

DOWNPATRICK COMMUNITIES AREA
PARISH OF DOWNPATRICK
Sunday 29th March 2020

Emergency Mobile: 07841101678
Parish Office:
Tel: 02844612084

PARISH MASS TIMES:
St. Patrick's:

Sat: 10am, 5.30pm (Vigil)
Sun: 9am, 12 Noon,
Mon- Fri: Daily Mass at 9.30am
Mon, Wed & Fri, 7.30pm

Available via MCN Media and Facebook Live

Telephone Numbers:

Fr. J. Murray : 44612443
Fr. M. Henry : 44616224
Fr. L Toland: 44613430

Saint Vincent de Paul: 44616557

Parish Office:

Open Mon - Thurs 9.30am – 2:45pm

Priest on Duty: Mon & Tues 6.15pm – 7.15pm Tel: 44612084

St. Michael's Parish Centre:
07518436591

Hospital Switchboard
02844613311

Bethany Bereavement Group:

Is a Parish based voluntary ministry which aims to support the bereaved and those suffering loss of any kind. Many of the group have themselves been bereaved; they are trained to listen with compassion and understanding. A Bethany group member is available by calling 07407172174

Saint Vincent De Paul are here to help you in whatever way we can. Our members are there to listen and offer support to you at a time of difficulty. When we have a better understanding of the issues faced, we will consider how best we may be able to help. If you are looking for assistance or you just need someone to talk to in confidence. Please ring SVP Downpatrick on 02844613717 or 02844 616557 or fill out the form by clicking on this link. <https://www.svp.ie/get-help/request-help-online.aspx>

Your Prayers Are Requested For:

Recently Deceased: Deirdre Robinson, Maureen Hull, Anne McCoubrey, Myra Jackson (Nee Moore, formerly Stream Street)

Month's Mind: Veronica Bailie,

Anniv: Fr. Owen O'Kane, Fr. John McAteer, Fr. Charles Donnelly, Fr. Patrick McDowell, Henry Smyth, John Skeffington, Fergus Curran, Louis Grant, Margaret McGrady, Patrick Harrison, Phyllis Robinson, Charles McKeown, Francis McKeown, Angela Bardon, Angela & Emma McKee,
May They Rest In Peace

Mass Intentions:

St. Patrick's, Monday, 30th March, 7:30pm: Rory Walsh, Rose O'Toole, Alfie Reynolds,

St. Patrick's, Friday, 3rd April, 7:30pm: Tommy O'Hara, Brian McCabe, Joe Fisher, Michael English, Edna Kelly,

St. Patrick's, Saturday, 4th April, 5:30pm: Month's Mind: Brendan Burns

St. Patrick's, Monday 6th April, 7.30pm: Fr. Finbar Glavin, Malachy Gilchrist, Rory Hunt

All Masses are celebrated in St. Patrick's to allow us to reach our 'Virtual' Congregation. This will be the case until such time as we are permitted to celebrate Mass in public again.

RGU: winning Numbers 08, 09, 10, 16. No Jackpot Winner.

Three people share £100. Jackpot now £3,300.

Parish Baptisms: We welcome Nevaeh Longfield, Theodore Maguire and Joshua Wison into our parish. Six weeks' notice required for all Baptisms. Families booking a Baptism are required to attend one short evening session on Baptism in Patrick's Place, the date for your course is issued at the time of booking. Baptisms can be booked by contacting Mary at the Parish Office,

Parish Website, Facebook, Twitter and App: The Parish Website is available at www.parishofdownpatrick.com We regularly update the site. You can also find us on Facebook 'Downpatrick Parish' or by visiting your phone / iPads app store and downloading our App 'Downpatrick Parish'. Download the twitter App and follow the up to date news. Find us at 'parish of St. Patrick Downpatrick' <https://twitter.com/JohnMur95940145> They Are Free. You can also contact the parish by email at: downpatrick@downandconnor.org

Holyland Pilgrimage: Unfortunately, the current situation in relation to Covid 19 has meant that the Pilgrimage has been cancelled. We have been very lucky to have had the expertise of Damian our Tour Operator and guide who worked behind the scenes to ensure that all Pilgrims will receive a full refund of any money paid to date (except for travel insurance). As you will be aware, the Parish Office is currently closed, we are working to issue refunds for everyone over the next 10 Days. Thank You for your patience. We are very disappointed at having to cancel the pilgrimage, but look forward to a 2021 Pilgrimage.

