Downpatrick Family of Parishes

Parishes of Saul & Ballee and Kilclief

Weekly Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday 29th November 2026

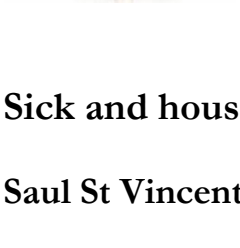
Mass Schedule for the coming week

Date	St Patrick's, Saul	Stella Maris, Strangford	St Joseph's, Ballycruttle	St Malachy's, Kilclief	St Tassach's, Carlin
Sunday 29th November	9.30am			11am	
Monday 30th November	10am	7.30pm			
Tuesday 1st December	10am				
Weds 2nd December	10am				
Thursday 3rd December					
Friday 4th December	7pm			9.30am	
Saturday 5th December	5pm	6.30pm			
Sunday 6th December	9.30am		12noon	11am	

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

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

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.



Eucharistic Adoration in St Patrick's Church, Saul
Over the winter months, Eucharistic Adoration will be held in St Patrick's Church Saul from 10.00am to 3.30pm. There will also be evening Adoration each Tuesday from 7.00pm to 8.00pm to facilitate those who are working. Eucharistic Adoration is an opportunity for everyone to respond to Jesus words to his disciples "Could you not watch with Me one hour".

Sick and housebound parishioners will be attended this coming week

Saul St Vincent de Paul meeting on Monday 30th November at 7pm in the Parochial house

Christmas Cards are now available to purchase from the Parish office priced at £2 each

Do you have a wedding booked in the Parish next year? Can you please make contact with the Parish office to ensure your date has been transferred to the 2027 diary and to confirm your contact details are still as first recorded.

Bulletin notices must reach the Parish Office no later than 12 Noon on Wednesdays. Insertions can be emailed to saul@downandconnor.org or strangfordandkilclief@downandconnor.org .

THE INTERNAL GLASS DOORS IN ST PATRICK'S CHURCH HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND RE-INSTALLED. THESE DOORS ARE ON RUNNERS AND SLIDE RIGHT AND LEFT. PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO PULL THE DOORS OPEN. THANK YOU.

Recently Deceased: Bernadette Leathem

Parish of Saul & Ballee

Months Mind Mass Mary Burns on Saturday 5th December at 5pm

Anniversary Masses
Saturday 28th November – Brian Connolly, Ita Denvir
Sunday 29th November – Gerard Newton, John McMullan
Friday 4th December – Ann Rice
Saturday 5th December – Katy Duffy, Peter McKenny, Geraldine Hannity
Sunday 6th December – Patrick Burns (9.30am), Fergus Artt, Rita Galloway (12noon)
Saturday 12th December – Tom, Minnie, Tommy & Barney Magee, Brian McLaughlin, Joce Leung-Soon

Parish of Kilclief

Months Mind Mass Lorna Duffy on Monday 14th December at 7.30pm

Anniversary Masses
Sunday 29th November – Thomas & Martha Fitzsimons
Saturday 5th December – Peter & Nancy Reilly
Monday 7th December – Vincent Fitzsimons
Sunday 13th December – Josie & Bridget Curran

	Saul	Kilclief
Weekly Collection	£1,225.80	£925.18
We thank those who have contributed, your support is much appreciated in these difficult times	Please make cheques payable to "Parish of Saul & Ballee"	Please make cheques payable to "Parish of Kilclief"

Hymns - St Patrick's, Saul
Entrance: Awake from your slumber – 154
Offertory: Jesus took the bread
Communion: How lovely on the mountains – 346
Recessional: O come, o come, Emmanuel - 503

Hymns – St Malachy's, Kilclief
Entrance: Sing to the mountains – 373 v1
Offertory: Eat this bread - 110
Communion: O the love of my Lord – 323 v1, 2 & 3
Recessional: Go, the Mass is ended – 142 v2

The Parishioners of our Family of Parishes are gathering to pray
Each Sunday during Advent the Parishes will host Evening Prayer at 6pm

1st Sunday of Advent (29th November) – St Patrick's, Legamaddy

2nd Sunday of Advent (6th December) – St Nicholas', Ardglass (webcam www.dunsfordandardglassparish.com)

3rd Sunday of Advent (13th December) – St Patrick's, Saul (webcam www.saulandballeeparish.com

4th Sunday of Advent (20th December) – St Patrick's, Downpatrick (webcam www.stpatricksdownpatrick.com)

Parish of Saul & Ballee Christmas Fair & Cake Sale

Saturday 12th December (after 5pm Mass) & Sunday 13th December (after 9.30am Mass)
in the meeting rooms, Parochial house, Saul.

Cake stall, Tombola, Handmade Christmas Craft items, Handmade Wreaths.
There will be a small raffle which will be drawn at the end of the fair on Sunday 13th December. Raffle tickets can be purchased from the Parish office from Monday 30th November priced at £1.00 each.
All proceeds from the fair and raffle will go towards heating our Churches over the winter months.
Everyone welcome!!
Please note this is cash only – unfortunately there are no facilities for card payment.
We need donations of small value, new/unused items for our tombola.
We will also need donations of cakes/buns/traybakes/biscuits etc to sell on our cake stall.

