

PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE

BALLYHACKAMORE

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
Laetare Sunday

Pg 176 Year C (I)
Psalter Week 4



To know the joy of
God's *love*
and make the *love* of
God known to all

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend, as we celebrate Mother's Day, we give thanks for the gift of our mothers—those who gave us life, who nurtured us, and who continue to love us unconditionally. A mother's love is often the first glimpse we get of the boundless mercy of God.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear the beautiful parable of the Prodigal Son—a story not only of a wayward child but of a father's extravagant mercy. When the lost son returns home, his father does not hesitate. He runs to meet him, embraces him, and restores him to the family. His love is not conditional on past mistakes but freely given, just as a mother's love so often is—welcoming, forgiving, and rejoicing in the return of her child.

Many of us can relate to the journey of the prodigal son at some point in our lives. We have made mistakes, wandered, and longed for a place to call home. And yet, like a mother waiting with open arms, God never stops looking for us. He calls us back, not with condemnation, but with joy.

This Mother's Day, may we give thanks for all the women who reflect God's love in our lives—mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and all who nurture and guide us. And may we also remember that no matter how far we have strayed, we always have a place in the Father's house.

Happy Mother's Day!

Have a blessed week, Fr. Conor



ST COLMCILLE'S PARISH

191 Upper Newtownards Road,
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Fr Conor McGrath PP

Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Curran PE

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PARISH OFFICE:

Monday & Friday 2pm-4pm,
Wednesday 8am-10.30am

THIS WEEK AT ST COLMCILLE'S

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| Sunday | Mass: 9.30am & 11.30am |
| Monday | Morning Prayer: 9.00am |
| Tuesday | Mass: 7.30am & 7.00pm Adoration, Confessions & Benediction: starting at 6.00pm |
| Wednesday | Mass : 7.30am & 9.30am. Evening Prayer: 7pm |
| Thursday | Mass : 7.30am & 9.30am |
| Friday | Morning Prayer: 9.00am Mass: 7.30am & 9.30am |
| Saturday | Confession : 5.00pm – 5.20pm Stations of the Cross liturgy : 5.00pm – 5.15pm Vigil Mass: 5.30pm |

MASS THIS SUNDAY

First Reading: the Book of Joshua 5:9-12

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 22:

Response: Taste and see that the Lord is good

Second Reading *The second letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 5:17-21*

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

I will leave this place and go to my father and say:

‘Father, I have sinned

against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

A Reading from the Holy Gospel, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

SAINT'S DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 3rd April
Saint Francis of Paola,

Friday 5th April
St Isidore

Saturday 6th April
St Vincent Ferrer

DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the soul of all those who have died recently and whose months mind occurs. We also remember in prayer **Eileen Connor, Norman Fusco, Edward Judge, William Judge** and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Parish Bereavement Support Group Contact: 07375 535 649.

ANNIVERSARIES

If you would like an Anniversary Mass booked please contact the Parish Office on 90654157 or email stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org.

“What need I fear when Thou art near,

ADORATION

Come and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Adoration Chapel this Lent. Could you commit to 15 minutes on a regular occasion, or one hour? Pray, praise, adore. There are some resources there to help you with your time before the Blessed Sacrament. Or just sit in the silence. Please repose the Blessed Sacrament before you leave, by closing the Tabernacle door.

LENT PROGRAMME

Would you like to commit to doing something for Lent this year?

A parish Lent programme, focusing on God the Father, will run each Sunday during the season of Lent in the Parochial Hall from 10.20am to 11.20am starting with a light breakfast..

Fr Dave Pivonka, in a video presentation, will reveal God as Father- "We are not orphans, we are not alone; God knows, loves and chooses us. We are sons and daughters of a good Father" Join us this Sunday morning, to get to know God the Father better.

LENTEN INVITATION

Parishioners are invited to join the clergy of our neighbouring parishes to pray Night Prayer together on the Sundays of Lent at 8.00pm in this Jubilee Year of Hope that we might support each other with our presence and prayer.

Sunday 30th March St Malachy's Church, Belfast.

Sunday 6th April Carryduff

Sunday 13th April St Colmcille's Church, Belfast.

THURSDAY LENT PROGRAMME

In this Lent season, would you like to explore the themes of repentance and conversion, words which are frequently associated with Lent and the significance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection? On Thursday mornings in the Iona Room there will be a pre-recorded presentation, led by scripture scholars such as Sean Goan and Kieran O'Mahony. We begin with refreshments at 10.00am and conclude at 11.00am. All are welcome.

MONEY MATTERS

Weekly collection - £1151.29
Monthly Stipend Offertory
will be taken up next weekend.

PAROCHIAL HALL BOOKINGS

If you would like to book a Party in the Parochial Hall we now require 1 MONTHS notice by emailing the Parish Office at stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org.

PRAISE AND PINTS

7pm (Every other Thursday)

Come for Adoration + Praise & worship followed by hangout in the Pub afterwards.
Next Praise and Pints : 10th & 24th April.

