

St Clare's Hall, What's on?– Monday Bootcamp with CM Fitness 6am – 7.20am, Table Tennis 6pm – 8pm, Pilates 7pm – 8pm, Bowls 8pm – 10pm **Tuesday** Brazier School of Dance 4.45PM – 7.45PM, Pickle Ball 8pm – 10pm **Wednesday** Bootcamp with CM Fitness 6am – 7.20am, Friendship Group 10.30am – 12.30pm, Yoga 5.45pm – 8pm, Bowls 8pm – 10pm (Matches) **Thursday** Pilates 10am – 11am, Judo 6pm – 7pm, Bingo 8pm – 9.30pm **Friday** Bootcamp with CM Fitness 6am – 7.20am, Mums & Tots 9.30am – 11.30am, Coffee Morning 10 – 11.30am **Monthly Events** Book club 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm – 9.30pm, Traditional night 1st Sunday 7pm – 9pm, Whist Last Friday 7pm – 9pm. Also available for private, community & business functions, including birthday parties, fund raisers and funeral's Contact 07517779334 or stclarehallbooking@hotmail.com

The Annual Charity Whist will be held on **Friday 29 December @ 7.30pm** in St. Clare's Hall.

St. Joseph's GAC: Lotto Results Thursday 21 December 2023. Winning Numbers; 9-12-14-16. Jackpot £3,000, 2nd Jackpot £500 No winners. 3 Number winners; Louise Mallon, David McBride, Lisa Devlin 3 Lucky Dips Cameron O'Neill, Karen McAllister, Robbie Connolly. Next Week's Jackpot is worth £3,000, 2nd Jackpot £550. The members of St Joseph's GAC thank you for your support.

St Joseph's GAC Annual Charity Quiz Friday 29 December 2023 @ 9pm (sharp) in Lily's. All welcome.

St Vincent de Paul St James's Conference (Aldergrove and Crumlin) would like to say a massive thank you to all our parishioners and the wider community who gave so generously to our Church Door/Blue Envelope and Tesco Collections on the weekend of 9 & 10 December. The Church Door/Blue Envelopes & Tesco collections raised £1556.61 & £1101.46. All of which will help those in need in our community this Christmas. Thankyou most sincerely to those of you who give continuously throughout the year.

Merry and Bright Bingo Night in aid of Kilimanjaro Water Project @ 8pm on 27 December 2023 in the Ballymac. Raffles and light bites. All welcome

Pioneers around the world are invited to attend Mass next Wednesday 27 December and to prayerfully mark the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Association in 1898. Mass & prayers will be live-streamed at 10am via www.pioneerassociation.org

St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School Open Nights – Transfer Pupils and their families are invited to attend on Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 January 2024 from 7pm – 9pm. Principal's address at 8.30pm. All enquiries Tel 02890 294000 or www.stmaryscbgs.com

St Louise's College. The Board of Governors, Principal, staff & students invite all P6 & P7 boys & girls to join them on their Open Night on Wednesday 10 January 2024. Principal's address @ 4.30pm & 6.30pm.

St Dominic' Grammar School Open Day Saturday 13 January 2024, 9am – 1pm. Principal's address 9.30am and 11am. Primary 6 and 7 pupils are welcome.

Rathmore Grammar School Open Day Saturday 20 January 2024 9.30am – 1pm, Principal's address 9.30am and 11.15am

Parish Bingo

IN ST CLARE'S COMMUNITY HALL

EVERY THURSDAY AT 8.00PM SHARP-9.30PM APPROX.

JACKPOT £1,000 IN 51 NUMBERS



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 24 DECEMBER 2023

Very Rev Canon Colm McBride PP: St Joseph's Presbytery, 59 Chapel Road, Glenavy, BT29 4LY 94459560 (If unavailable and in an emergency only, contact Fr Declan Mulligan P.P. Aghagallon 92651214)

Parish Office at St Joseph's Glenavy: Monday- Friday 10am - 3pm Secretary: Joan McShane **Tel: 94 422278**

Email: glenavy@downandconnor.org

Parish Website: glenavyandkilleadparish.com

www.facebook.com/glenavyandkilleadparish

A member of Lisburn Pastoral Community

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Mass times 24 & 25 December 2023

Mater Dei Christmas Eve Vigil 6.00pm & 8.00pm
Christmas Day 10.45am

St Joseph's Christmas Eve Vigil 6.00pm & 10.00pm
Christmas Day 9.30am

St James Christmas Day 9am

Liturgies in St Joseph's and Mater Dei will be live streamed on our church webcams.

