

### MONEY MATTERS

Weekly collection - £ 1022.10 The Monthly Stipend Collection for the support of the priests in the Diocese will be taken up at all Masses *this* weekend.

### BULLETIN

Please submit posts for the parish bulletin **NO LATER than Wednesday 6th December**, by dropping a note into the Bulletin Box in church or sending an email: [stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org](mailto:stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org)  
**Posts are limited to a maximum of 100 words. All posts may be subject to editing in the parish office**, especially when there is a demand for space.

### ST. COLMCILLE'S LAUDATO SI' GROUP

With COP 28 in mind, Pope Francis in *Laudate Deum* asks us to reconcile with the world that is our home, and to help make it more beautiful, "because that commitment has to do with our personal dignity and highest values". However, he does not deny that "it is necessary to be honest and recognise that the most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international level". Let us pray, therefore, for positive environmental outcomes from COP 28.

### FAMILY RESOURCE FOR ADVENT

If you would like a copy of the Family Resource for Advent from the Northern Pastoral Network resource Centre, please email St Colmcille's parish office and request a copy to be sent to you by email, or a hard copy left for you in the church foyer to pick up.

### MEN'S ROSARY

The Men's Monthly Rosary is on **THIS SATURDAY 2nd December at 1.00pm**, at Castle Street Junction, Belfast, opposite Primark.  
Contact Owen for enquiries: 07525 166090

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**Parents should leave their children over to the Iona Room** at the Parish Centre, **before the start of 9.30am Mass**, as leaders no longer depart from the church to walk the children to the parish centre. The children will arrive to Mass later with the leaders, for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Parents should sign their children in, as they arrive to the Parish Centre. A Children's Liturgy registration form should be completed by parents before their child's first session.

### ALTAR SERVERS

Children in Primary 6 and above, are invited to become Altar Servers.  
Parents should contact Noeleen : 07879 498131



## PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE BALLYHACKAMORE 3rd December 2023 First Sunday of Advent

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

**Very Rev Anthony Curran PE**

Phone - 02890 654157

Website: [www.st-colmcilles.net](http://www.st-colmcilles.net)

Email: [stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org](mailto:stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stcolmcilleschurch](http://www.facebook.com/stcolmcilleschurch)

**READINGS: Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Psalter Week 3**

*The gospel today focuses on the theme of **READINESS** for Jesus' coming, as highlighted in **Mark 13:33-37**.*

*The plan emphasizes the importance of **stepping out of our daily routines to be more attentive to spiritual callings** and to put a greater focus on others rather than oneself.*

*Have you got a plan yet?*

**ADORATION & BENEDICTION**  
**Tuesday: 6.00pm—7.00pm**

**MASS**  
**Saturday : 5.30pm,**  
**Sunday : 9.30am & 11.30am.**  
**Tuesday: 7.00pm**

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

**CONFESSION**  
**Tuesday : 6.00pm to 6.45pm**  
**Saturday : 5.00pm to 5.20pm**

**Morning and Evening**  
**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**  
**Monday & Friday 9.15am**  
**Wednesday 7.00pm**

### **GREAT WOMEN OF PRAYER & FAITH: AN ADVENT JOURNEY**

***This Wednesday 6th December : A talk on ST HILDEGARD with Mary Cairns, at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre***

No woman of the Middle Ages was more renowned than Saint Hildegard of Bingen - she was a "remarkable woman in an age of remarkable men." Hildegard was a German visionary and mystic, yet grounded in a deep love of creation. She has been recently rediscovered by both feminists and eco-warriors because of her adamant call for care of God's earth and the importance of healing balance between body, soul and nature. A giant of Medieval music, Hildegard's stunningly beautiful and meditative compositions have had a powerful revival on the world stage of Early Music.

*She is one of our most revered Saints  
and a great woman of prayer and faith*

***The evening will conclude with supper. All are welcome.***

### DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the soul of all those who have died recently, especially **Mel Tohill** whose Month's Mind occurs at this time. We also remember in prayer all those whose anniversaries occur at this time : especially: **James Forrester** and **Jeannie Caruth**.

### TANZANIA AFRICA PROJECT

“ 'Tis the season to ...” support our twinned parish of St. Bakhita's, Moita Bwawani through your purchase of Christmas Gift Cards for the parish Tanzania Africa Project. Give a really worthwhile Christmas present this year. Choose from three life changing themes:

**Buy a uniform and daily meal for a Maasai child at St. Colmcille's Pre-School, Moita Bwawani, for £10;**

**Sponsor a Catechist to spread the Word of God, for £10;**

**Fund antenatal and postnatal care for Maasai mothers and their newborns with our Mobile Medical Clinic Appeal for £20.**

Cards will be sold in the church porch after each of the weekend Masses **from THIS SATURDAY 2nd December.**

An order form is also available on the parish website, to complete and return by email, or print.

### ST COLMCILLE'S PRE SCHOOL

There will be an OPEN MORNING at the Pre-School unit on **THIS FRIDAY 8th December**, from 12.30pm-2.00pm

### CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

St. Joseph's PTA invite you to the Christmas Craft Fair on **NEXT SATURDAY 9th December**. Join us in the Parish Centre and shop for beautiful handmade gifts, delicious treats and you might even see Santa. Open from **12noon to 5.00pm**.

### PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Annual Christmas Party will be held in **Shandon Park Golf Club on NEXT SUNDAY 10th December from 2.30pm**. A 3-course dinner will be served from 3.00pm. Alan the 'Bandman' will be there, along with our usual visit from Santa. We need to confirm final numbers and meal choice by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Please leave your name and contact details and your meal choice at the back of the church on the form, or contact either Roisin McMullan on 07854 140019 or Mary Walsh on 07815 493463. We look forward to seeing you there!

### WELCOME !

A warm welcome to the children preparing for First Reconciliation this school year, and their families. At 9.30am Mass this morning parents will present their children to Fr Conor for enrolment for the sacrament. The children will learn - supported by their parents, teachers and catechists—how to make friends with Jesus again, when they have forgotten to show love.

### APOSTOLIC WORK SALE

On **THIS Saturday and Sunday 2nd and 3rd December** after Masses we are having our annual December sale in support of the Missions. There will be our usual cake stall, plant stall, books and toys, Tombola and, of course a ballot. A wonderful book on the history of Apostolic Work over 100 years, written by Patricia Kernaghan, will be available at £10 per copy. We welcome items suitable for these stalls books and toys but **no** bric a brac please. Toys should be **saleable**, in good condition and functioning. Help on the day will be very welcome.

### ALPHA

**The Alpha programme will re-start at 8.00pm on Wednesday 17th January 2024 in the Parish Centre!**

#### **Curious about Faith?**

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

At each Alpha session, you'll be hosted in a small group and watch an episode on a different question of faith – then share your thoughts and also hear what others think.

You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

**Everyone's Welcome!**

You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs.

It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

### SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS - FOR ADULTS

Saturday 16th December - St John the Baptist Primary School, Finaghy Road North Belfast

Hosted by the Legion of Mary and Fr Darren Brennan PP

Registration 9:30am - 3.00pm Finish

Talks and Testimonies followed by Confessions, Adoration and Holy Mass  
Cost is £10 - Includes Lunch

For more information or to book, please contact Luke on 07955 386288

Prepare spiritually for Christmas!