

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

Those facing challenges must know they belong. Some members of our parishes find participation in community events difficult. All our buildings and events must be accessible. Even more importantly, our hearts must be open. People must know they are seen, valued, and cared for. We need to think creatively about what additional opportunities we could create in our parishes to reach out to specific groups —families with young children, those who are housebound, people working irregular hours, or those caring for elderly relatives - ensuring that everyone has a pathway to participate in the life of our community.

Sensory-Friendly Mass Invitation: St Colmcille's Parish (Ballyhackamore Belfast BT4 3JB) warmly invites you to our monthly Sensory Mass on **Saturday, 28th March at 12:00 noon**. This special Mass is designed to be inclusive and welcoming for individuals and families who may benefit from a quieter, more relaxed worship environment. The short Mass will feature: Gentle lighting and sound; A calm and supportive atmosphere; Space to move around if needed; Sensory items to aid regulation; A warm welcome for all ages and abilities. Whether you or a loved one experience sensory sensitivities, or you simply wish to attend a short peaceful and reflective service, we would love to see you there. Refreshments after Mass.

Always the Same and Always New: Holy Week Through Poets' Eyes.

Belfast Jesuit Centre I Monday 30 March 2026 | 7:00-9:00 pm. Join us for a reflective exploration of Holy Week through selected poems that engage with its central themes. Drawing on the first line of the Elizabeth Jennings' poem Crucifixion, "Always the same and always new," will consider how poetry can illuminate the spiritual significance of Holy Week. Participants will be invited into guided reflection and thoughtful conversation. Everyone welcome. Small donation suggested. To register, visit: <https://belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk/always-the-same-and-always-new-holy-week-through-poets-eyes/>

Good Friday Falls/Shankill Annual Inter-Church: Prayer Walk - will take place on **Good Friday 3rd April, beginning at 4.45pm in front of Clonard Church**, stopping midway at Shankill Methodist for a brief prayer, and returning to Clonard by 6pm. At this precarious time in our world, we commit ourselves once again - in the footsteps of Jesus - to His ministry of reconciliation and peace. All are welcome.

Recruitment: Lay Bereavement Ministers: This ministry provides an ongoing compassionate outreach to parishioners supporting them through the grieving process. A lay bereavement minister after completing the training can offer the following support:

- Pre-arranged visits to the bereaved family (accompanied by another bereavement minister.)
- Telephone support
- Group meetings and drop-in meetings in parish or community centres
- Supporting the Months Mind Mass/ Supporting the November Mass of Remembrance
- Being the compassionate face of the parish

Training Dates and Times (Venue: Diocesan Offices, 120 Cliftonville Road, Belfast BT14 6LA)

- Session 1: Wednesday 15th April, 7.00 – 9.00 pm
- Session 2: Saturday 25th April, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
- Session 3: Thursday 30th April, 7.00 – 9.00 pm
- Session 4: Thursday 7th May, 7.00 – 9.00 pm
- Session 5: Thursday 14th May. 7.00 – 9.00 pm
- Session 6: Saturday 30th May, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Completed forms should be returned to the Pathway to The Future Office by 12 Noon on Thursday 26th March. Should you require further information please do not hesitate to get in contact. Please contact the Parish Priest if interested.