

**Downpatrick Family of Parishes
Parishes of Saul & Ballee and Kilclief**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sunday 15th March 2026**

Mass Schedule for the coming week:

Date	St Patrick's Saul	Stella Maris Strangford	St Joseph's Ballycruttle	St Malachy's Kilclief	St Tassach's Carlin
Sunday 15 th March	9.30am		12noon	11am	
Monday 16 th March	10am	7.30pm			
Tuesday 17 th March	10am				
Wednesday 18 th Mar	10am	7.30pm			
Thursday 19 th March					
Friday 20 th March	7pm			9.30am	
Saturday 21 st March	5pm	6.30pm			
Sunday 22 nd March	9.30am			11am	12noon

Masses are available to view online at www.saulandballeeparish.com and www.churchmedia.tv

During Lent there will be an additional Mass in Stella Maris Church each Wednesday at 7.30pm. There will be Stations of the Cross before Mass from 7pm. There will be Stations of the Cross in St Patrick's, Saul on Friday before Mass from 6.30pm

Our Lady of Knock Novena each Monday evening in Stella Maris, Strangford at 7.10pm

**Please note – Tuesday 17th March
There will be no Eucharistic Adoration in St Patrick's Church, Saul
The Parish office will be closed**

Please Note – We ask that NO DOGS be brought onto Church property. We have received a number of complaints about dogs fouling on graves.

The Sanctuary Lamp in St Patrick's Church, Saul has been lit for private intentions. If you would like it lit for your intentions please contact the Parish office. The cost is £5 per week.



We congratulate the children from St Joseph's PS, Strangford who received their First Penance on Tuesday.

Recently Deceased: Margaret Fitzsimons

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Anniversary Masses

Saturday 14th March – Maureen Fitzsimons, Maureen Brennan, Rita & Willie Rice
Monday 16th March – Agnes & Hugh McCorry Snr, Kathleen & David Wiles
Tuesday 17th March – Gerry Ward
Friday 20th March – Josie Fay
Saturday 21st March – Jamie Hynds, Josephine McCann, Dessie Savage, Savage Family, Sean Feenan
Sunday 22nd March – John & Patricia Campbell
Monday 23rd March – Una McConn
Tuesday 24th March – Alan & Christopher Gordon

Parish of Kilclief

Anniversary Masses

Sunday 8th March – Kathleen Bennett, Jimmy Curran, Natasha McMullan
Sunday 15th March – Francis & Willie Magee
Sunday 22nd March – Sheila Fitzsimons, Neil Rooney

	Saul & Ballee	Kilclief
Weekly Collection	£1,216.30	£1,011.75

A second collection will be taken up this weekend for Needy Parishes. This collection was established to help “financially needy” Parishes. There are several Parishes in the Diocese that have accumulated debt and are financially stretched. It is hoped many of these Parishes, with the aid of this fund, will be able to return to a positive financial position.

There will be a collection taken up on St Patrick’s Day for Migrants

As we approach St Patrick’s Day, we remember and pray for all Irish people overseas – those who have recently emigrated and those who left our shores many years ago. There are few families in the country who do not have a loved one living overseas or that have not experienced emigration at some point. Many continue to struggle abroad with the loneliness of missing family and friends at home. And there are those people and families who have travelled to this country to begin new lives in Ireland, whether to escape war or persecution or in search of a better life. The vast majority of them are making vital contributions to the economy of this island across a range of sectors. We pray that they receive the same welcome that we would wish for our own emigrants far from home.

Hymns for Lent – St Malachy’s, Kilclief

Entrance: 145 v 1 – God forgave my sin
Communion: 40 v 1 & 3 – As the deer pants

Offertory: 183 v 1 – I am the Bread of Life
Recessional: 79 v 1 – Colours of day

Hymns for March - St Patrick’s, Saul

Entrance: Cead Mile Failte
557 - O the love of my Lord

192 – Christ Be Beside Me
308 - Hail Glorious St Patrick

Parish of Saul & Ballee 300 Club

We are pleased to announce the draw will continue for another year with the first draw in May. This draw will cover both April and May.

If you wish to renew your membership please speak to your promotor or contact the Parish office as soon as possible.

If you are not a member and would like to join please contact the Parish office for details.

Membership remains at £60 for the year.

Monthly prizes of £250 and £100, with special additional prizes at Christmas and the final draw.

Saint Patrick's Dawn Prayer Gatherings - Christians from all denominations will gather at Saint Patrick's grave in Downpatrick at 5:45 am, 17th March, to pray The Our Father/ Lord's Prayer, one hundred times for peace and unity in Christ. Everyone welcome. Please spread the word and consider organising a Saint Patrick's Dawn Prayer Gathering in your own area - For a straightforward guide contact legacyofsaintpatrick@gmail.com

Parish of Kilclief

St Malachy's PS, Kilclief and St Joseph's PS, Strangford

You will be aware of the process both schools are now going through. The Department of Education's figures for a "viable" school at present is 105. This process is all about cut-backs. One of the local schools will be closing next year.

