

MONEY MATTERS

Weekly Collection £1132.62

Sick & Retired Priests - £403.00

The Monthly Offering Collection for the support of the priests in the Diocese will be taken up at all Masses next weekend

HOPE AND LIGHT MISSION

Knock Presbyterian Church, Kings Road, invite us to their Visitors' Night on **Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm**. Laura Rainey will speak on behalf of Hope and Light Mission, who support exploited and trafficked women across Asia. They raise some of their money by selling jewellery made by survivors, to help support themselves as they try to recover from their abuse. Samples of their work will be available to buy. Please contact the parish office to indicate that you are attending.

ACCORD N IRELAND

ACCORD NI are currently recruiting for volunteers to train as facilitators for the diocesan marriage preparation programme. If you are interested please contact Brenda: 02890 233002 or see more details on the noticeboard in the church foyer.

ONE STOP SHOP

A drop-in service at Avoniel Leisure Centre is providing free, immediate and confidential access to legal, benefits, safety and housing advice, plus Women's Aid Services on **Fridays: 1st, 15th, 29th March; 12th, 26th April; 10th May— from 10.00am-12noon**. More details, and leaflets are available to pick up in the foyer of the church.

PARISH OFFICE

Items for the **next bulletin** should be submitted **no later than Wednesday 6th March at 12noon** please.

Bulletin items may be subject to editing and should contain less than 100 words. In order to reduce waste the bulletin is also available to view on the parish website: <https://st-colmcilles.net> then click on the 'News' tab and the drop down menu reveals 'Past Weeks Bulletins'. The bulletin can also be sent, by request, via WhatsApp or Email.

Should you have any other queries, concerns or suggestions about parish matters please contact the parish office by email or phone, in the first instance. Many Thanks.



PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE BALLYHACKAMORE 25th February 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



Very Rev Conor McGrath PP, Director of Vocations

Very Rev Anthony Curran PE

Phone: 02890 654157 Website: www.st-colmcilles.net

Email: stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stcolmcilleschurch

Parish Office: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10.00am—2.00pm

Readings: Sunday Cycle B; Weekday Cycle 2; Psalter Week 2; Missal: p145

MARK 9:2-10



The Transfiguration

**A revelation of
Jesus as divine.
A glimpse is given of
Jesus' full
heavenly glory.**

This Week

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| Sunday 25th | Mass: 9.30am; 11.30am |
| Monday 26th | Mass: 7.00pm |
| Tuesday 27th | Mass: 7.15am; 7.00pm Adoration & Benediction: 6.00pm Confession: 6.15 – 6.45pm. |
| Wednesday 28th | Mass: 7.15am; 9.30am Alpha: 8.00pm-9.30pm |
| Thursday 29th | Mass: 7.15am; 9.30am |
| Friday 1st March | Mass: 7.15am; 9.30am Morning Prayer: 9.15am Coffee & Chat, Iona Room: 10am |
| Saturday 2nd | Stations of the Cross: 5.00pm Confessions: 5.00pm - 5.20pm Vigil Mass: 5.30pm |

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The most important reason for reviving the practice of making the Stations of the Cross is that it is a powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us. Praying the Stations of the Cross helps inspire deep prayer. God gives us the grace to contemplate the suffering of Jesus and feel deep empathy and love for Him. As we meditate on the events, they become more vivid and take root in our hearts. Through these Stations of the Cross, Jesus is inviting us to journey with him and to reflect on his suffering as it continues in the lives of his people. In solidarity with all who suffer, let us pray that we will be open to whatever he wants us to see, hear and understand.

DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the soul of all those who have died recently, especially **Imelda Bowden** whose Month's Mind occurs at this time.

We also remember in prayer all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: **James Dalton, Moya Dalton, Wilfredo Enriquez Jr, Ted O'Neill, Bridget Rose McSwiggan and Gabriel Mullaly (Sr).**

DIOCESAN VOCATION WEEKEND

Have you ever considered the possibility that God is calling you to the priesthood? If so, take this opportunity to gather with other men who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. This retreat will create the time and space to help you discern God's calling in your life. The retreat will take place in **Drumalis Retreat Centre**, from **next Friday 8th – Sunday 10th March 2024**. If you wish to attend this retreat or would like further information contact: Fr Conor McGrath, or 02890654157.

SEEKING MARRIAGE PREPARATION FACILITATORS

ACCORD NI Catholic Marriage Care Service is currently recruiting people to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators. If you have a positive attitude towards marriage in the Catholic Church. If you have the enthusiasm to be part of the Accord team in supporting couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage ACCORD wants to hear from you! Successful applicants will receive professional training and will be part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes locally. Contact Brenda on 02890 233002 or email to info@accordni.com ; website: www.accordni.com

ASK YOUR MP TO SUPPORT THE ABORTION TIME LIMIT REDUCTION AMENDMENT

Support an amendment to reduce N Ireland's abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. See post on church notice board.

Take action: Collect a postcard today from the foyer of the church and post it urgently to your MP for East Belfast, Gavin Robinson, in support of this amendment! His constituency office address is: Strandtown Hall, 96 Belmont Avenue, Belfast BT4 3DE.
Or email Gavin: gavin.robinson.mp.@parliament.uk

PARISH ENGAGEMENT GROUP

Last September a great number of parishioners attended the Emmaus Day lead by Maria Garvey. There was a great interest in the vision of— **'the mission of the church making love visible in the world'**. Following this a group of parishioners offered to invest their time over the next three years to work towards enabling parishioners to actively participate in the implementation of this vision.

After the completion of a period of formation under Maria's leadership, the new **Parish Engagement Group** was established. They will be **commissioned this Sunday at the 11.30am Mass**. After Mass the group will be available in the church foyer, and at the parish coffee morning to chat to you. Members of the group are:

Fr Conor, Rose Byrne, Paul Campbell, Eileen Donaghey, Noleen Dunn, Joel George, Stephen McAnee, Dee McCabe, Eimer McMillen, Vince Murphy, Leo O'Reilly, Emily Phelan.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual World Day of Prayer will be hosted by Belmont Presbyterian Church 94 Sydenham Avenue, Belmont Road, on **this Friday 1st March at 7.30pm**. The service has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Palestine. St Colmcille's parishioners are warmly invited.

DATES FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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| Saturday 24th February | 6.30pm-8.30pm | Youth Club Yr8 - Yr10 |
| Wednesday 28 th | 4.30pm-6.30pm | Altar Server Club |
| Saturday 2nd March | 6.30pm-8.00pm | Jr Koinonia Youth Yr8 -Yr 10 |
| Tuesday 5th | 4.30pm-6.30pm | Senior Youth Yr11 – Yr14 |
| Wednesday 13th | 4.30pm-6.30pm | Altar Server Club |
| Saturday 16th | 6.30pm-8.30pm | Youth Club Yr8 - Yr10 |
| Tuesday 19th | 4.30pm-6.30pm | Senior Youth Yr11 – Yr14 |
| Wednesday 21st | 4.30pm-6.30pm | Altar Server Club |