www.churchservices.tv/stjosephglenavy or

www.chuchservices.tv/materdeicrumlin

***Canon Colm wishes all parishioners a very Holy, Happy,
Peaceful and Safe Christmas.***

25 December — 31 December Mass Intentions

	St Joseph's	Mater Dei	St James
Mon	9.30am Christmas Day	10.45am Christmas Day	Monday Adoration 7pm—8pm
Tue		10am St Stephen's Day	
Wed		9.30am No Mass	
Thurs	9.30am No Mass		Feumore Mass Centre
Fri	9.30am P.I.		Sun Adoration 6.30pm—7.30pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, Chaplet for Holy Souls & Rosary afterwards starts at 6.15pm
Sat		6.00pm George Brankin (Anniv) Cecilia Madden (Anniv)	Mon Adoration 11.00am—12.00pm
Sun	9.30am Rosetta & Donald Jordan (Anniv) Eileen Murray (Nee McCorry) 12.00pm P.P.	10.45am Rosaleen McClean (Anniv) Thomas Boyle & Christopher Boyle (Anniv)	

Recently Deceased Fr Clement Marshall, Jeremy Jackson
Anniversaries Gerry Kelly, George Brankin, Francis & Kathleen Brankin, Eileen Shephard, Mary McGarry, Pat McGrandles, Pat Madill, Seamus & Sally McGarry, Seamus McCullagh, Sarah Carmichael, Michael Lavery, Gerard Cormican, Jean Johnson, Daniel Johnson, John Johnson, John Donnelly, Margaret Sweeney, Kathleen Wilkinson, Rosaleen O'Brien, Bernard McCorry
Sanctuary Lamps Special Intention for Christmas for John & Roseleen Caldwell, Special Intention for Christmas for Hugh & Elizabeth Weldon
Parish Office will be closed from Monday 25 December & will reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024

Collections 17/12/23
 Weekly Offering: £3,235

Thank you for your generosity

Christmas Parish Draw 2023—24, Week 34
Winner £1,000 Mary McGarry (Ballyvannon)
Winner £500 Sean Mallon (Crumlin)
Winner £100 Colette Jordan (Crumlin)
Winner £50 Niamh Breen (Upper Ballinderry)
Congratulations to our winners

Christmas Message 2023



My dear brothers and sisters,

This Christmas, it is poignant to remember a pilgrimage I made earlier this year to the Holy Land. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, we visited the sacred sites of Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem, recalling and contemplating the birth of the Messiah, his Galilean ministry of healing and reconciliation, his passion, death and resurrection and his entrusting of his mission to his Apostles and disciples. Christmas celebrates how God became one like us, entered into our human history, and lived in the reality of our human experience. He walked the paths of our world so that we might share in the reality of his divine nature.

It is very moving to kneel at the site of his birth within the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, reflecting on the precarious circumstances in which the Christ-child was born. Jesus knew the never-ending reality of how conflict, violence and war threaten, endanger and overshadow our beautiful world. Despite – or perhaps because of – our highly developed technologies the world continues to be a precarious place for children to be born. This Christmas, many families will live in the rubble of destruction, or in the chill of destitution and homelessness. So many families carry the grief and loss of loved ones who have died. As we kneel in prayer before the crib this Christmas, we are accompanied by our brothers and sisters who continue to suffer throughout this world. We ask God to listen to the cries of his children.

It was into this reality that God entered and where Emmanuel, God with us, continues to be present. The Christmas message of hope and joy is to be found in this abiding presence of God precisely in the reality of our lives, in spite of this reality of pain and suffering. This Christmas, we are all called to walk in the footsteps of Christ, to carry on his mission and ministry of reconciliation and healing, not only in the Holy Land of his birth but in the holiness of our daily lives.

This year, we also marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. The difficult and challenging path of reconciliation and peacebuilding is ongoing. Addressing the trauma and pain of the past needs to continue. Across this land children of a new season of peace will celebrate Christmas with expectation, hope and the light of a new future- but tinged with the clouds of violence and uncertainty. We owe it to these children of the season of peace to continue the journey together towards reconciliation, learning to live, work and govern together.

As we approach Christmas, I commend all of those who have engaged with the diocesan consultation as part of the *Pathways to the Future* initiative. In recent months, significant numbers have attended the regional information sessions to voice their expectations, hopes and concerns as the diocese continues to reflect together on how to meet the future sacramental and pastoral needs of all parishioners and of our wider community. This diocesan consultation will continue into the new year with ongoing reflection at the parish and vicariate level to enable the Diocese to discern the most effective way for families of parishes to work together.

May God bestow his blessing upon all of you this Christmas and into the new year, as you continue to walk in the footsteps of Christ and to be missionaries of his peace in the world.

