

SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Pastoral Community of Downpatrick Parish of Dunsford & Ardglass

Father Gerard McCloskey PP. Tel: 02844841208

*Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.*

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Parish website address: [www.dunsfordandardglassparish.com](http://www.dunsfordandardglassparish.com)

**WEEKLY COLLECTION:** We acknowledge with grateful thanks last week's Offertory Promise Collection which came to £508.00 Loose plate £576.00, Building Collection £244.00 Loose plate £192.00 Direct Debits £110.00.

**MASS THIS WEEK:**

<b>ARDGLASS</b>	<b>5.00pm Vigil, Saturday</b> <b>11.30am Sunday</b> 10.00am Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 8.00pm Wednesday, Cenacle
<b>DUNSFORD</b>	<b>10.00am Sunday</b> 10.00am Thursday, Novena Mass

**CONFESSIONS:** 4.30 - 4.55pm Saturday, Ardglass (or upon request)

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** DAMIAN GILCHRIST

**ADORATION:** ARDGLASS TUESDAY 11am to 11pm,  
DUNSFORD THURSDAY 11am to 11pm.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Very Rev Canon Patrick McGarry, Edward Curran, James Maxwell, Elizabeth Branney, Norman Howland, William McEvoy, Patrick Smyth, Albert Sealey, Dominic Kearney, Elizabeth Fitzsimons, Paul OWENS, Patrick Connor, Ursula Larkin, Gearldine Laverty, Marie Bell, Ambrose Reid, Bernard Lennon, Michael McKinney, Philip Fitzsimons, Patsy Burke, Charles Mulhall, Annie Mullen, James Hamill.

**ANNIVERSARY MASS BOOKINGS:** The best way to make these is in person in either Sacristy after any of the Masses. Please do not phone the parish to make bookings as we can't deal with them by phone. If you send a letter, please be patient and please include your phone number.

If you want it done and dusted quickly go to the sacristy after Mass.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Baptisms are on first Sunday of every Month in Ardglass, the third Sunday of the month in Dunsford. For further details, please phone the parish on Monday morning.

**GRANDPARENTS:** Grandparents meet the First Sunday of the month at 7pm in the room at the back of the Chapel in Ardglass.

## **‘Baptised and Sent’ Lenten Pastoral Letter from Bishop Alan McGuckian**

Bishop McGuckian’s new letter focuses on the significance of our Baptismal Identity, Co-Responsibility and Shared Leadership, and Catechesis in preparation for the renewal of Baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil. Our Parish Pastoral Council will be reflecting on his words in their meetings during Lent and encourage all parishioners to do the same as we publish it in stages over the next 5 weeks:

### **The Season of Lent as a Journey in Renewing our Sense of Baptismal Identity**

When Angelo Roncalli was elected Pope John XXIII in 1958, someone congratulated him: "This is surely the greatest day of your life!" His response was immediate. Nothing in his life, he said, could equal the day his parents carried him as a baby to be baptised in the village church of *Sotto il Monte*. That is how it is with all of us. Our baptism makes each of us a child of God—a reality so exalted we "scarce can take it in." The season of Lent invites us to rediscover this truth. Over forty days, the Church asks us to remember who we are as God's children and how we can live out this identity. We do this as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil. Pope John XXIII never forgot what baptism meant. He called the Second Vatican Council to help the whole Church remember that we, the baptised, are the People of God. It recognised the laity as co-responsible with clergy in Christ's mission. It opened the liturgy as an encounter with God for all the baptised. Roncalli's legacy remains this: the beauty of our baptismal calling. As part of the Synodal Pathway of the Irish church, we are asked to reclaim the power and importance of our baptism. After much listening in recent years, our synodal pathway has identified seven priorities to be considered in light of our baptism. During this Lenten season, we will explore the first three priorities together, preparing our hearts for Easter. When we gather at Easter to renew our baptismal promises, I pray that all of us, throughout the diocese, will do so with hearts on fire. The world needs our witness. It needs each one of us to live out the call of our Baptism. Our Christian witness — lived authentically and joyfully — is the gift the world is waiting for. (More next week)

## **Our Come Follow me team are looking for Helpers**

**“Go therefore and make disciples ...” Matthew 28:19.** Are you being called to serve? Can you give a few hours each week to help our young people? Please join our parish catechists – no experience necessary. **For more information please contact Meave Gilchrist, Chair, PPC, 07742820018**

**Dromantine Summer Camp:** Registration for Dromantine Summer Camp for young people aged 11-17 **opens on Saturday 28th February** on our website: [www.dromantinesummercamp.co.uk](http://www.dromantinesummercamp.co.uk). Leadership applications for young people aged 17+ are now open on our website. For more information, follow us on social media.

**Eucharistic Healing Retreat in Knock Shrine**, led by gifted Croatian Priest, Fr Rozo Palić Saturday & Sunday March 7th & 8th. Venue: St. John's Welcome Centre; Saturday 10:00 am - 6:30 pm & Sunday 10:00 am - 4:30 pm. He will be supported by his Croatian Music Ministry team; no prior booking required; everyone is most welcome and please bring a packed lunch. For further enquires please contact, Patricia on 089 9466193 or Fiona on [fionatjennings@yahoo.com](mailto:fionatjennings@yahoo.com).