PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE
BALLYHACKAMORE

2nd Sunday after Christmas
Year A
Missal Pg 83



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

New Year's Message – World Day of Peace 2026
Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Diocese of Down and Connor

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"One year older and still no wiser!" was the rueful remark of an old priest friend every year when I wished him a happy birthday. I am reminded of my old friend now as we usher in another New Year.

Each New Year's Day, the Pope calls on us to pray for peace. Pope Leo reminds us: "Goodness is disarming. Perhaps this is why God became a child." In this beautiful paradox — God choosing vulnerability over power — we discover the true nature of divine peace. Throughout the Gospels, the words "peace be with you" echo again and again. The angels sang "Peace on earth" at Christmas, and when Jesus rose from the dead his first words to the disciples were: "Peace be with you" (John 20:19) — a peace the world cannot give.

Jesus entered a room full of fear and offered not rebuke but peace, before sending his disciples out into the world: As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." This mission belongs to all of us today.

While we live in what are called "peace times" in Ireland, our peace is fragile. Violence, criminality, unresolved hurt, family breakdown, and pressure on services remind us that much work remains. I thank God for all who quietly and faithfully serve the poor, the homeless, and the vulnerable in our communities.

Across the world, our brothers and sisters continue to suffer the ravages of war. We cannot close our eyes to their pain, nor to those who arrive on our shores seeking safety and hope. They are not statistics, but bearers of Christ's image.

Even when peace feels distant, Christ calls us to be people of hope. As Pope Leo reminds us: "The peace of the risen Christ continues to pass through doors and barriers in the voices and faces of his witnesses."

Peace be with you!

Síocháin libh!

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, Confessions, : 6pm, Mass: 9:30 am & 7pm. *Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord*
Wednesday	Mass : 9.30am.
Thursday	Mass : 11.00am
Friday	Morning Prayer: 9.00am Mass: 9.30am
Saturday	Confession : 5.00pm – 5.20pm Vigil Mass: 5.30pm

MASS THIS SUNDAY

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2. 8-12

Psalm 147

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:1-18

DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently: Joe McClay and Tom McCabe. We also remember in prayer all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Grace Bowman, Teresea Strain and Molly O'Flatterty

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.

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!

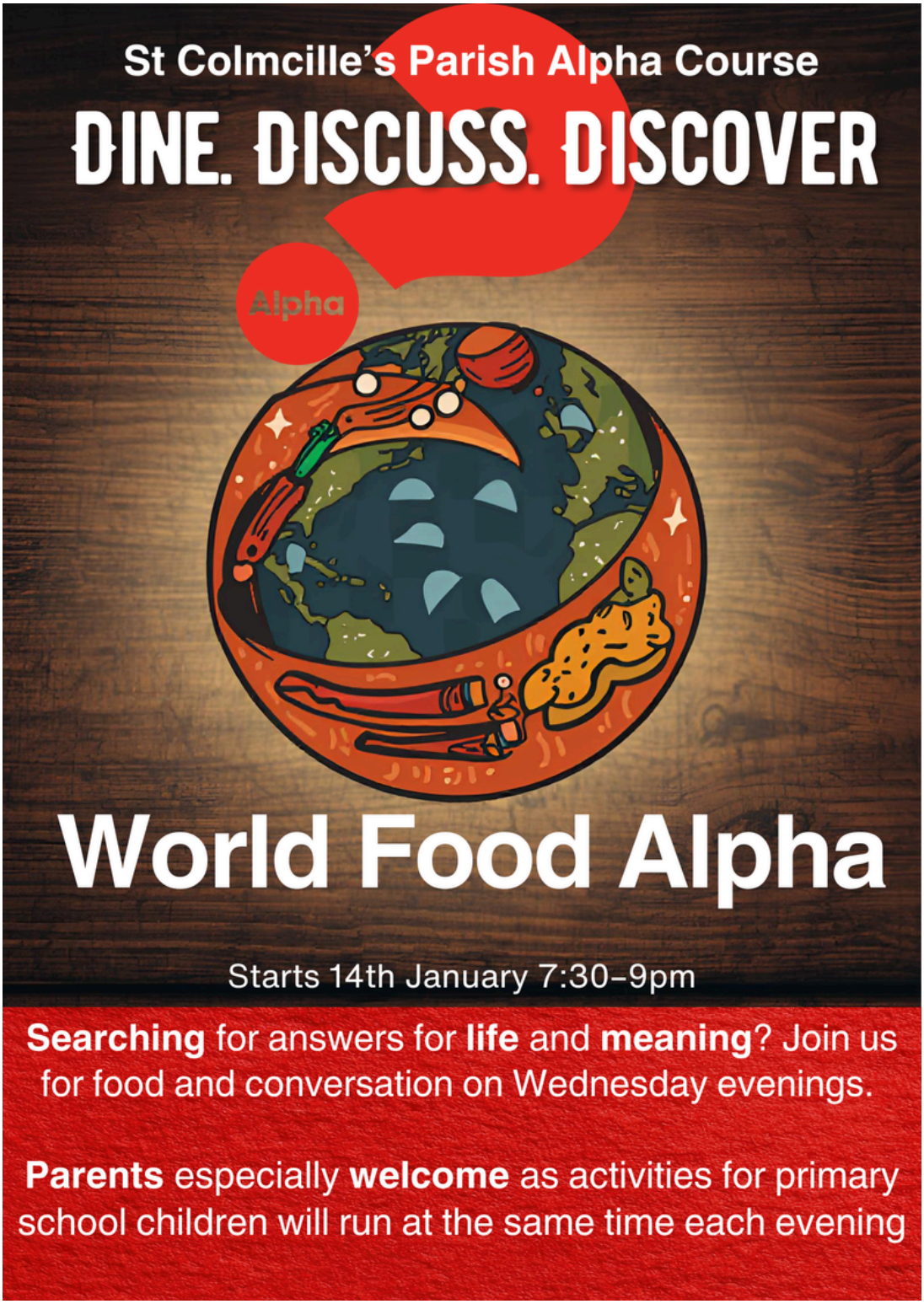
THE CLOSE OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Bishop Alan McGuckian will celebrate the Rite of the Closing of the Jubilee Year with Mass at 3.00pm in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast on Sunday 4th January 2026. He would like to invite as many as possible, from across the Diocese, to join him for the Mass and some refreshments afterwards in St Comgall's Centre. While the Jubilee Year of Hope will formally close, the task ahead will be to carry it's Message of Hope with us into the New Year 2026.



St Colmcille's Faith Formation/RCIA Course

The class will resume on **Thursday 8th** at 7pm in the Parish Hall. We will be beginning a series on the moral law. All are welcome!



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