

*Thank you from St Vincent de Paul at St Colmcille's*



This Christmas was a very difficult time for some of our neighbours. Many could not heat their houses, were struggling to keep their electricity going and keeping their children and themselves fed. The prices of oil, gas and electricity had gone through the roof, people had found themselves feeding meters and gas and electric were lasting a fraction of the time they used to last. Christmas was a particularly traumatic with the pressure of having to provide gifts for the children. How was all this going to be possible?

You all stepped in and helped create a different story over Christmas for many families. Because of your generosity, we were able to respond to 125 households who had asked for support. Because of your generous donations, we were able to provide vouchers towards gifts for 248 children and young people, provide vouchers for heat and electric for 120 homes and provide fills of oil for 7 homes. You also enabled us to buy Lidl, Iceland and Connswater vouchers which enabled people to do their own Christmas food shopping for 125 households.

Some of the responses from people were very moving. One person wrote to us saying "is this real and not a hoax? I have been worried sick about how I was going to manage Christmas and now this makes it possible". This measure of relief was expressed to us over and over again as people realised that they weren't going to be abandoned or have to take on massive debt to survive Christmas. Your generosity has made this possible, for which, we cannot thank you enough.

Reflecting on the story of the good Samaritan, when the Lawyer is quizzing Jesus, he asks, "who is my neighbour?". Most, if not all these people you will never know, but you have been the neighbour who helped people who were desperate this Christmas and indeed many of you continue to do it all year round.

Because of your kindness and generosity, we were able to spend just shy of £20,000 to help people over Christmas.

On behalf of the St Colmcille's Conference of St Vincent de Paul, Thank you very much. You have made a real difference for people this Christmas.



**PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE**

**BALLYHACKAMORE**

**5th March 2023**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Very Rev Conor McGrath PP, Director of Vocations**

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**READINGS: Sunday: Cycle A, Psalter Week 2**

**ADORATION**

**Tuesday: 6.00pm—7.00pm**

**MASS**

**Monday 7.15am**

**Tuesday: 7.00pm**

**Wednesday, Thursday & Friday :  
7.15am & 9.30am**

**Weekend Mass Times:**

**Saturday 5.30pm,**

**Sunday 9.30am & 11.30am.**

**Confession:**

**Tuesday 6.00pm—6.45pm**

**Saturday 5.00pm**

As **LENT** begins and we take time to deepen our prayer life, why not join the parishioners of **St Matthew's Parish**, for a time of Eucharistic Healing on **THIS MONDAY 6th MARCH, 7.00pm—8.00pm**. A time of prayer, reflection, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and healing.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR TURKEY & SYRIA,  
& TRY TO SUPPORT THE RELIEF AID EFFORT**

Be present, O Lord, our Good Shepherd, to bring comfort, relief, shelter and human kindness. Shield the people who suffer, console those who are bereaved, prosper the provision of relief, strengthen the work of the emergency teams, and shine your light and hope in the midst of despair.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**CONTACT SINGERS** Concert on **THIS FRIDAY 10th March at 7.30pm** in the Jack Britton Hall, Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church. Tickets only £5 (in aid of Habitat for Humanity) available from— Colin McShane: 07802 854749  
Liam Dowds: 07766 431343 Paula Sheils: 07590 331477



### PARISH OFFICE

Items for the **next bulletin** should be submitted no later than **Wednesday 8th March at 12noon**. Bulletin items will be included space permitting. In order to reduce waste the Bulletin is also available to view on line at <https://st-colmcilles.net/weekly-bulletins/past-weeks-bulletins/>. *Thank you.*



## DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the soul of all those who have died recently, especially Marion Rowan (nee Traynor), and also Paul McGonnell whose month's mind occurs at this time.

