

**The Glenavy Branch of the Apostolic Work** are holding their Annual Spring Sale on Sunday 30 March in St Clare's Community Hall after 9.30am & 12pm Masses. Usual stalls – Baked goods, Ballot, Brica Bra, Tombola etc. Tea & coffee available. A Church door collection for Apostolic Work will be taken up at all the Masses in the parish on Saturday & Sunday that weekend. Come along and support the Missions. Gift Aid envelopes are available at both churches. Please complete all details required on the envelopes. Many thanks for your support by Gift Aid.

**Do the right thing** IMB members are unpaid public appointees, appointed by ministers to provide independent oversight of what happens in places of detention. For more information <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/news/board-opportunity-independent-monitoring-board-seeking-members>

**Thank you from St Patrick's Academy** A huge thank you to Canon McBride and all the parishioners who so generously supported our Shamrock Sale. We raised an astonishing £577. We really appreciate all your wonderful help in fundraising for our bike shelter.

**GH Tyres and Auto Services:** 40a Glenavy Road, Crumlin. Punctures repairs, Wheel Balancing, Wheel Alignment, Batteries, General Service and repairs Tel: 0289 4423 113.

**We are Hiring in August 2025 at Naron House,** Private Residential Care Home in Aldergrove & we would like to hear from anyone interested in a Care Assistant position. **Position 1** - 22hrs a fortnight, completed in 1 week. Thurs 5pm – 10pm (5hrs), Sat 8am – 5pm (8.5 hrs) & Sun 8am – 5pm (8.5hrs). **Position 2,** 15hrs each fortnight, Thurs 5pm – 10pm (5hrs), Fri 5pm – 10pm (5hrs) & Sun 5pm – 10pm (5hrs). Hours for each position are completed in one week (1 week on duty - 1 week off duty). No experience necessary, full training provided. Applicants must be 18 years+. Hourly rate £12.50. For more information or an application form call Mary 02894 452204.

**St. Joseph's GAC:** Lotto Results **Thursday 20 March** Winning Numbers; 5-7-10-13. Jackpot £3,750 - No Jackpot winner. 2 Lucky Dip Winners £25 each, Damien Mulholland, Ann Burnett. Next Week's Jackpot is worth £3,800. The members of St. Joseph's GAC thank you for your support.

**The Living Spirit** God allows us to be buffeted day by day by events and people. There are frustrations, misunderstandings, or we can just feel the effects of overwork and tiredness. Perhaps the trials of faith can be most burdensome of all. Sometimes it just seems that God is very remote and that can be a very great burden. We learn as life goes on to adjust to many of these situations. We learn to take for ourselves the advice which we know we would give to others. We learn to cope with our problems and become less vulnerable to the pinpricks of daily living. We should, however, go further than this, and see in all moments of suffering moments of growth and advance in our hidden life with Christ. We come to recognise the time of trial as a golden moment, and we can come to delight in these humiliations, the insults and hardships, the persecutions, the times of difficulty we undergo for God. We should practise when the moments of trial come, the art of accepting wholeheartedly and sincerely, the cross which God has lain upon our shoulders.

Basil Hume (The Tablet – Mar 2025)



## **Third Sunday of Lent** **23 March 2025**

**Very Rev Canon Colm McBride PP:** St Joseph's Presbytery, 59 Chapel Road, Glenavy, BT29 4LY Tel: 94 422278  
**Parish Office at St Joseph's Glenavy:** Monday- Friday 10am - 3pm Secretary: Joan McShane Tel: 94 422278  
Email: [glenavy@downandconnor.org](mailto:glenavy@downandconnor.org)  
Parish Website: [glenavyandkilleadparish.com](http://glenavyandkilleadparish.com)  
[www.facebook.com/glenavyandkilleadparish](http://www.facebook.com/glenavyandkilleadparish)  
**A member of Lisburn Pastoral Community**

### **God of the Second Chance: Consider The fig tree**

This seems a rather strange story about Galileans being killed by Pilate. They were no greater sinners than others, but people thought they were being punished by God. Jesus asks us to repent but does not punish the sinner. Repent is the word of Lent - and followed by the invitation to believe the good news of the gospel.

A fig tree had three years to get good. It is a precious tree because it uses little water. This one has not produced its fruit. Is God the one to get rid of the tree or the one to give it another chance? God is the God of the *second chance all the time*.

He never gives up on his love! We may need to give God another chance. We know we get angry at times. People find that many good things can happen even in bad times. Let's have that faith and pray for it. God gives us chance after chance in our lives, as He wants our faith in him to grow.

