8th February 2026

PARISH OF ST COLMCILLE

BALLYHACKAMORE

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A
Missal Pg 572



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

Last weekend, 120 parishioners gathered for our Hearts on Fire parish conference. The atmosphere was one of honesty, hope, and real openness to what the Holy Spirit is doing among us. What emerged was not a list of complaints or demands, but something far deeper: a shared desire for a parish that is alive, welcoming, and mission-focused. Again and again, people spoke about mission — a longing for our parish to look outward, not just inward; to be a place that invites, welcomes, and reaches those who may feel distant from faith or Church. There was a strong sense that being Catholic today means more than attendance; it means living our faith with courage, kindness, and generosity in everyday life. A second strong theme was belonging. Many spoke about the importance of hospitality, welcome, and community — that the Church should be a place where people belong before they fully understand or have everything "figured out." There was a real desire for St Colmcille's to feel like a family: across ages, cultures, backgrounds, and life situations.

We also heard clearly about shared responsibility. Parishioners expressed a readiness to step forward, to take ownership, and to play their part in the mission of the parish — not leaving everything to the priest, but recognising that through baptism we are all called to share in the life and work of the Church. There was hope too — genuine hope. Despite challenges, declining numbers, and the reality of change, the dominant tone was not fear but confidence: a belief that God is not finished with us, and that this moment can be one of renewal rather than decline.

Alongside this hope, people asked honest questions: What happens next? How do we keep momentum without burnout? How do we honour tradition while embracing renewal? How do we support young people, families, and the most vulnerable among us? These are good questions — and they are signs of a parish that cares deeply.

Be assured: the conversations and insights from Hearts on Fire will not be shelved or forgotten. They are already shaping how we move forward together, helping us focus on what truly matters and how we organise ourselves for mission. Thank you to everyone who took part, prayed, listened, and spoke honestly. And to those who could not be there: you are very much part of this journey. This is not about a day or an event — it is about becoming, together, the parish God is calling St Colmcille's to be. Come, Holy Spirit. Renew our hearts. Renew our parish!

St Colmcilles Parish, 191 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3JB
Parish Priest:
Fr Conor McGrath PP,
Fr Anthony Curran PE
Phone: 02890 654157
Website:
www.st-colmcilles.net
Email: stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org



THIS WEEK AT ST COLMCILLE'S

Sunday	Mass: 9.30am & 11.30am
Monday	Morning Prayer: 9.00am
Tuesday	Holy Hour, Confessions, : 6pm, Mass: 7pm.
Wednesday	Mass : 9.30am.
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 58:7-10

Psalm 111

The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

Second Reading: Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

DECEASED

We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently:

Daniel Zanker Ovvalle

We also remember in prayer all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Marian & Bridgeen Trainor, Kat Slack, James Tansey, William Kerr

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.

RCIA/Faith Formation Course

The course continues on Thursday 12th at 7pm in the parish hall, where we will be looking at commandments 7 & 10. All are welcome. Please email Ollie for more details.

Wednesday morning Scripture Course

After the 9:30am mass on Wednesday, there will be a short (20/30 min) video course on the book of Acts from the St Paul Center in the parish hall. Contact Ollie for more details.

DOWN and CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST
ST COLMCILLE'S PARISH
BELFAST
VACANCYS
PARISH SUPPORT OFFICER &
VOCATIONS SUPPORT OFFICER

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the recruitment of a Parish Support Officer & Vocations Support Officer to be based within St Colmcille's Parish, 191 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3JB.
Full details relating to the vacancy can be found on the Diocesan website at: http://www.downandconnor.org
Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Tuesday 10 February 2026

Money Matters

Weekly collection - £862.67
Standing Orders for Jan- £4362.96
Many thanks to all those who so generously donated.

Contactless card machine in church operates off line during whilst in the church. We aim to bring the machine over to the office once a week for internet access, only then will you donation will withdrawn from your bank account

Recharge

The young adult group "Recharge" will meet on the following dates in February in St Colmcille's Church. All 18-35 year olds welcome!
Dates for your diary for February:
Tuesday 17th February @7.30pm: Group Study course followed by social.







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