We remember all those whose anniversaries occur at this time of year, especially:  
Maureen Bradshaw, Kevin Crummey, Paddy Lennon, Norma Loder, Kathleen McMahon and Mark Mullaly

### Mass Intentions:

- ◆ **Sat 4th March 5.30pm: Maureen Bradshaw**
- ◆ **Tues 7th March 10.00am: Funeral of Marion Rowan**
- ◆ **Tues 7th March 7.00pm : Norma Loder**
- ◆ **Fri 10th March 9.30am: Kevin Crummey & Paddy Lennon**

## SACRAMENTS

We pray for the Primary 7 children from St Joseph's who will receive the sacrament of **CONFIRMATION THIS TUESDAY 7th March, at 4.00pm** May the Holy Spirit always be a leading light in their lives.

Children preparing for **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** in the *parish evening class*, will begin lessons **THIS TUESDAY 7th March at 6.00pm** in the parish hall. Enquiries : [n.dunn@downandconnor.org](mailto:n.dunn@downandconnor.org) / 07879 498131

**APOSTOLIC WORK LENTEN LUNCH** Thank you to all who contributed in any way to the success of this recent event. We acknowledge the help of those who helped with hall set-up on Saturday, our volunteers on the day serving soup, washing up and clearing the hall afterwards. As a result, over £700 was raised for the Missions.

**MARCH MEETING** - will be held in the **COMMITTEE ROOM** after 7.00pm Mass on **THIS TUESDAY 7th March**.

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2023** (£5) available in the Church Porch.  
**WALK WITH ME**, booklet for Lent (£1) on table at the back of the Church.

Please place money in one of the candelabra boxes in the wall.

**MONEY MATTERS:** Many thanks to all for your generosity.

Weekly Collection: £1055.92      Standing Orders for February £3611.76

The Monthly Stipend Collection for the support of the priests in the Diocese will be taken up at all Masses *this weekend*

## Making the Most of Lent

### PRAYER FASTING ALMSGIVING

*We can use this opportunity of Lent to grow deeper in our love for God and each other. Together, lets make the most of this great season!*

- ◆ **MASS - Monday: 7.15am; Tuesday: 7.00pm; Wednesday to Friday: 7.15am & 9:30am.**
- ◆ **MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**  
Morning Prayer - Monday, 9.30am  
Evening Prayer - Wednesdays, at 7.00pm.
- ◆ **ADORATION** at any time of the day in the Adoration Chapel.  
**Tuesday** evening in the Main Church from **6.00pm to 7.00pm.**  
Many thanks to all those who have committed recently. Please sign the new register.
- ◆ **MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY—THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES**  
**On TUESDAYS at 7.30pm in the Iona Room there is a new Lenten Video Programme showing, made on location in the Holy Land.**  
This new video series, reminds us of the power of the Rosary, with new insights into the Sorrowful Mysteries. Refreshments & Discussion.
- ◆ **LECTIO DIVINA** - Thursday mornings, at 10.00am, in the Iona Room.  
'Helps me deepen my prayer life and listen more closely to what God is saying to me !!'
- ◆ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - please join in the prayers of the Way of the Cross each Saturday in Lent at 5.00pm in Church.
- New** ◆ **LENTEN TALK** - A Lenten Talk will be given in St Colmcille's on **Friday, 24th March.** The speakers will be **Martina Purdy**, former journalist, and **Elaine Kelly**, former barrister. Martina and Elaine will describe their faith journey, from leaving their professions, to joining the Adoration Sisters, and then their decision to continue their work as lay missionaries. The talk will begin at **7.30pm** and there will be an opportunity for questions. Refreshments will follow, and everyone is welcome.
- New** ◆ **SIMPLY. JESUS** 60 minutes of gently guided prayer, music and space to think. Jesus of the Gospels at home with you. On line—**Zoom, 7.00pm Wednesday 15th, 22nd, 29th March.** No chat. No study. No charge. Numbers limited. To register contact Breige O'Hare on [breigeohare@firststepwell.com](mailto:breigeohare@firststepwell.com) or ring 07565502662
- ◆ See **Notice Board** in Church Porch for other Lent Programmes