We ask also that we now give the Church another chance. So, this is a day of more chances, that life never folds up. We need to return more and more to the gospel and the goodness of so many people, which will lead us in our Church communities to Christ. We do not belittle some terrible things that happened, nor lessen our care for those abused, but ask to take a deeper step to the God who is the one giving and asking us for another chance!

*Renew us O Lord, in love, in hope and in joy, in your care for us.*

**CatholicIreland.net**



## 24 March — 30 March Mass Intentions

	St Joseph's	Mater Dei	
Mon	9.30am Communion Service		<b>St James</b> <b>Monday</b> Adoration 7pm—8pm 
Tue		7pm Paul Condie (1st Anniv) Rosary at 6.30pm Divine Mercy Chaplet 7.30pm Adoration 7.30—8.30pm	
Wed		9.30am Patrick McMenamin (Anniv) Adoration 10am—12pm	
Thurs	9.30am Pope Francis Adoration 7pm—9pm		<b>Feumore Mass Centre</b>  Sun Adoration 6.30pm—7.30pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, Chaplet for Holy Souls & Rosary afterwards starts at 6.15pm Mon Adoration 11am—12pm
Fri	9.30am P.I.		
Sat	11am Baptisms	5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation 6.00pm Agnes Creaney (Anniv) Jim Slowey (Anniv)	
Sun	9.30am P.P. 12.00pm Jimmy Magee (Anniv) Rita McCorry (Anniv)	10.45am John Kelly (Anniv) Isaac Mulholland (Anniv)	

**Anniversaries** Rosemary Savage (1st), Paul Condie (1st) Agnes Creaney, May Nelson, Dan McGarry, Willie Morgan, Sheila Murtagh, Elizabeth McCullough, Grace Meharg, Ita Hyland, Patrick McMenamin, James Doone, John Doone, Joseph Doone, John Heatley, Patricia Devereux, Dominic Clenaghan, Margaret Donnelly, Margaret McGarry, John Murphy, Andrew Murphy, Annie Bacon, James & Maria McGivern, Margaret McGarrell  
**Sanctuary Lamps** Eleanor Henry & John Henry, G, F, J, J

### Collection 16/03/25

Weekly Offering: £3,167  
 Needy Parishes: £981

**Thank you for your generosity**

### Parish Draw 2024-25 (Week 46)

Winner £100 Helen McCusker (Glenavy)  
 Winner £50 Ailish Cormican (Upper Ballinderry)

**Congratulations to our winners!**

## Parish Bingo

**IN ST CLARE'S COMMUNITY HALL**  
**EVERY THURSDAY AT 8.00PM SHARP-9.30PM APPROX.**  
**JACKPOT £1,000 IN 50 NUMBERS**

**Prayer Tree for Lent** The Prayer Tree in the Sanctuary of the Church provides us with an opportunity to compose our own personal Intentions/petitions which are then hung on the 'tree'. These will be remembered in prayers and Masses throughout Lent. When you add your intention/petition to the tree, pray also for others and their intentions.

The cards on which you can write your intention/petition are available beside the tree or on the table at the back of the Church. When you have completed the card you then hang it on the tree in the Sanctuary.

**Like a tree planted in the house of the Lord, I trust in the goodness of God forever. (Psalm 52)**

**The Garment of Suffering** As a symbol of unresolved pain or suffering in your life, such as bereavement, illness, broken relationships, sexual difficulties, addiction, mental health or other, you are invited to leave a piece of cloth of any colour or fabric type in the basket in the sanctuary of the Church at any time during the Lenten season up to and including Palm Sunday. The piece of cloth should be approximately 10 inches, square. During Holy Week these pieces of cloth will be sown together to make the Garment of Suffering which will be placed before the Cross on Good Friday as an expression of our desire to share in Jesus' suffering so that we may find healing and share in his Resurrection and new life even now.

**Pilgrims of Hope - 24 Hours for the Lord** A key moment in this Jubilee Year 2025 is the celebration of "24 hours for the Lord". This is an initiative of Pope Francis who writes, "special care should be taken to prepare priests and faithful to celebrate the sacrament of Confession and to make it readily available in its individual form" (*SVC 5*). In Down and Connor "24 Hours for the Lord" will be celebrated on Saturday, 29 March, in three centres: **St Mary's Church, Belfast, from 11am - 5.30pm;** **All Saints Church, Ballymena, from 12 noon - 5.30pm;** **St Patrick's, Church Downpatrick. 10.30am - 4pm.**

