

PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE

BALLYHACKAMORE

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
Passiontide

Pg 181 Year C (I)

Psalter Week 1



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 Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, marks the beginning of Passiontide—the final two weeks of the Lenten season. The Church invites us now to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's suffering and self-giving love. The tone becomes more solemn, the focus sharper, as we draw closer to the events of Holy Week.

One visible sign of this shift is the veiling of statues and images in the church. This tradition, which dates back centuries, is a form of fasting for the eyes. Just as we give up certain foods or comforts during Lent, the Church invites us to momentarily give up the beauty of sacred images. Their absence creates a kind of emptiness that reflects the growing shadow of the Cross. It helps us focus solely on Christ and the unfolding drama of our salvation.

In this sacred time, we are not merely spectators—we are invited to participate fully in the Paschal Mystery. The liturgies of Holy Week and Easter are the high point of the Church's year, where we walk with Jesus through His Passion, death, and Resurrection.

- On Palm Sunday, we enter Jerusalem with Him in joy, only to hear again the account of His suffering.
- On Holy Thursday, we remember the gift of the Eucharist and Jesus' example of humble service. (7pm)
- On Good Friday, we venerate the Cross, entering into the silence and sorrow of His death. (3pm)
- At the Easter Vigil, in the darkness of night, we kindle the new fire and proclaim the Resurrection with joy and hope. (9pm)

We warmly invite every parishioner to join us for these sacred celebrations. Whether you've come every year or it's been a while, let this be the year you step into the story in a new way. Come, and walk with Christ. He walks with us.

Have a blessed week, Fr. Conor

*'Let the one
 without sin
 cast
 the first stone'
 John 8:7*

ST COLMCILLE'S PARISH

191 Upper Newtownards Road,
 Belfast, BT4 3JB

Fr Conor McGrath PP

Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Curran PE

Phone: 02890 654157

Website: www.st-colmcilles.net

Email:

stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org

PARISH OFFICE:

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

THIS WEEK AT ST COLMCILLE'S

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: Isaiah 43:16-21

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 125:

Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we are glad.

Second Reading Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and
that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

A Reading from the Holy Gospel, John 8:1-11

SAINT'S DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 7th April

St John Baptist de la Salle

Friday 5th April

St Stanislaus
Bishop of Krakow

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 **James Wilkinson, Hugh McCaffrey, Ronnie Columbres, Gerry Hughes** 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.

COFFEE & CROISSANTS

It's not too late to join the Parish Lent Programme on Sundays during the season of Lent in the Iona Room, from 10.15am to 11.20am starting with Coffee and Croissants.

Fr Dave Pivonka, in a video presentation 'My father's Father' will help us to get to know God the Father better.

He says, "Other world religions and cultures may recognize God as creator or master, but Jesus reveals God as Father. The Christian revelation of God as Father is fundamental to our faith"

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 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.

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.

MONEY MATTERS

Weekly Collection - £1,039.54

Standing Orders for March – £3,831.26 + £4,370 in yearly donations

Digital Plate for March - £850.67

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

TRÓCAIRE BOXES Parishioners are asked to return their Trócaire box to the parish. Boxes may be left in the parish office or returned through the Offertory Collection baskets at Mass. It would be appreciated if any small coins could be changed to larger denominations. All cheques should be made payable to Saint Colmcille's Parish. Donations to Trocaire can also be made via the Digital plate in the church porch

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)

Parish Youth Club

We would like to invite volunteers or parents of those attending the Youth club in St Colmcilles to come volunteer at the Saturday evening youth club (6.30pm - 8.30pm).

We need more volunteers to continue providing this social gathering for our youths.

Contact Jarek 07717765922 for details.

SEDER MEAL

Please sign the sheet on the table at the back of the Church if you are planning to attend the parish Seder Meal, on Monday 14th April at 7.00pm in the Parochial Hall.

By celebrating the Passover Seder we are participating in history's most ancient and continuously observed festival and helping to restore the Christian Tradition of devout observation of the Passover.

The Seder Meal with its symbolic food and scripture readings, remembers the Exodus from Egypt of God's people.

The meal is eaten in a certain order, helping us to recall the events of the Exodus.

Please do have your dinner before you leave home, as this is a ritual meal with small portions of symbolic food items, linking to the Exodus story.

In participating in the Seder Meal, we are recalling that Jesus observed Passover with his disciples on the night before he died.

Fr Benedict Kurian

Bishop Alan McGuckian has appointed a new Priest, Fr. Benedict Kurian from India to Down and Connor Diocese herein Belfast who is going to be here on this Saturday, the 5th April 2025.

He will be serving for Down and Connor Diocese and Syro Malankara Catholic Community as well.

East Belfast GAA

East Belfast GAA academy are back in training, every Sunday at 11am for all ages from P1 to Yr14. New members and helpers always welcome. Henry Jones pitches, Church Road.



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!

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."