RECHARGE

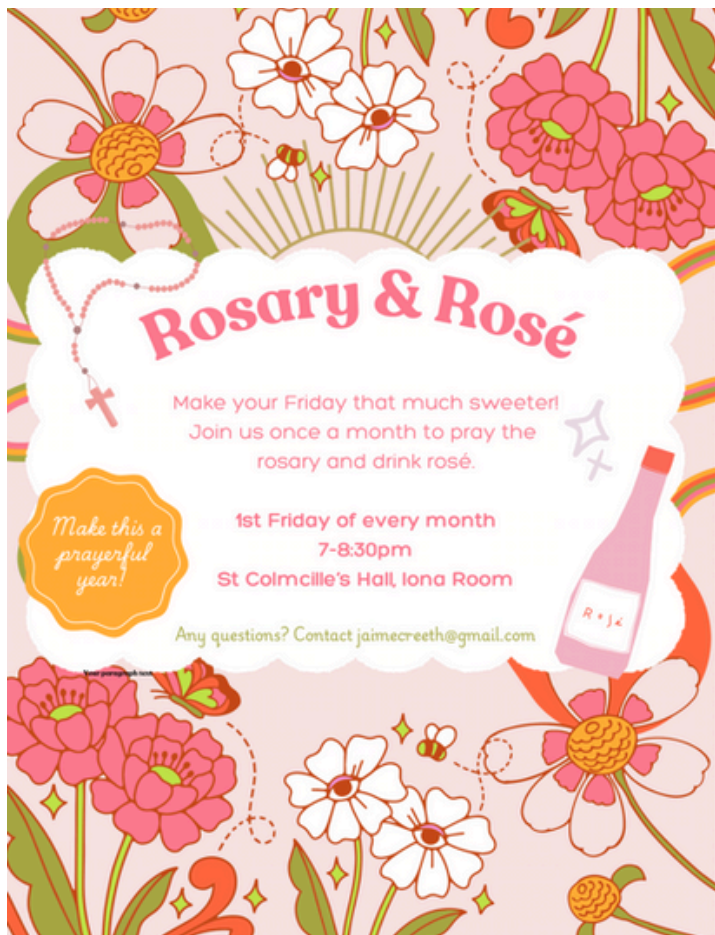
Recharge is a young adult group based in Down and Connor for those aged 18 to 35. The group meet twice monthly on the first and third Tuesday of each month to "recharge" the spiritual batteries through Adoration, intellectual formation and social gatherings.

We will be meeting on Tuesday the 1st and 15th of April at 7.30pm in Church. All welcome!

Many Thanks from SVP

Dear Parishioners, could I on behalf of the St Colmcille's SVP Conference take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous generosity to us week on week and particularly, a huge thank you for your support over the Christmas period. In the month of December, with your help we responded to over 160 households to enable them have food, gas, electric and oil.

Through your generosity 320 children were able to have a small gift and it allowed families to know that they were not isolated in their poverty. So, from SVP could I say a huge thank you.



Cappella Caeciliana present WORLDS OF LIGHT
in Clonard Monastery on
Sunday 6th April at 5.30pm. Programme includes
the Fauré Requiem with
professional orchestra. Tickets £20 from
www.caeciliana.org, Clonard
reception and Matchetts, Wellington Place.
Students and under 25s free.

TRAINING

The parish team, for distribution of Holy
Communion at Mass, is continuing to be expanded.
If you feel called to become an Extraordinary
Minister of Holy Communion, please attend a
training session with Fr Conor, on
Thursday 3rd April at 7.00pm in the church

GROW IN LOVE MASS

The parish children, who are getting ready for
their First Holy Communion,
will attend the 9.30am monthly preparation
Mass next Sunday 6th April

HOLYWOOD PARISH RETREAT AT DRUMALIS 12TH -13TH APRIL 2025.

We invite you to join us as we explore this
year's theme of
"Jesus – the Anchor of Our Hope" It will be a
time of prayer, reflection, and praise.
The retreat will begin with evening meal on
Saturday, 12th April, and end after evening
meal on Sunday, 13th April.

For further information or to book a place,
please contact Una –
(Tel. 028-90423177 or 07783754513)"

PARISH LAUDATO SI GROUP: TREE PLANTING EVENT AT TULLYCARNET PARK

Last April some parishioners joined members of
Stormont Presbyterian to plant 100 young native
trees in Tullycarnet Park. On Saturday 12 April
11.00-12.30 this year we will gather there again to
plant another 50 trees and tend to those we
planted last year. Parishioners and their families
are warmly invited to join us. Belfast City
Council will provide spades and gloves.
Refreshments will be available. To confirm your
attendance or for more information contact
Brian McLoughlin 07738292160.
'When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of
peace and seeds of hope' (Wangari Maathai)

Useful Contacts

Parish Secretary: Angelina Thomson - stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org

Pastoral Assistant: Noleen Dunn - n.dunn@downandconnor.org

Finance Officer: Philomena Dawson - p.dawson@downandconnor.org

Parish Engagement Group - stcolmcillespeg@gmail.com

NET Team: colmcille@netministries.ie

Webcam: <https://st-colmcilles.net/web-camera/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stcolmcilleschurch/> **Instagram:** [stcolmcillesballyhack](https://www.instagram.com/stcolmcillesballyhack)

"More safe am I within Thy hand, Than if a host did round me stand."