

### MONEY MATTERS

Last week's collection - £1154.22 Immaculate Conception Collection - £240.50. The Christmas Voluntary Collection for the support of the priests in the Diocese will be taken up at all the Christmas Masses

### WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB

This Wednesday 13th December is the last session of the Exercise and Lunch Club before our Christmas break. We will resume again on **Wednesday 3rd January**, at a new start time of **12.15pm**. We look forward to meeting additional members in the New Year—if you are age 55+ and would like to improve your level of fitness and mobility. Cost per session is £5, including lunch. Lunch is at 1.00pm, and for those coming for lunch only, the cost is £2.

### VOLUNTEERING

If you would like to contribute to sustaining the vibrancy of our parish community, please consider volunteering in a role, on a rota basis. Current needs include—hospitality at the new Wednesday Lunch Club; hospitality at the Friday Coffee Mornings and other events; support for the Bowls Club; assisting with youth events; Ministry of Welcome; Hospitality Team; Church Cleaning Teams. Please contact the Parish Office for further enquiries—[stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org](mailto:stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org) / 02890 654157 / 07879 498131

### 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. **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. Registration forms are found on a table in the church foyer.

### MISA DE GALLO

The Filipino Community have gathered in St Vincent De Paul Church Ligoniel, to celebrate a **6.00AM** Mass in December, in preparation for Christmas, for 10+ years. Although the 'Misa De Gallo' (Mass of the Rooster) is a Filipino tradition, it is a great way for *everyone* to spiritually prepare for Christmas. **Fr Vincent Cushman** sends an invitation to the **parishioners of St Colmcille's** to join with this tradition, from **Saturday 16th to the Sunday 24th December inclusive**. Mass is followed by traditional food in the Church Porch and on Christmas Eve in the Parish Hall.

### BULLETIN

Please submit posts for the parish bulletin **NO LATER than Wednesday 20th 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. in the bulletin.



## PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE

BALLYHACKAMORE

17th December 2023

Third 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 4



*A man named John was sent from God.  
He came for testimony, to testify to the  
light, so that all might believe through  
him.*

**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 : 7.30pm—8.30pm  
(no Confession at 6.00pm)  
Saturday : 12.30pm-1.30pm  
5.00pm to 5.20pm

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

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Saturday 23rd December : 6.30am; 5.30pm Sunday 24th December: 9.30am & 11.30am;

Sunday 24th December **CHRISTMAS VIGIL** Masses: 5.30pm & 9.00pm

Monday 25th December **CHRISTMAS DAY** : 9.30am & 11.30am

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

This Wednesday 20th December: with Paula McKeown at 7.30pm – 9.00pm in the Parish Centre. The evening will conclude with supper. All are welcome.

**RORATE MASS (23rd December at 7:30am)**

The "Rorate" Mass is an ancient Advent tradition. This Mass in honour of Mary is a beautiful candlelit Mass that begins in the darkness of early morning. The interplay of light and darkness as the church becomes progressively brighter with the sunrise symbolises the coming of the Eternal Light, whom we await during the Advent season.

### DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the soul of all those who have died recently. We also remember in prayer all those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially: **Frances Carvill, Paddy Kerr, Pascal Lasrado, Paddy Kerr, Mary McBrinn, Tom Tully, Mary Tully, Melissa Tully.**

### ALPHA

A new Alpha programme will begin on **Wednesday 17th January 2024, at 8.00pm** in the Parish Centre!  
*Curious about Faith?*

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

In small groups we watch an episode on questions of faith each week – then share our thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything, or nothing at all. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs.

It's free and there's no pressure to come back!  
Enquiries, and to register - contact the parish office by email, or message to 07879 498131

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

### GROSVENOR CHORALE

The Grosvenor Choir warmly invite you to celebrate with them at their **Annual Festival Of Nine Lessons With Carols** on **THIS MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER at 8.00pm** in the church. A suggested donation of £10 will be collected at the close of the service, with proceeds going to the work of the Samaritans. There will be light refreshments afterwards in the parish centre. All are welcome.

### PARISH CHRISTMAS LIGHT & LIVE NATIVITY !

Join us for Christmas lights, live crib, caroling and hot chocolate !!

Come and warm up with a cup of hot chocolate while enjoying the live crib and caroling.  
Don't forget to bring your family and friends to celebrate this wonderful season with us.

The evening runs from **6.00pm-9.00pm. Pop round for a short time or the whole evening. Live Nativity at 7:30pm, Carols at 6:30 & 8:30pm @ St Colmcilles Ballyhackamore on THIS THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER.**

### CHILDRENS NATIVITY AT CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS @ 5:30PM

**ALL CHILDREN** are invited to attend as Shepherds or Angels and take part!

**ADVENT PIZZA: FOR YOUNGER PARISHIONERS (15-18years old)** in the Iona Room (Parish Centre) at **4:30pm** on Tuesday 19th December. Even if you haven't been able to get to the previous sessions—come along for the last!

### SARACRAMENT OF RECONCILLATION (CONFESSIONS)

The Season of Advent challenges us to “prepare the way of the Lord” and to “make straight his paths.” The Sacrament of Penance is especially important as a way to bring order into our hearts and souls during these often bewildering times, when chaos seems to reign in the world around us.

The very reason God sent his only Son to live among us, to suffer and die for us and to rise from the dead was so that He could save us from sin and death. No matter what sins you have committed, and no matter how many times or for how many months or even years you have committed them, God can forgive you, and He wants to do so more than you can possibly imagine.

Approaching a priest for confession can make a person kind of nervous. Priests also go to confession regularly, so they understand how you feel! But the Sacrament of Penance is about God's love, His mercy, and the freedom that comes with knowing that your sins are forgiven. Many Catholics would undoubtedly agree that the most consoling words they ever hear in this life are those they hear near the end of their confessions, when the priest says, “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” #

**VISITING PRIESTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FROM 7:30-8:30PM ON TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER (CONFESSIONS UNAVAILABLE BEFORE MASS)**