

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 stclareshallbooking@hotmail.com **This month's Whist** in St. Clare's community hall will be on **Friday 23 February @ 7.30pm**. Scorecards are £5 (including refreshments) everyone welcome.

St. Joseph's GAC: Lotto Results Thursday 15 February 2024. Winning Numbers; 6-11-12-22. Jackpot £3,000, 2nd Jackpot £900 No Jackpot winners. 3 Number winners Charles Gallagher, Joanne Brazier, B Boyle. 3 Lucky Dips Louise Mallon, Francis Hardy, Kellie Loughan. Next Week's Jackpot is worth £3,000. 2nd Jackpot £950 The members of St. Joseph's GAC thank you for your support.

Loughshore Reflexology Reduces tension, induces deep relaxation, and reverse the effect of stress. Suitable for exam students, work related stress, expectant mothers, and fertility service available. Contact Martine on 07718 160687.

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN NAROOON HOUSE, ALDERGROVE Hiring now for **April 2024 start, 1 ROLE** – every other Saturday 5pm-10pm (5hrs) and Sunday 8am-5pm (8.5hrs), Rate £11.50 per hr. Over 18yrs only. All training provided. Contact **Mary** – Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm on **028944 52204**.

DIOCESAN VOCATION WEEKEND Have you ever considered the possibility that God is calling you to the priesthood? If so, take this opportunity to gather with other men who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. This retreat will create the time and space to help you discern God's calling in your life. The retreat will take place in Drumalis Retreat Centre, from Friday 8 - Sunday 10 March 2024. If you wish to attend this retreat or would like further information contact:

Fr Conor McGrath, c.mcgrath@downandconnor.org or 02890654157.

Notice: Lenten Pledge Many people choose to abstain from alcohol during the season of Lent. You can do likewise. Please consider taking the short-term Pioneer Lenten pledge and say the prayer daily. *"I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink during Lent."*

Down & Connor Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 10 – 15/17 July. 5 & 7 Night options available. Please visit www.downandconnor.org/lourdes for more information or call the Pilgrimage Office on (028) 9077 0162 or email lourdes@downandconnor.org Youth Team (10-17 July): applications now open.

Cancer Fund for Children. New Irish Arts Orchestra & Chamber Choir in Concert for an uplifting and joyful evening in Lagan Valley Island on 22 March 2024 @ 7.30pm, tickets £15 p.p., with all proceeds in aid of Mayoral Charity, Cancer Fund for Children. Tickets can be purchased www.laganvalleyisland.co.uk/event/New-Irish-Arts-in-Concert or by calling 028 9244 7744

Parish Bingo

IN ST CLARE'S COMMUNITY HALL

EVERY THURSDAY AT 8.00PM SHARP-9.30PM APPROX.

JACKPOT £1,000 IN 51 NUMBERS



First Sunday of Lent 18 February 2024

Very Rev Canon Colm McBride PP: St Joseph's Presbytery, 59 Chapel Road, Glenavy, BT29 4LY Tel: 94 422278 (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

Lent

Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom – Pope Francis, 2024

Lent is a forty day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It commemorates the forty days which, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent fasting in the desert before beginning His public ministry where He endured temptation. In Lent, through prayer, penance, acts of charity and self-denial, we are called to renew our Christian life in preparation for Easter.

Irish Catholic Bishops Conference

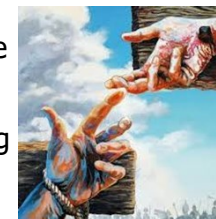
What my Lent does for others

Every Lent is a new beginning; sometimes beginnings are welcomed, other times half and half! We welcome Lent as a time to make our faith fresh, but we know from other Lents that it's hard to keep going, and it's for a long time! We might ask ourselves what Lent is really for.

The focus of Lent is not on what we give up but on what we are given. We focus our minds on the self-giving love of Jesus which we will celebrate in Holy Week. We allow ourselves to believe in this love. Often, it's difficult to believe in the tender love of God. This conquers all else in the world; it is given in the mercy and compassion of God.