**This months Whist** is on Friday 28th March in St Clare's hall at 7.30pm. Scorecards £5 everyone welcome

**Drumalis Retreat & Conference Centre in Larne.** "A Pilgrimage of Hope" is the theme of this year's Holy Week Retreat from 17-20 April, Led by a joint team from Drumalis & Belfast Jesuit Centre, residential or non-residential basis. For further information & to book contact Drumalis 028 28276455/28272196 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5 pm ), <http://www.drumalis.co.uk> or [drumalis@btconnect.com](mailto:drumalis@btconnect.com)

**Eucharistic Adoration** Calling ALL ADORERS of the Blessed Sacrament in DOWN & CONNOR DIOCESE National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock Sun 6 April (weekend of 5th Sunday of Lent) Full Bus details on [www.eucharisticadoration.ie](http://www.eucharisticadoration.ie)

**Quiz Night!** Gather your friends; bring your own beverages and snacks; and join us for our Quiz night at St Clare's Hall on Friday 11th April. Doors open at 7.30pm and the Quiz will start promptly at 8pm. Come along for your chance to win ballot prizes and a cash prize for our winning team. Book a table [ballymacrickettfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:ballymacrickettfundraising@gmail.com) or send a message to our Facebook/Instagram pages.

**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](http://www.churchservices.tv/stjosephglenavy) or [www.churchservices.tv/materdeicrumlin](http://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.

**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.. There is a separate account for the Parish Draw.

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

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

**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.

**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. The new weekly envelopes are available at the back of the churches, if you would like to donate using envelopes and don't already do so, 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 the parish secretary or Canon McBride in confidence. Please note that there is a separate account number for the Parish Draw and this should not be used when making a weekly donation.

**Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre, Larne. The Passion Story: "A Work of Infinite Love"** (Sat 12 April, 9:30am - 4 pm) A Day of Prayer and Reflection with Fr Aidan Troy CP. To book a place(s) or for further details, please contact Drumalis during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm) – email [drumalis@btconnect.com](mailto:drumalis@btconnect.com) or 028 28276455/28272196. For more information : <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

**The Legion of Mary is back in the parish.** We meet on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Annex of St Joseph's church, Glenavy for further info call or text 07581292226 (Emma). Join us.

**Down & Connor Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025:** Celebrating the Jubilee Year and our 40th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage: 9/10 – 15/16 July. 7 Night s. Please visit [www.downandconnor.org/lourdes](http://www.downandconnor.org/lourdes) for more information or call the Pilgrimage Office on (028) 9077 0162 or email [lourdes@downandconnor.org](mailto:lourdes@downandconnor.org) Youth Team (9-16th July): applications now open (see website for details).

**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's Glenavy Conference SVP** 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 your local community.

**A Blessed statue of Our Lady of Fatima** is available through The Legion of Mary to any sick parishioner for one week. If you would like to avail of the statue, please contact **the** parish office.

**'Sing for Joy!' - A Day of Music & Ministry Are you involved, or keen to become involved in Church Music in your Parish, School, University ?** We invite you to join us for **'Sing for Joy!'**. Saturday 26 April 25 at Lough Derg. This day is open to young people aged 18-35 & is free to attend (supported by the Knights of St Columbanus). Registration <https://bit.ly/SingforJoy> . For Further information [info@knightsofstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk](mailto:info@knightsofstcolumbanusomagh.co.uk) or +447759496677.

**Action for children** There is a desperate shortage of foster carers across the UK. For more information in becoming a foster carer please see <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/fostering/why-choose-us/faith-in-fostering/>  
**Lenten Challenge & Invitation** Pope Francis has invited us this Lent to "journey in hope together". A short-term pledge is available via [www.pioneerassociation.org](http://www.pioneerassociation.org) for parishioners who wish to become a "pilgrim of hope" for people who are living under the shadow of addiction.

**Sensory Friendly Mass** at St Colmcille's Church, Ballyhackamore, Belfast, on **Saturday 29 March at 10am** For enquiries or interest in attending contact [n.dunn@downandconnor.org](mailto:n.dunn@downandconnor.org)

**St. Ignatian Spiritual Exercises for Men** Fri 2 – Mon 5 May (bank holiday) in An Tobar Retreat Centre, Ardbraccan Navan, C15 T884. Cost €190 - includes all meals & en-suite single rooms. Call 087 - 348 2148 or [iveireland@ive.org](mailto:iveireland@ive.org)

**Deacons** Those who are discerning a vocation to the permanent diaconate are encouraged to make contact with the Diocesan Director for the Permanent Diaconate, Rev Brett Lockhart on [b.lockhart@downandconnor.org](mailto:b.lockhart@downandconnor.org)