

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FROM UGANDA

The Abaana New Life choir will be performing in **St John's Church**, 444 Falls Road, Belfast on **this Sunday 3rd March at 6.30pm**.

The choir is made up of 20 young children from Uganda, aged between 7 and 9 years old. This promises to be an incredible evening of music, song and dance during which the children will share their stories about life in Uganda.

The concert is free to attend with an offering taken up during the performance. The concert is suitable for children to attend.

ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL GIRL'S CHOIR

We are thrilled to announce the first-ever Diocesan girls' choir based at **St Peter's Cathedral**.

Girls aged 11-18 years are invited to join this new and exciting initiative. Open auditions will take place **this Thursday 7th March between 4:30pm -6:00pm in the Cathedral Hall** (left of the church as you drive through the main gates).

While it is not essential to prepare anything, you are welcome to bring a piece if you are comfortable to do so. For more details, contact James McConnell: cathedralmusic@downandconnor.org

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

Friday 9th August — Wednesday 14th August. Flight from Dublin. Mass in Santarem where bleeding host took place; visit visionaries homes; Hungarian Stations of the Cross; Lisbon with church of Saint Anthony, where he was born and baptised; seaside excursion. Payments can be made by instalments, Contact James Treacy 061921470 or email jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com

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 day to day parish matters please contact the parish office by email or phone, in the first instance. Many Thanks.



PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE

BALLYHACKAMORE

3rd March 2024

THIRD 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 3; Missal: p149

John 2: 13-25



As a Temple of the Holy Spirit—what habits, attitudes, distractions, unforgiveness—should I cleanse myself of in this time of Lent?

This Week

Sunday 3rd	Mass: 9.30am; 11.30am
Monday 4th	Mass: 7.00pm
Tuesday 5th	Mass: 7.15am; 7.00pm Adoration & Benediction: 6.00pm Confession: 6.15 – 6.45pm.
Wednesday 6th	Mass: 7.15am; 9.30am Alpha: 8.00pm-9.30pm First Confession Primary 3 -1pm
Thursday 7th	Mass: 7.15am; 9.30am
Friday 8th	Mass: 7.15am; 9.30am Morning Prayer: 9.15am Coffee & Chat, Iona Room: 10am
Saturday 9th	Stations of the Cross: 5.00pm Confessions: 5.00pm - 5.20pm Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

BISHOP ALAN MCGUCKIAN

Bishop Alan will take canonical possession of the Diocese of Down and Connor on **Tuesday 19th March at 4.00pm**. The Liturgical service will include the presentation of his Papal Mandate to the College of Consultors, as required by Canon Law. In accordance with Bishop Alan's own wishes, this will be a small ceremony, attended by the Consultors and a small number of representatives of various aspects of Diocesan life. Please keep Bishop Alan in your prayers. St Malachy, St MacNissi and St Colmcille, pray for him.

DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the soul of all those who have died recently, especially **Mary Jeeves**
We also remember in prayer all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: **Helen Cassidy, Joyce Cassidy, Sean Cassidy, Teresa Judge, Mary Mayoyo, Sean McCarthy, Kathleen McMahon and Mark Mullaly.**

TRÓCAIRE'S 2024 LENT CAMPAIGN

In Malawi, longer and more severe droughts in recent years have dried up small streams and water holes. Unfortunately, some areas are also affected by cyclones and flooding. When this happens, the simple mud houses are badly damaged. The water that falls is not suitable for drinking or farming but causes a huge amount of destruction. Trócaire is working with local partners to help communities to rebuild after these events and to be better prepared for the future.

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 **this Friday 8th – Sunday 10th March**. If you wish to attend this retreat or would like further information contact: Fr Conor McGrath, or 02890 654157.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Parents please leave the children over to the Iona Room, at the Parish Centre, **before the start of 9.30am Mass** on Sundays - as the leaders no longer depart from the church to walk the children to the Parish Centre. Children from age 3 years are welcome. Additional adult volunteers (who are willing to be vetted) are always hoped for!

MONEY MATTERS

Weekly collection - £1144.15

The Monthly Offering collection for the support of the priests in the Diocese will be taken up at all Masses this weekend
New Boxes of Collection Envelopes, beginning on Sunday 7th April, are available for collection in the church porch after all Masses this weekend.

If you don't currently have envelopes and would like a box please speak to Philomena in the porch after any of the Masses this weekend.

PARISH ENGAGEMENT GROUP

Dee McCabe, Parish Engagement Group Coordinator, explained last Sunday at the commissioning, the origin and role of this parish group -

"In September last year we were all invited, as a parish, to an Emmaus Day, which was facilitated by Maria Garvey. We reflected on what is going well, and where we would like to grow and develop our parish. That day was the seed amongst people who expressed interest in continuing the discussion, and they came together and formed the Parish Engagement Group.

Each parish must have a Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Engagement Group will meet that requirement. We have rebranded it, to better reflect the needs of the modern-day parish and more specifically this parish, to align it with our mission.

Pope Francis has encouraged moving away from pastoral rigidity and highlighted 3 aspects which he felt were most important, and marked the journey of a parish. These 3 aspects are: listening to God's word, walking, and proclaiming even to the outskirts.....all a shared vision of our Parish Engagement Group. Our monthly meetings commence with the lighting of our candle, prayer, and space to listen to God's word. When Pope Francis refers to walking, he is referring to working together to a point of familiarity where we don't just know each other's names we know each other's pets names too. His third aspect is about inclusiveness, and I will explain now how these two aspects are also part of our mission.

A key purpose is to build love and a sense of community in our parish. Our mission will include supporting opportunities in the parish to have a living faith; inclusion – identifying those in the community that need support but also that the warmth of our parish is experienced as an invite to all in the community, regardless of their faith, that they may join us in the events run in St Colmcille's. We are also concerned with developing our youth ministry and linking in with families.

You may notice the main difference in the title is a move towards the word 'Engagement'. Alone we will likely achieve little. However, if we see this word "engagement" as an invite that enables collaborative working, where we work alongside all our parishioners and tap into the gifts, talents, knowledge, and expertise of this parish, encouraging involvement and participation, then there is genuine potential to do a lot. I think this fits in nicely with Pope Francis' vision of walking together.

There is so much wonderful work being carried out in our parish already by individuals and groups. It is not our mission to duplicate, but to bolster what's working well, support what needs supporting, and identify gaps relevant to our mission. With that in mind we will be inviting all those individuals and groups already active in the parish to an event on the morning of **Saturday 13th April**. There will be more details to come, but please save the date for now."