Downpatrick Parish Draw:

In normal times, the first Parish Draw of 2020/2021 would have taken place. Originally, it was our feeling that the first draw should go ahead because we had publicly 'contracted' to do so. However, in light of the need for more stringent avoidance of personal contact and in light of the danger to our promoters and members, not only this month, but in future months during this crisis, it has been decided by the Parish to suspend the draw until this crisis is over. We hope everyone will understand the reasons for our decisions and agree with them. Promoters have been contacted by phone and should, by now, have contacted as many of their members as is possible by phone or email to relay this information.

We appreciate and thank all our promoters who have already made their returns for this month. We, as Priests of the Parish, hope all of you are keeping well and pray that God will see us through this terrible crisis in good health.

UPDATE ON RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES as of March 24th 2020:

In line with both the Government and Diocesan Directives, Weddings and ALL Baptisms have been cancelled with immediate effect. This situation will be reviewed regularly and updates posted via our Facebook and Website Pages. Please check these regularly for updates. The Priests will continue to offer daily Mass – in St. Patrick's only, this will be available via the Webcam at www.mcnmedia.tv

FUNERALS: Government - and diocesan guidelines have become stricter in the last few days. In the sad event of the death of a loved one, there will only be a service of committal at the cemetery. A priest of the parish WILL be in attendance. The undertakers locally are aware of these new directives. The deceased person will be remembered at the Mass celebrated online in St. Patrick's. When the current virus situation is over, the parish will celebrate a Mass for the deceased to which family and friends will be invited. Funerals are strictly private and restricted to the immediate family of the deceased only. In light of the advice to further restrict person to person contact, we strongly advise that there should be no wakes and that houses should be strictly private to the immediate family. Thank You for your understanding at this difficult time.

The Parish Office has closed from Tuesday 24th March and will remain closed until further notice.

Telephone lines are open from 9.15am until 2.45pm each day. If the phone is not answered, please leave a message and it will be dealt with as soon as possible.

There is an Emergency Mobile (Strictly for Emergency Calls only) 07841101678.

The Priests of the Parish will not be conducting any home or hospital visits and will be adhering to the Government Guidelines in so far as is possible – however, they are ALWAYS available in the event of an emergency.

Mass will continue to be celebrated (in private) and streamed where possible via webcams and social media. Join us for Mass via Downpatrick Parish Facebook page or via mcnmedia.tv

Please watch our social media sites for regular updates.

Insertions for the Bulletin: Please email insertions to downpatrick@downandconnor.org

Mass Intentions: Which had previously been booked for any of the other churches in the Parish, will now be celebrated in St. Patrick's. Month's Mind candles will be kept in the Parish Office and can be collected after the office re-opens.

ALONE: Has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulty relating to the outbreak of Covid 19 (Corona virus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open 7 days a week, 8am – 8pm. If you need advice or support, please call 0818222024

Look After Each Other: If you have an elderly or vulnerable neighbor on your street, consider dropping a note through their letter box with your name and telephone number on it – explaining that if they need help, or groceries, they can call you.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Social Distancing

AVOID

- Group gatherings
- Visits to bars/restaurants
- Sleep overs
- Playdates
- Visiting the elderly with children
- Crowded retail stores
- Gyms
- Visitors to the home
- Non essential workers in the home

USE CAUTION

- Visits to supermarkets
- Visit to pharmacy
- Visit to GP
- Traveling
- Check on friends and family safely
- Public transport

SAFE TO DO

- Go for a walk
- Jogging
- Working in the home
- DIY in and around the home
- Reading
- Going for a drive
- Video calls
- Phone calls

Just some of those who are vulnerable that these measures could help:

Patients who are elderly, history of lung illness, cancer patients, immune suppressed patients, immune compromised and those with varying underlying conditions.

Thank You: Fr. Murray on behalf of the Clergy and Staff of the Parish, offers his sincere thanks to all of those who have contacted the Parish Office to offer help and check in with the Clergy and Staff.

The clergy continue to offer Mass and pray for all of our Parishioners, their friends and families and all affected by the current situation.