome applications from anyone who feels they meet the criteria as presented and are interested in playing an active role within the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Tuesday 10 February 2026

Down and Connor Diocesan Trust is an Equal Opportunities Employer



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



Supporting Parents After Bereavement
**ONLINE BEREAVEMENT INFORMATION
EVENING IN COLLABORATION WITH:**



Féileacáin

**Join us online
Thursday 22nd January
7pm - 8.30pm**

register at <https://bit.ly/3XbPyIT>



GUEST SPEAKER: BRID CARROLL



Brid is a qualified Psychotherapist and Counselling Supervisor who has worked with a special interest in loss and bereavement issues for over thirty years. She holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Childhood Bereavement and a Higher Diploma in Bereavement Studies. She is a contributor to the Irish Hospice Foundation's workshop series and serves as the Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Irish Childhood Bereavement Network.

**FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL BEREAVED
PARENTS, REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG THEY
HAVE BEEN BEREAVED, AGE OF THEIR CHILD
OR CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR DEATH**

CONTACT US

 info@anamcara.ie  01 4045378 ROI
 www.anamcara.ie  028 9521 3120 NI



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

£810

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

Scan me for the
application form



Limited Places!

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:

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Email: anne.mcferran@gmail.com



(<https://www.parishcellsireland.ie>)