

SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Pastoral Community of Downpatrick

Father Gerard McCloskey PP.

Parish of Dunsford & Ardglass

Tel: 02844841208

*My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.*

E- mail [office@dunsfordandardglassparish.com](mailto:office@dunsfordandardglassparish.com)

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

**WEEKLEY COLLECTION:** We acknowledge with grateful thanks last week's Offertory Promise Collection which came to £837.00 Loose plate £499.00, Monthly Collection £707.00 Loose plate £183.00, Direct Debits £110.00.

**MASSES**

**ARDGLASS**

5.00pm Vigil Saturday

11.30am Sunday.

10.00am Monday & Wednesday

7.30pm Tuesday, Novena Mass to Saint Carlo Acutis,  
Including blessing with his relic.

**DUNSFORD**

10.00am Sunday.

10.00am Thursday, Novena Mass

**CONFESSIONS:**

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

**ADORATION:**

ARDGLASS TUESDAY 11am to 11pm,

DUNSFORD THURSDAY 11am to 11pm.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** DAMIAN GILCHRIST, GERALDINE DUDDY

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Rosaleen Bryce, Mary McQuoid, Francis Kearney, Malachy Venny, Dermot Hennessey, Marguerite Murray, Noel Wilkinson, Betty Burke, Mary Irvine, Rita Rice, Mary McAlea, Anne Ross, Cyrena Kearney, Frank Smyth, James Sharvin, Mary Milligan, Sarah Fitzsimons, Ben Smyth.

**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 cannot 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 between 10am and 12pm

## **'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**

Through our Baptism we are Children of God. When we know to whom we belong, we understand who we truly are. We belong to God. We are loved by God. God has given us the great gift of the Church, a community of believers that will care for us and support us in being a disciple of Jesus. Belonging to the Church is about our contribution to the community of believers.

People might think about belonging to the parish as simply where they go to get Sunday Mass. For many of my generation, going to Mass became routine rather than relational. We attended faithfully each Sunday—an injection of grace, like filling the tank at a petrol station or doing the weekly shop. The spirituality was sincere: we valued the Mass and wanted to receive its graces. But it was individualistic. We preferred quiet Masses where we could participate with minimal interruption from other people.

I say this somewhat provocatively, but there is a serious point. If going to Sunday Mass is just part of a routine, then it's easy to see how Mass attendance has had such a sudden drop. Who would continue to go to Mass if they had doubts about faith and didn't find a sense of community and people who genuinely cared for them?

Some years ago, a friend moved north from elsewhere in Ireland. A practising Catholic, she found her nearest church—in our diocese—and faithfully attended Sunday Mass. The liturgy was reverent. The choir sang beautifully. The priest always gave a well-prepared homily. But it was six months before anybody asked her who she was or how she was settling in.

**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.

**Catholic Men's Retreat - Standing in the Breach:** A morning retreat for Catholic men will take place at Portglenone Monastery on Saturday 14 March from 9am to 1pm. The theme will focus on spiritual warfare and remaining steadfast in faith during Lent, with a talk by Fr Martin Graham, along with testimonies from Catholic laity. The morning includes the Rosary, Holy Mass, and refreshments. To register or learn more, visit: <https://catholicminute.co.uk/mens-retreat/>

**Join the inaugural Stella Maris Lourdes Pilgrimage: Mon 25 – Sat 30 May 2026.** We warmly welcome serving or retired seafarers, fishers and their family members or carers to spend six grace-filled days of prayer, healing, and fellowship in the beautiful sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

**This pilgrimage will be fully funded (including travel, accommodation, and meals). To register your interest, or request further information please contact:** Dcn. John Fogarty: [john.fogarty@stellamarismail.org](mailto:john.fogarty@stellamarismail.org) | 07986723015. Hugh Ramsay: [hugh.ramsay@stellamarismail.org](mailto:hugh.ramsay@stellamarismail.org) | 074326540