

Saint Vincent De Paul Heartfelt thanks from SVP to all our parishioners who gave so generously to their Annual Christmas Appeal last weekend 13 & 14 December 2025. St James' Conference, Aldergrove and Crumlin raised £601.51. St Joseph's Conference, Glenavy raised £2595.00. The Tesco Collection on 6 December was £1258.39. All proceeds will be spent helping those experiencing poverty in our community. Thank you also for your support throughout the year to our Red Box Church Door Collection. **Trocaire Gifts of Change** help some of the poorest people in the world to work their way out of poverty. There are 23 gifts to choose from starting at £5 for the Gift of Soap for families in war-torn South Sudan. All the gifts are real items, sourced in-country which go to families in need of our support. For further information go to <https://www.trocaire.org/gifts>.

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

St. Joseph's GAC: Lotto Results **Thursday 11 December** Winning Numbers; 3-5-7-15. Jackpot £5,650 - No Jackpot winner. 2 Lucky Dip Winners £25 each, Sean Frazer & Mary Burnett. Next Week's Jackpot is £5,700. The members of St. Joseph's GAC thank you for your support.

Christmas Charity Whist on Sunday 28 December @ 7pm, in the Gate Inn, in aid of Action Cancer, the chosen charity of the Lady Mayor for LCCC (the Lady Mayor will be participating on the night). Scorecards are £10 & supper will be provided by the Gate Inn. All money lifted will go to the charity. All welcome.

Kilimanjaro Water Project - Quiz night on Saturday 27 December 2025 in the Ballymac, 8pm until late. Raffles and light bites. All for a good cause. Everyone welcome.

Youth Alpha Course, Wednesday's: 7 & 21 January 2026, 4 & 18 February. St Joseph's Annex. All 16 - 20-year-olds welcome for Fun, Friendship and Food, while exploring the love of God.

St. Colm's High School Dunmurry. Open Night Thursday 8 January at 7pm. P6 & P7 pupils and parents most welcome. Enquiries for Post 16 courses welcome.

St Dominic's Grammar School Open Day Saturday 10 January 2026, 9am—1pm. Principal's Address at 9.30 am and 11.30am. Primary 6 & 7 pupils welcome.

St Malachy's College Belfast will be holding Open Nights on Wednesday 14 & Thursday 15 January 2026 from 7 – 9.30pm, Principal's address @8pm.

St Patrick's Academy, Ballinderry Road, Lisburn BT28 1TD, Telephone: 028 92664877, www.stpatsni.co.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Night on Thursday 15 January 2026, 6.30 – 8.30pm, Principal's address at 6.30pm.

Rathmore Grammar School Open Day Saturday 17 January 2026, 9.30am 1pm. Principal's Address at 9.30am and 11.15am

PARISH BINGO

There will be no Bingo on Thursday 25 December 2025.

Bingo will return on Thursday 8 January 2026



Fourth Sunday of Advent

21 December 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
Parish Website: glenavyandkilleadparish.com
www.facebook.com/glenavyandkilleadparish
A member of Lisburn Pastoral Community

Advent Penitential Service

St Joseph's Church, Glenavy on Monday 22 December 2025 @ 7pm

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ Mass times 24 & 25 December 2025

St Joseph's Christmas Eve Vigil 6pm & 10pm
Christmas Day 9.30am

St James Christmas Eve 6pm
Christmas Day 9am & 10.45am

Liturgies in St Joseph's will be live streamed on our church webcam.
www.churchmedia.tv.

The Call to Joseph

In religious terms we would call Joseph '*a faithful type of guy*', observant in religious thought and practice. The visit from the angel tests his faithfulness to **God** and to **Mary**. He doesn't let them down. He was called to be the *care* of **Jesus** and **Mary** and to find a new openness to the mystery of **God**.

A temptation of religion is to tie things down too much. The law in Joseph's time was strict - if a woman was pregnant the man would cancel the betrothal, and she might be stoned to death! Joseph went beyond law to love and the mystery of **God's** call. Good religion is open to the mystery of life, however life challenges us and calls us. Some of the most open-minded people I have met have been very religious, and some of the most narrow-minded people have also been religious! Like good and bad medicine, there is good and bad in religion.