Donal McKeown

+Donal McKeown
 Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Down and Connor

Making your offering to the church Parishioners are encouraged to make donations to the parish either by using the parish envelopes or by means of bank transfer. It is of great benefit to the parish when we can record donations so that gift aid can be claimed, if applicable. If you would like to donate using envelopes, please contact the parish office. Alternatively, if you are able, you are encouraged to make a monthly offering to the Church by means of a Bank Transfer to: Parish of Glenavy and Killead Sort Code 98 04 60. Account 10654677. The relevant forms are available at the back of the Churches. Both forms need to be completed with one sent to your Bank and the other to the parish office. If you have any queries, please contact in confidence the parish secretary or Canon McBride.

Web Camera's Mater Dei Church and St Joseph's are both equipped with web-cameras. All Liturgies are broadcast. The cameras are live 24/7 and are focused on the Sanctuaries and first three seats at the front of each Church. To access the broadcasts, go to: www.churchservices.tv/stjosephglenavy or www.churchservices.tv/materdeicrumlin. The web-cams enable us to attend Mass, however they do not allow us to receive the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. When possible, we should attend Mass in the Church whenever our circumstances permit in order to receive Holy Communion.

Glenavy and Killead Baptism Preparation The Parish Baptism preparation team are seeking volunteers to help with the delivery of this programme. Baptism preparation is important for new parents and godparents to gain an understanding of the sacrament, the rite of Baptism and their undertaking on behalf of their child at the start of their relationship with God. The programme is one-hour session provided twice per month, remotely via Zoom and will require you to have computer and internet access from home. Training and support will be available. If you are interested in participating, please contact the Parish Office and leave your contact details. Thank you.

Parish Groups—Volunteers Required New members are welcomed/ needed for the following Parish Groups; Gardening Team, Altar Society, St Vincent De Paul (St Joseph's Glenavy and St James, Crumlin Conference), Housekeeping, Adoration, Ministers of the Word, Folk Group, Children's Liturgy and SPRED. Your participation is essential to ensure that these groups can continue within our Parish. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office email at glenavy@downandconnor.org, Tel 028 9442 2278, or contact the Sacristan's.

Family Care Adoption Services is an Adoption Agency, There are currently more children waiting to be adopted in Northern Ireland than families approved to adopt and there is an urgent need for new families to come forward. To find out more about adoption, contact us! Tel 02890 691133, www.familycareadoption.com or email email@familycareadoption.org.

Sanctuary lamp intentions: A Sanctuary Lamp burns for a week in each of our **CCTV Camera's** Please be aware that St Joseph's Church and graveyard and Mater Dei Church and grounds are monitored by CCTV.

Queen's University Catholic Chaplaincy – Alumni and Friends Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St Paul Departing Dublin on **7 February 2024**, pilgrimage to **Greece and Malta** over **10 days**, following in the footsteps of St Paul. **For more information & how to book, email Chaplaincy Director, Shannon Campbell, at catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk**

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible includes 8 weekly sessions. The programme requires one hour of study per week. Venue: **Online via zoom**. Beginning **Wednesday 17 January @7pm online for 8 weeks**. The program will conclude with a Retreat Day on **Saturday 23 March 2024 @ Holy Rosary Parish Centre, Belfast**. Facilitators: Fr Paul Byrne & Aishling Steen. The cost of the program is £30 To book your place click on the registration link: <https://forms.office.com/e/HTLtfTXUaD>* **Places are limited. Booking early is advised.** *

Funeral Lay Ministry We are recruiting for a small number of Parishioners to take the lead in Funeral Lay Ministry. The successful applicants will undergo training. The role will involve, in the future delivering prayers at the home of the deceased and at the graveside or crematorium, as and when required. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in this most important Ministry.

Saint Vincent De Paul—Crumlin Conference (St James) Emergency helpline 07754427088. Donations can be made via the Crumlin SVP conference bank account. Account number 41965035, sort code 980460. **St Joseph Glenavy Conference** Emergency helpline 07784955647. Donation can be made to our bank account, Sort Code 98-04-60. Account Number 41966009. Your support is very much appreciated as we support those most vulnerable in these challenging times in your local community.

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament Can you spare 1 hour for your church. Please contact the parish office to leave your name and telephone number.

Enrolment of the Pope John Paul II Award Group . If you are aged 16/17, year 13/14 and are interested in joining JPPII, please contact Brenda Gallagher on 07928979292.

two churches. If you would like to dedicate a lamp for a loved one or a special intention please contact the Parish Office. There is a suggested offering of £5.

Down and Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima 2024 Spiritual Directors Fr G McCloskey, Fr M Graham, Canon S Gilmore 20 Aug 2024. 7 Nights £799 per person sharing (£100 off per person if paid in full by 8th December 2023) direct return flights from Dublin to Lisbon afternoon flights. 20KG bags included. Return airport transfers in Fatima. 7 Nights Hotel Avenida. Full board: breakfast, lunch & dinner each day. Guided tour of the Sanctuary & Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary. Optional: Travel Insurance & Single Supplement. For further information please contact: Joe Catney 07776 425 631/02890714001.