If you can spare a couple of hours to help set up, help out on one of the stalls or help tidy up afterwards please contact the Parish office.
If we do not get volunteers to help with the fair it cannot go ahead.

Fountain Foodbank Advent Appeal

Once again this Christmas, Fountain Foodbank is asking for your support and generosity for those in need in our community.

On each of the coming four weekends of Advent you are asked to please consider bringing an item or items of ***NON-PERISHABLE*** food for use in food parcels to be distributed before Christmas to those in need in our parish and wider local community.

Items of non-perishable food that are sought include tins of beans, soup, tuna, fruit, spaghetti, ham, corned beef, meals/pies, peas, carrots, sweetcorn and cooking sauces.
In addition, boxes of cereal, teabags, coffee as well as packets of biscuits, pasta and rice are very welcome. Toiletries and cleaning products are also sought by the Foodbank.

All donations, no matter how small, make a difference to those in food poverty.

Throughout Advent a large, marked donation box will be available in Strangford and Kilclief churches. Donations from Saul & Ballee can be left in the Church or the Parish office (during office hours). Thank you in advance for your support and generosity!

Stella Maris St Vincent de Paul annual Christmas Lunch

If you are of pension age and live in the Parish of Strangford and Kilclief, you are invited to the St Vincent de Paul annual Christmas lunch scheduled for Tuesday 8th December in the Cuan at 3pm.
Numbers are limited so if you wish to attend please register your interest as soon as possible or at least by Monday 30th November. To book your place please ring Mary on 07709869448. If you have any dietary requirements please give details when booking. Book now to avoid disappointment as once the number limit is reached, bookings will close!

Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre - A Sacred space in the heart of County Down

Upcoming Events

Christmas Fair – Sunday 29th November from 1pm to 5pm. Free entry to the Fair and free parking. Santa will also be there, £5 per person. Enjoy vendor stalls, gift ideas, refreshments.

Advent Retreat Visio Divina from 4th to 6th December with Pascal Somers and John Thornhill

From Darkness to Light Retreat Day on Saturday 12th December with Conor Quinn CP. An Advent retreat focused on the journey "From darkness to light" is a profound way to step out of the seasonal rush and enter a space of quiet preparation. Advent is uniquely structured around this tension – the winter solstice brings the literal darkest days of the year, while the weekly lighting of the Advent wreath symbolises the gradual, unstoppable arrival of Christ, the Light of the World. This retreat costs £30 per person. Please contact secretary@tobarmhuire.com or phone 02844 830242 to book a place.

St Malachy's Primary School, Kilclief – Upcoming events

Little Learners on Monday 30th November from 10.30am to 12noon in School hall. Tea, coffee, social and play. Everyone welcome.

Open Evening on Tuesday 1st December from 4pm-6pm and Open Morning on Thursday 7th January from 9am to 11am. We look forward to welcoming prospective P1-P7 pupils and their families. Or by appointment tel: 02844 881477 or email the School Principal amcmullan293@c2ken.net Learners today, leaders tomorrow.

Christmas Fair & Santa's Grotto on Thursday 3rd December from 6pm-8pm. Visit Santa in his grotto £5 per child, hotdogs, mulled wine, mince pies, hot chocolate, crepes, tea, coffee, freshly baked goods. Everyone welcome.

Saul Community Pre-School Open Night on Monday 30th November from 7pm to 8pm. Come and see our Pre-School, explore our learning space, meet our friendly team, learn about our program. Everyone welcome.

St Patrick's PS Saul warmly invites children and their families to our Primary 1 Open Night on Wednesday 2nd December from 6:15–7:30pm. It's a chance to visit the school, meet our staff and get a feel for the welcoming community at St Patrick's. Please feel free to share with any families who may be interested.

St Joseph's Primary School, Strangford Open Night on Thursday 10th December from 6.30pm to 8pm.Everyone welcome. "A school at the heart of the community, community at the heart of the school". Tel 02844 881615

The Journey to Bethlehem - Join us at Holy Family Church, Belfast, on Saturday 5th December for a special Advent morning retreat, led by Fr Columba Mary Toman OP. As we journey through Advent, take some time away to pause, pray and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Beginning at 10.00 am, the morning will include Holy Mass, an opportunity for Confession, time for prayer, and a talk on preparing our hearts for Christmas. A light brunch will also be provided. The retreat will conclude at 1.00 pm. Everyone is warmly welcome! Come and take time to deepen your faith and prepare spiritually for the joy of Christmas.

Medjugorje - What better way to bring in the New Year and begin 2027 than Mass in St James Church, Medjugorje. New Year trip 27th December to 3rd January. For details contact Éadaoin 07706288095.

"Following Jesus in faith
is to walk with Him in the
communion of the Church.
You cannot follow Jesus alone."
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

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