True religion is open to mystery. We need a church lit with the light of **God**, as Joseph was. His burden was lifted when he was open to **God**, to take **Mary** home as his wife, no matter what others might think. This is the annunciation to Joseph - the word of **God** from the angel to Joseph in a dream. It opened him to a huge new meaning in life. We accept this word as a central part of our lives, and the next time we meet the word, it will be made flesh.

CatholicIreland.net

22– 28 December Mass Intentions

	St.Joseph's	St.James	
Mon	9.30am Communion Service 7pm Penitential Service		St James Monday Adoration 7pm—8pm  Feumore Mass Centre Sun Adoration 6.30pm—7.30pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, Chaplet for Holy Souls & Rosary afterwards starts at 6.15pm Mon Adoration 11am—12pm
Tue	7pm Cathal Clenaghan (Anniv) James & Anna Patton (Anniv) Divine Mercy Chaplet 7.30pm		
Wed	Christmas Eve 9.30am Margaret Kane (1st Anniv) 6pm Mass 10pm Mass	Christmas Eve 6pm Mass	
Thurs	The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ 9.30am Mass	The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ 9am Mass 10.45am Mass	
Fri	St Stephen's Day 10am Mass		
Sat	6.00pm Colette Burke (Anniv) Joseph & Mark Hendron (Anniv)		
Sun	9.30am George Brankin (Anniv) Dearbhla Harbison (Anniv) 12.00pm Samuel Nelson (Anniv) Donald & Rosetta Jordan (Anniv)	10.45am P.P.	

Months Mind Patricia Comican

Anniversaries Margaret Kane (1st), Hugh Brankin, Elizabeth Fleeton, Kathleen Brankin, Bridget Loney, Hugh Faloon, James & Heloise Mulholland, Cathal Clenaghan, George Brankin (Snr), Patrick McLornan, Cissie Brazier, Eileen Shephard, Pat Madill, Rosaleen O'Brien, Ena White.

Sanctuary Lamps John & Roseleen Caldwell, Elizabeth & Hugh Weldon

Collection 14/12/25

Weekly Offering: £2,967

Thank you for your generosity

Parish Draw 2025-26 (Week 33)

Winner £100 Margaret Belshaw (Crumlin)

Winner £50 Gabriel Brankin (Upper Ballinderry)

Congratulations to our winners!

Parish Office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day & St Stephen's Day.

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

The Close of The Jubilee Year 2025 – Bishop Alan McGuckian will celebrate **the Rite of the Closing of the Jubilee Year with Mass at 3pm in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast on Sunday 4 January 2026.** He would like to invite as many as possible, from across the Diocese, to join him for the Mass and some refreshments afterwards in St Comgall's Centre. While the Jubilee Year of Hope will formally close, the task ahead will be to carry its Message of Hope with us into the New Year 2026.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

The Annual Parish Christmas Whist Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Whist, £600 was raised towards Parish Funds.

Music at St Joseph's Those who attend Sunday 12 noon Mass in St Joseph's will be aware that following her marriage and move to live in Co Down we have lost our musician and leader of our Choir. There is now an urgent need to recruit a replacement. If you or someone you know would be interested in this position please contact Canon Mc Bride as soon as possible.

Liturgical 'Sign of Peace' The Sign of Peace remains an integral part of the celebration of the Eucharist and has been reintroduced as a normal practice across the Diocese. The customary expression of the Sign of Peace in Ireland is a handshake. However, other non-contact forms of the sign of peace such as a nod, a bow or a smile are also legitimate expressions of the Sign of Peace. No offence should be taken if someone prefers to express a non-contact Sign of Peace. The Diocese encourages all to continue to exercise good hygienic practices, particularly over the Christmas season, and if you exhibit flu-like symptoms, you are encouraged to remain at home.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Saturday Vigil Mass. Due to the dark evenings and for safety reasons, and until Mater Dei Church reopens, the Saturday night Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 6pm in St Joseph's Church, Chapel Road, Glenavy.

Church Webcam The parish has changed provider. The church webcam for live stream of Masses can be accessed via the Parish Website (as normal), or on your laptop/ mobile phone/ tablet using Google Chrome in the browser. Type in www.churchmedia.tv. Once in the site select **Antrim** and search for **St Joseph's, Glenavy** and the church will appear. Click on the play button to view live stream.