

MONEY MATTERS

Sunday 11th February - £986.36

The Annual Collection for the Sick & Retired Priests in the Diocese will be taken up at all Masses *this* weekend

DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE – The Digital collection plate is situated in the porch of the Church. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card / phone onto the reader.

The Digital Collection plate can be used for : **the Offertory Collection; candles at the candelabra; books and papers.**

For queries relating to using the Digital Collection Plate contact Philomena at p.dawson@downandconnor.org. You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%, which means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received.



CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE

The 1970s Frankie’s Fundraising Disco evening raised **£1500** for the charity Children in Crossfire. Many thanks to: all who supported the event or gave donations; to those who made preparations, brought supper or snacks, cleared the hall, and worked in the kitchen; those who donated items for the ballot and Neill’s Hill for donating wine for all to enjoy. Finally thanks to Kathy for initiating the event, in memory of her husband Francesco.

APOSTOLIC WORK COLLECTION

Thank you very much to all who contributed to our Church Door collection last weekend. We raised a total of **£849** to help us continue to support the work of Missionaries in many countries. If anyone is interested in joining our parish group please just turn up at our (short) monthly meeting, normally in the **Iona Room at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.**

CANDLES

In John 8:12, Jesus says of himself: “I am the Light of the world”. The early Christians saw lighting candles as an act of worship, reverence and devotion, to Him who deserves our adoration and thanksgiving. In lighting a candle before a relic, statue or icon we recognise that God resides fully within that person, and that they are giving perpetual glory to God. The lingering quality of the candle symbolizes the fact that our prayers, praise and concerns continue in our heart, even as we leave the church / prayer space.

7 day candles may be purchased in the Sanctuary for £5, and votive (small) candles at each candelabra for 50p



PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE BALLYHACKAMORE 18th February 2024 FIRST 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 1; Missal: p141

This Week

Sunday 18th	Mass: 9.30am; 11.30am
Monday 19th	Mass: 7.00pm
Tuesday 20th	Mass: 7.15am; 7.00pm Adoration & Benediction: 6.00pm Confession: 6.15 – 6.45pm.
Wednesday 21st	Mass: 7.15am; 9.30am Alpha: 8.00pm-9.30pm
Thursday 22nd	Mass: 7.15am; 9.30am
Friday 23rd	Mass: 7.15am; 9.30am Morning Prayer: 9.15am Coffee & Chat, Iona Room: 10am Prayer Vigil: 7.00pm to 12.00am, starting with Mass at 7.00pm
Saturday 24th	Stations of the Cross: 5.00pm Confessions: 5.00pm - 5.20pm Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

Mark 1:12-15



Prayer is a wilderness time. When we spend time there, we can be strengthened, transformed, and drawn closer to Christ.

All are invited to a **NIGHT VIGIL this Friday 23rd February** to pray for **PRIESTS and VOCATIONS**

7.00pm : Mass

7.30pm-8.30pm: Prayers for PRIESTS & VOCATIONS

8.30pm-9.30pm: Praise, Adoration, Teaching

9.30pm-10.00pm: Benediction and Healing Prayers

10.00pm to midnight: Silent Adoration

Confessions during the evening, and One-to-One prayers are available.

Refreshments in the Iona Room from 9.30pm

DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the soul of all those who have died recently., especially **Eileen Kennedy**. We also remember in prayer all those whose anniversaries occur at this time : **John Feenan, Willie Gallagher, Gerry Keane, Maureen McGonnell, Joan Marie Thompson, John Whoriskey and Sallie Whoriskey**

PARISH LENT PROGRAMME

The Wounds of Christ—A Journey Through Lent
Dates and Speakers to be announced shortly



LAYING DOWN

On **Saturday 9 March, from 11.00am – 3.30pm**, at **Clonard Monastery**, Breige O'Hare will lead a programme where there will be a gentle mix of prayer, song, story and silence. A time to rest and recover a simpler, slower sense of Lent. Space to meet the God who lived and died so that we might know how much we matter. Donation: £10 (*or whatever you can afford*). Bring your own lunch. Tea, coffee provided. Booking is essential. Ring Clonard: 02890 445950

ADORATION CHAPEL

Could you commit to spending more time with Jesus in Lent?

The Adoration Chapel is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm each day for private prayer. Please sign your name on the Adoration sheet at the door. A quiet period of time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament increases our faith, and draws us into a closer relationship with Jesus. Please repose the Blessed Sacrament as you leave, by closing the tabernacle door.

SAFE TALK SUICIDE PREVENTION

SafeTALK is 3.5 hour training that equips people to be more alert to someone thinking of suicide and better able to connect them with future help. It's the world's fastest growing suicide prevention skills training course. Communities, families and churches can become safe places to speak about thoughts of suicide and mental health wellbeing. SafeTALK by Living Works is safe for participants aged 15+, with no adverse effects from training. One of its goals is to help break down suicide stigma in the community. **If you are interested in attending the training here in parish, please contact the parish office:** stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org

TRÓCAIRE'S LENT CAMPAIGN

This year Trócaire's Lent campaign focuses on Malawi, one of the least developed countries in the world, and badly affected by climate change. In the Machinga district droughts are becoming more frequent and prolonged. The well in Malita's village dries up during these periods of drought, so Malita and her daughters must make a one-hour trip, up to five times a day, to collect water from a stream for washing, cooking and drinking. Please support Trócaire this Lent in helping communities such as Malita's develop sustainable access to clean, safe and reliable water supplies. **Take home a Trócaire box from the church foyer today.**

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 **Friday 8th – Sunday 10th March 2024**. If you wish to attend this retreat or would like further information contact: Fr Conor McGrath, or 02890654157.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The Permanent Deacon responds to the call of Jesus and his Church in three specific ways: through the ministry of Charity, the ministry of the Word and the ministry of the Altar with a particular focus on the ministry of Charity. The Diocese invites expressions of interest from men, (married or single), who feel called to the Diaconate.

Further relevant information can be found on the Diocesan website <https://www.downandconnor.org/living-church/diaconate/>

It is proposed to hold **three information evenings in St Patrick's Downpatrick All Saints Ballymena and St Brigid's Belfast on 7th 12th and 20th March**. This will provide an opportunity to meet Permanent Deacons and their wives and discover more about this vocation.

It is hoped to commence a propaedeutic year of discernment in September 2024. Expressions of Interest forms will be issued by email to those who have responded to this announcement and the formal application and interview process will commence, with a view to completion in June 2024.