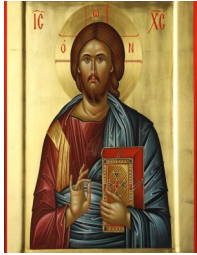
Lent pours the grace of forgiveness into our world, needed individually and as a people. We need to know that God is bigger than any of our sins, wars, violence, and hatred. God wants his kingdom to come now. Lent is our time of saying 'yes' to a partnership with God in saving the world from the effects of evil and sin.

Maybe we can ask what our Lent does for others than just what we are doing for Lent. It is a time of renewal, then it shows in love, forgiveness, and care of others in our lives.



CatholicIreland.net

19 February – 25 February Mass Intentions

	St Joseph's	Mater Dei	St James
Mon	9.30am Communion Service		Monday Adoration 7pm—8pm
Tue		7.00pm In Honour of The Holy Face of Jesus Overnight Adoration Rosary at 6.30pm Divine Mercy Chaplet 7.30pm Adoration 7.30pm—8.30pm	
Wed		9.30am Holy Souls Adoration 10am—12pm	
Thurs	9.30am Margaret O'Boyle (Anniv) Adoration 7pm—9pm		
Fri	9.30am P.I.		
Sat		6.00pm John & Molly Brankin (Anniv)	
Sun	9.30am P.P. 12.00pm Michael Maguire (1st Anniv)	10.45am Stephen Muldoon (1st Anniv)	Feumore Mass Centre Sun Adoration 6.30pm—7.30pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, Chaplet for Holy Souls & Rosary afterwards starts at 6.15pm Mon Adoration 11.00am—12.00pm

Recently Deceased Damian Ayre (*Hartswood*)

Anniversaries Margaret O'Boyle, Selina Crossan, Samuel Crossan, Sean Hacket, May Lenaghan, Jim Lenaghan, Rita McCorry, Michael Loney, James McGarrell, Geraldine Cornican, Willie Lewsley, Betty Mulholland, Pat Nelson, Elizabeth Murphy, Ellen McCann, Molly McCann, Bridie McGarry, Thomas McGarrell, Eddie Heatley

Sanctuary Lamps Sammy & Eileen Heatley, Special Intention

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament Can you spare 1 hour from 11am—12pm on a Wednesday in Mater Dei church. Please contact the parish office to leave your name and telephone number.

The Legion of Mary is currently visiting homes in the parish promoting devotion of the Divine Mercy.

Trócaire Lenten campaign 2024 The Trócaire boxes are located in the porch of the Churches.

Collections 11/02/24

Weekly Offering: £2,543

Thank you for your generosity

Parish Draw 2023—24, Week 42

Winner £100 Mary Moore (Glenavy)

Winner £50 Joe Shephard (Glenavy)

Congratulations to our winners

Parish Telephone Please be aware that there is now one telephone number to contact the parish office and Canon McBride, which is 028 9442 2278. When you ring this number there will be a recorded message with 2 choices **press 1 for the parish office** or **2 to speak to Canon McBride**. There is still the facility to leave a voice message and you will receive a return call as soon as possible.

Glenavy and Killead Lenten Programme 2024 What are you doing for Lent?

This year why not travel with Jesus as he enters into his Passion? **'No Greater Love'** is a Lenten programme, based around a series of short films shot on location in the Holy Land. Over 5 weeks we are given the opportunity to walk step-by-step with Jesus through the scriptures from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. The short films are presented by Edward Sri who leads us on a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. At each session there will be the opportunity to pray and talk together as members of our Parish Family. There are 5 sessions – one for each week of Lent before we enter into Holy Week. **Mater Dei Parochial House, taking place each Wednesday morning during Lent after 9.30am Mass. Tea & Coffee, cake and buns served on arrival.** **'No Greater Love'** is an opportunity to prepare our minds and hearts as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. ***"The Resurrection is the greatest message history has ever heard!" Pope Francis***

Altar Servers. At the beginning of a new year, we wish to recruit additional Altar Servers to assist at weekend Masses in the parish. This ministry is open to boys and girls in Primary 5, 6, 7. Boys serve Mass in Mater Dei at 6.00pm on Saturday evenings or 9.30am in St Joseph's on Sunday mornings. Girls serve on Sundays at 10.45am in Mater Dei or 12.00 noon in St Joseph's. If interested, please leave your contact details with Parish Office.

