PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE
BALLYHACKAMORE

3rd Sunday of Advent
Year A
Missal Pg 9



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



This weekend we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, as we pause on this Advent journey to recognise that the Lord is near. Even in the busyness of the season, the Church invites us to lift our eyes, take a breath, and allow joy to break through. Christ is coming—not far off, not distant, but drawing close to us with mercy, hope, and light.

As we draw near to the joy of Christmas, we are offering a special opportunity to prepare our hearts. This Tuesday, 16th December, following the 7.00pm Mass (beginning around 7.30pm), there will be an evening of Confession here in the parish. Several priests will be available to hear confessions and to help us receive the peace, mercy, and renewal that the Lord longs to give. Come as you are. Leave renewed. Come and make room for the Saviour.

In the new year, we will launch our next Alpha experience—World Food Alpha, beginning on Tuesday 14th January. Each week we'll explore the big questions of life and faith while sharing dishes from the many culinary cultures within our parish and beyond. It's a wonderful way to begin the year. Come yourself... and bring a friend.

Have a blessed week, Fr Conor

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Parish Priest: Fr Conor McGrath PP, Fr Anthony Curran PE
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THIS WEEK AT ST COLMCILLE'S

Sunday	Mass: 9.30am & 11.30am
Monday	Morning Prayer: 9.00am
Tuesday	Holy Hour, : 6pm, Mass: 7pm. Confession at 7:30pm - not before Mass
Wednesday	Mass : 9.30am. Evening Prayer: 7pm
Thursday	Mass : 9.30am
Friday	Morning Prayer: 9.00am Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	Confession : 5.00pm – 5.20pm Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

MASS THIS SUNDAY

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6.10

Psalm 145

Come, Lord, and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently. We also remember in prayer all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Kay & Tommy O'Neill, Larry Duffy

Parish Bereavement Support Group Contact: 077 2981 6256.

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Tarsus Scripture School Advent Course

After the 9:30am mass on Wednesday, there will be the last of a three-part Scripture course looking at the Advent readings in the parish hall. This week, the focus will be on St Paul's letter to the Romans. All are welcome."

St Colmcille's Faith Formation/RCIA Course

The final class of this calendar year is on at 7pm as normal in the parish hall. The topic will be "Judgement and the Second Coming". There will be mulled wine and mince pies, and all are welcome. The class will be resuming in the New Year.

Calling all Children's Liturgy members;

you are invited to take part in our annual Nativity play at 5.30 Mass on Christmas Eve! This open to all members from pre-school up. If you haven't already spoken to one of our leaders and given them your email address, then contact Fiona (fionamdonnelly@hotmail.com) to let us know that your child would like to take part.

Advent Reading: Discussion and Lunch

For those who are interested in chatting about Bishop Erik Varden's book, The Shattering of Loneliness, there will be the opportunity to do so after the 11:30 mass next Sunday (21st) over lunch. Please email Ollie at o.donaldson@downandconnor.org if you are interested.

The Contact Singers present "Night of the Father's Love" Monday, 22 December 2025 • 7:00pm St. Colmcille's Church

Join us for a beautiful musical celebration of the Christmas story. Night of the Father's Love gently leads the listener through the Nativity as if hearing it again for the very first time. A narrator shares familiar Scripture passages and thoughtful reflections, while a rich variety of musical styles captures the true meaning of Christmas: the gift of the Father's love.

A retiring collection will be taken in support of the homeless. All are warmly welcome.

MONEY MATTERS

Weekly Collection £ 923.87

Many thanks to all those who so generously donated.

The NET Team

"The NET Team will be away for their Christmas break starting Sunday December 14th and will return January 13th in the new year.
We have been very happy to be welcomed into the community and look forward to resuming ministry and starting up new ones when we return. We wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year"

Tanzanian Africa Project

Tis the season to …" support our twinned parish of St. Bakhita's, Moita Bwawani through your purchase of Christmas Gift Cards for the parish Tanzanian Africa Project.
Choose from three life changing themes:
Ø Buy a uniform and daily meal for a Maasai child at St. Colmcille's Pre-School, Moita Bwawani, for £10
Ø Sponsor a Catechist to spread the Word of God, for £10
Ø Fund antenatal and postnatal care for Maasai mothers and their new-borns with our Mobile Medical Clinic Appeal for £20

Cards will be sold in the church porch after each of the weekend masses during Advent.

Grosvenor Chorale presents our Annual Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols.

On Monday 15 Dec at 8:00pm in St. Colmcille's Church.
A suggested donation of £10 will be collected at the close of the service with proceeds going to support the work of Transplant Sport NI.

All are warmly welcome.

Oh King of night and day?"



Following Yonder Star Christmas Appeal –

Tuesday's Child -
Following Yonder Star Christmas Appeal helping children exhausted by war, famine and extreme hardship in: Gaza, Syria, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, India, Pakistan, Brazil, Tanzania. All donations received go to catholic missionaries and diocesan priests caring for children.
Visit www.tuesdayschild.ie

Trócaire
TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

'Gifts of Change' are gifts that transform lives, bringing real hope and opportunities to families and communities living in poverty.

There are 24 Gifts to choose from starting at £5 for the 'Gift of Soap' for families in war-torn South Sudan.

All the gifts are real items, sourced in-country which go to families in need of our support.

You can buy a Gift and help change lives this Christmas by going online at www.trocaire.org/gifts

Useful Contacts

Parish Secretary: Angelina Thomson - stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org.
Finance Officer: Philomena Dawson - p.dawson@downandconnor.org
Pastoral Assistant: Ollie Donaldson - o.donaldson@downandconnor.org
Parish Engagement Group - stcolmcillespeg@gmail.com
Webcam: https://st-colmcilles.net/web-camera/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stcolmcilleschurch/
Instagram: stcolmcillesballyhack
Parish Office: Tues & Thurs 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 8am-10.30am