Despite what some might say, I was not sent here to close a school, I have never went through this before. I am just here as this process is taking place.

The current work in St Joseph's, Strangford has nothing to do with the present process – it was passed in 2017 and is just being done now.

I have no more say than anyone else.

The consultation document will be available on both schools websites from 11th March 2026. We, as 2 Boards of Governors, would encourage you to read the document and its rationale, and if you have any comments or suggestions please put in your response ***before 1st May 2026***.

The pupils and staff in both schools are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this unsettling time.

Parish of Saul & Ballee – Our grounds maintenance team were on site this week for the first grass cut. Unfortunately parts of the cemeteries and grounds are still too wet to be cut due to the unprecedented weather we have had. Hopefully in the coming weeks the ground will have dried up enough for them to safely cut.

Collection envelopes – Saul & Ballee

These are now available to collect from St Patrick's Church.

If you do not have a box of envelopes and would like to get one please contact the Parish office.

You can also pay via standing order. Please contact the Parish office for further details.

Are you a UK tax payer? If so, have you signed a Gift Aid Declaration? These can be picked up from the Parish office and allow us to reclaim 25% of your contribution (for envelope and SO payees only) from HMRC. If you contribute £5 per week, which is £260 per year, we can claim back £65 at no extra cost to you. This makes your contribution worth £325 to us.

A Life of Adoration, Prayer, Intercession for the World Vocation - Discernment weekends on 20th-22nd March and 17th-19th April for single women aged 18-35. Please contact Sr Mairead OP on 00353 41 9838524 or email sienavoc@gmail.com Further information available on their website at www.dominicannuns.ie

Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony

Our Lady of Good Counsel Presidium, Downpatrick would like to invite our auxiliary members to join us at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Newcastle for our annual Acies Ceremony on Sunday 22nd March at 3pm. This will be followed by light refreshments and a chance to meet other Legionnaires. All welcome. For further information please contact Geraldine on 07845422723

Lay Bereavement Ministry Team

This ministry provides an ongoing compassionate outreach to parishioners supporting them through the grieving process. A lay bereavement minister after completing the training can offer the following support:

1. Pre-arranged visits to the bereaved family (accompanied by another bereavement minister.)
2. Telephone support
3. Group meetings and drop-in meetings in parish or community centres
4. Supporting the Months Mind Mass
5. Supporting the November Mass of Remembrance
6. Being the compassionate face of the parish

Full training will be provided over 6 sessions in April and May.

If you would like further details and an application form please contact the Parish office.

Sacrament Dates

First Confession

St Patrick's PS, Saul – Wednesday 25th March at 11am

First Holy Communion

St Patrick's PS, Saul – Saturday 9th May at 11am

St Malachy's PS, Kilclief – Saturday 16th May at 10.30am

St Joseph's PS, Strangford – Saturday 6th June at 11am

Confirmation

St Patrick's, Saul – Tuesday 19th May at 3pm

St Joseph's & St Malachy's PS – Friday 8th May at 11am in St Malachy's Church

We ask you all to pray for the children as they prepare for their Sacraments

Down & Connor Lourdes Pilgrimage 9th to 14th July (5nts) or 8th to 15th July (7nts) staying in Hotel Accueil Notre Dame from £899 pps.

Down & Connor Lourdes Pilgrimage Youth Team 8th to 15th July costing £810. Open to 17-24 year olds (at time of travel). Applications close on Friday 7th March at 5pm, limited places available.

Further details available on the posters displayed in the Churches

SAFEGUARDING - If you have a concern, suspicion, or wish to make an allegation of child abuse, or abuse in relation to an adult at risk, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Office: Philip O'Hara, Designated Liaison Person, 120, Cliftonville Road, Belfast BT14 6LA. Mobile: 07534 992124 or Telephone: 028 90 492798. Email: philip.ohara@soddc.org or visit <https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com>

Very Rev Fr Aidan Brankin, Parish Priest 02844 612525 (Saul) or 02844 260101 (Strangford)

Saul Office: 02844 612525, Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9.30am to 12noon 10 St Patrick's Rd, Downpatrick, BT30 7JG

Kilclief Office: 02844260101 Office Hours: Monday 1pm to 3pm 8 Shore Rd, Strangford, BT30 7NL

Website: www.saulandballeeparish.com

Email: saul@downandconnor.org strangfordandkilclief@downandconnor.org