Ministers of The Eucharist New members are needed for this very important Ministry in both our churches, but particularly in St Joseph's. If you are interested in becoming a Minister of The Eucharist, please contact the Parish office as soon as possible by Tel 028 9442 2278 or email glenavy@downandconnor.org

YOU ARE INVITED TO OVERNIGHT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

to pray for peace in our hearts, our families and our world. Commencing at 7pm on Tuesday 20 February with Mass in Honour of the Holy Face of Our Lord Jesus Christ and concluding Noon Wednesday, 21 February in Mater Dei, Church, Crumlin, there will be rosary reflections and prayer throughout the night. All welcome—come along for an hour and bring a friend..

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE The Permanent Deacon responds to the call of Jesus and his Church in three specific ways: through the ministry of Charity, the ministry of the Word and the ministry of the Altar with a particular focus on the ministry of charity. The Diocese invites expressions of interest from men, (married or single), who feel called to the Diaconate. Further relevant information can be found on the Diocesan website <https://www.downandconnor.org/living-church/diaconate/> It is proposed to hold 3 information evenings in St Patrick's Downpatrick All Saints Ballymena and St Brigid's Belfast on 7th 12th & 20 March. This will provide an opportunity to meet Permanent Deacons and their wives and discover more about this vocation. It is hoped to commence a propaedeutic year of discernment in September 2024. Expressions of Interest forms will be issued by email to those who have responded to this announcement and the formal application and interview process will commence, with a view to completion in June 2024.

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@familycareadoption.org.

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.

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.

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.

CCTV Camera's Please be aware that St Joseph's Church and graveyard and Mater Dei Church and grounds are monitored by CCTV.

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. There have been a few volunteers, but ideally a few more are needed before the training is arranged. If you are interested in this most important Ministry please contact the Parish Office by Tel 028 9442 2278 or email glenavy@downandconnor.org

Accord (NI) Let us help you support your Marriage & Relationship If you feel your marriage or relationship is in crisis or need a little guidance and feel that you both could benefit from Marriage & Relationship Counselling, either face to face or online, contact your local Centre. Every year we help thousands of couples rebuild and sustain healthy relationships. Call us on 02890 233002 for all N. Ireland center's: N. Ireland Regional Office, Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Derry, Enniskillen, Maghera, Newry & Omagh info@accordni.com or www.accordni.com

CRUMLIN YOUTH FOR CHRIST CYFC is a Christian, non-denominational organisation, which seeks to engage with young people in their local community. They wish to help young people in their relationship with Christ and each other. They do this through engaging with youth on the street in the evenings in Crumlin. Inviting them to a drop-in-centre and simply have a chat over games, sport, or general craic. They also run a summer scheme each year and our parish has supported them through providing accommodation and meals for the organisers. CYFC does not seek to recruit for any specific Church but rather to encourage the young people to re-engage with the Church of their Baptism. CYFC would like to recruit local adults to advise and guide them in this valuable work. If you would be willing to help or would like more information, please leave your contact details with the parish office.

Sanctuary lamp intentions: A Sanctuary Lamp burns for a week in each of our 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.

Copyright and Music Licensing Presentations covering Copyright and Music Licensing will be held at the following venues from 7.30pm until 9pm. **All Saints' Parish & Community Centre, Ballymena 27 February. Patrick's Place, Downpatrick 5 March.** The presentations are relevant to choir directors, choir members, cantors, psalmists, parish musicians parish contemporary music groups, those who maintain parish websites are welcome. .