PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE

BALLYHACKAMORE

4th Sunday of Advent
Year A
Missal Pg 13



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

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, I warmly invite you to come and be part of our parish celebrations as we welcome again the joy of the Saviour's birth. Before Christmas Day itself, I want to highlight our Christmas Brunch for anyone who is on their own. If you or someone you know would appreciate this, please do get in touch with Bronagh, who is organising it. My sincere thanks to Bronagh, and SVP for supporting, for the care and generosity she has shown in putting this together — a beautiful expression of parish community at this special time of year.

Our Family Mass with the Nativity will take place on Christmas Eve (Wednesday) at 5.30pm, a joyful celebration especially for families and children as the story of Christmas is shared once more. Later that evening, we will gather for the Christmas Vigil Mass at 9.00pm, followed by a short celebration in the hall to share a little festive cheer together. On St Stephen's Day, Mass will be celebrated at 11.30am.

At the 11.30am Mass on Sunday, we will mark the Feast of the Holy Innocents and the Feast of the Holy Family. This Mass will be offered in a special way for families who have lost children, either before or after birth. It is always a deeply poignant and prayerful moment during Christmastime, and anyone who wishes is very welcome to come and remember their child with us. Looking ahead to the end of the year, we will celebrate Mass on New Year's Eve at 11.00pm, followed again by a small gathering to bring in the New Year together. If you would normally spend that evening quietly or on your own, please know you are very welcome to come and be part of it.

Finally, may I say a heartfelt word of thanks in advance to all who will make our Christmas liturgies so special: our sacristan servers, singers, choir, readers, and all those who have prepared and decorated the church so beautifully. Through your generosity and service, we are given the chance once again to relive the joy of Christ coming among us.

Have a blessed week, Fr Conor

St Colmcilles Parish, 191 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3JB
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 and Confessions, : 6pm. Mass: 7pm.
Christmas Eve	Mass : 9.30am. **Vigil 5.30pm (Family Mass) & 9.00pm**
Christmas Day	Mass : 9.30am & 11.30am
Friday	Mass: 11:30am
Saturday	Confession : 5.00pm – 5.20pm Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

MASS THIS SUNDAY

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 23

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the souls of **Hugh Bradley, Hazel Woods** and all those who have died recently. We also remember in prayer all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Charlie Stewart. Keith Harper

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.

Feast of Holy Innocents
Sunday 28th December

Mass will be offered on the Feast of Holy Innocents for families who have lost children, before or after birth at 11:30am

New Years Eve Midnight Mass at 11.00pm
New Years Day Mass at 11.00am

St Colmcille's Faith Formation/RCIA Course

The class is currently on break for Christmas and will be resuming in the New Year. Dates to follow.

Christmas Day Vigil for Gaza

11.00am on Christmas Morning
outside Belfast City Hall
organised by:
Christians for Palestine
and Gaels against Genocide

Save The Date: CEILI

Join us for a Parish Social Community Night on Friday 30th January, from 7.30pm – 11.30pm, at St. Colmcille's Parochial Hall.

Admission: £10.00 (pay at the door)
Bring Your Own drinks and snacks.

Enjoy an evening of dancing, craic, and fun for everyone. No experience is needed! Before each dance, there will be a short practice where the caller will explain the steps. During the dance, she will continue to call out the moves — half the fun is learning them together.

We will also be holding a Ballot/Raffle on the night. One envelope containing 5 tickets costs £5.

Come along, bring friends, and be part of a great night of community and entertainment!

MONEY MATTERS

Weekly Collection £1361.91

The Christmas Voluntary Collection will be taken up at all the Christmas Day Masses

Many thanks to all those who so generously donated.

Parish Office
The Parish Office will be closed from Tues 23rd December - Tues 6th Jan.

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.

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.

Oh King of night and day?"



Christmas Day BRUNCH

If Christmas feels a little quiet this year-we'd love your company-join us for a Free brunch!

Open to anyone experiencing loneliness/ isolation-elderly,widows.

12.30pm-2.30pm

St Colmcilles Parish Centre,Newtownards Road

BOOK YOUR SPACE BY 20TH DECEMBER*

Bronagh-07938394790

***All details will be kept confidential**

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