



St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

part of the Family of Parishes
of
St Malachy's, St Matthew's,
St Colmcille's, St Anthony's, &
St Colmcille's, (Holywood)

Fr. Henry McCann PP (and Chaplain to the
Ulster Hospital, Dundonald),
3 Willowfield Crescent, Belfast, BT6 8HP.
Tel. 028 9045 8158.

Mobile 07740603643 (preferred)

Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org,

stanthonys@downandconnor.org.

Facebook Page: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/stanthonysbelfast)

[stanthonysbelfast](https://www.facebook.com/stanthonysbelfast).

Website: <https://www.saintanthony.co.uk>

MASSSES:

Sunday Morning:

(in Polish): 9am, & 6:30pm.

(English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays:

Mon, Tues & Thurs at 9.30am. Fri 9:30am.

(Nov, Dec & Jan at 9:30am).

**PLEASE NOTE then that from November
Fri Mass is at 9:30am**

All English Masses on Facebook.

Polish Weekday Masses:

Tues & Thurs 7pm, Sat 9am

Confessions: By Arrangement.

Baptisms: By Appointment

St Bernadette's SVP Conference. If you
require assistance, please telephone SVP
Regional Office at 028 90351561. Donate
locally at www.svpni.co.uk

Parish Collections

Many thanks for your support. If you
require envelopes, or if your address
details have changed please contact
Fr McCann

Weekly £787.67

Dona Digital £73

DONATE (website)£

Privacy Policy. The Parish of St Anthony's is
part of the Diocese of Down and Connor and
operates in accordance with the Diocesan
Privacy Notice, copies of which are available on
request.

Parish Safeguarding. Can you please ensure
that all Children and Vulnerable Adults are
accompanied at all times when entering the
Sacristy / Toilet facilities. If you have any queries
regarding the Safeguarding Policy please contact
a member of the Parish Safeguarding
Committee. Thanks. Fr Henry McCann PP.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Maureen Turnbull, Agata
Szymńska

Anniversaries: James Murray, Sally Watson, Peter
Hughes, James McCann, Brenda Crilly (Wed 24th
8pm),

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tues 23rd: St John Kęty, priest

Thurs 25th: Christmas Day

Fri 26th: St Stephen, first martyr

Sat 27th: St John, apostle & evangelist

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve: English 8pm; Polish 11pm

Christmas Day: Polish 9am; English 11:30am

St Stephen's Day: Polish 9am; No English Mass

FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD, 1ST JAN

World Day of Prayer for Peace, times of masses:

Polish 9am, English 11am

Christmas Fair. After the success of last week's
Christmas Fair, and with new crafts donated, we will
continue the Christmas Fair after the masses this weekend.
Please come along and support the work.

Penitential Service, Sunday 21st December, St Brigid's,
Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast, 4pm.

Trócaire:

Christmas Gifts of Change. Could you help share the true
spirit of Christmas in your parish? Trócaire are appealing
for volunteers to help sell their Gifts of Change to help
make a real difference to families living in poverty around
the world. For more information, please see the video
below... Trócaire's Gifts of Change on "Vimeo"

Schools Volunteers Notice. Are you a retired teacher or
someone who has experience presenting to groups of
school children? Trocaire is looking for volunteers to
support our Schools Talks Programme for Lent 2026 in the
Down and Connor Diocese. If you think you have the right
skills and experience and will have time to volunteer during
Lent, there we would love to hear from you. Full training
and support will be provided. For more information call
Fionnuala on 028 9080 8033 or email fionnuala.mcguinness@trocaire.org

Misa de Gallo at St Vincent de Paul Parish. We at
St. Vincent De Paul Parish, Ligoniel are delighted to
welcome you all to our annual, "Misa De Gallo," (Mass
of the Rooster) - Christmas Novena in 2025. The
annual celebration is beloved by our Filipino
Community far and wide, but all are welcome.

Belfast Jesuit Centre - Upcoming Events

Discover the Enneagram – A Tool for Growth. Join
us at the Belfast Jesuit Centre for a gentle, insightful
introduction to the Enneagram. Nuala Prince will lead
us as we explore how the Enneagram can deepen
self-understanding, strengthen relationships, and
support spiritual and emotional wellbeing. Friday 23
Jan (7–9.30pm) & Saturday 24 Jan (10am–4pm)
Suggested donation: £40–£55. Refreshments

provided; bring lunch on Saturday. Registration essential.
07955282371 www.belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk bjc@jesuit.ie

Explore Your Enneagram Subtype. Already know your
Enneagram type? Take the next step with this one-day
workshop at the Belfast Jesuit Centre, exploring how
instinctual drives shape your personality and
relationships. Discover practical tools to support both
emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Saturday 31 Jan
9.30am–5.00pm. Suggested donation: £35–£50.
Refreshments provided; bring lunch. Ideal for individuals,
educators, and teams. Registration essential.
07955282371 www.belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk bjc@jesuit.ie

Lenten Scripture Course with Fr Kieran O'Mahony:
Learning from Matthew's Church. Tuesdays at 7pm |
Begins 3rd February 2026. This Lent, the Belfast Jesuit
Centre invites you to a six-week journey into the Gospel of
Matthew; our liturgical Gospel for 2026. Led by Fr Kieran
O'Mahony OSA of Tarsus Scripture School, the course
explores Matthew's unique vision of church: a community
navigating challenge, change, and mission. Each session
will offer fresh insight into the Gospel's themes, including
forgiveness, prayer, parables, and the call to discipleship.
Whether you're new to scripture study or seeking deeper
understanding, all are welcome. Weekly sessions: Feb 3,
10, 17, 24; Mar 3, 10. Suggested donation: £80–£120
(sliding scale; subsidised places available). Belfast Jesuit
Centre, 193–195 Donegall Street, BT1 2FL.
07955282371. www.belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk bjc@jesuit.ie

Tuesday's Child - Following Yonder Star Christmas Appeal
helping children exhausted by war, famine, and extreme
hardship in: Gaza, Uganda, Kenya, India, Pakistan, Brazil,
Tanzania. All donations received go to catholic missionaries
and diocesan priests caring for children. Visit www.tuesdayschild.ie

Fostering Comes to Belfast. There are local children and
young people in our community in need of safe and loving
foster homes. Chat to us about fostering opportunities that can
work with your life. For more information 0800 0720 137, visit
<http://www.adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net>

Medjugorje Pilgrimage. 8th - 15th July 2026. £645 up to 30th
Jan 2026, then £695. Full religious programme operated by
Marian Pilgrimages. For more information please contact
Mona 07880714113 or Mary 0778531096.

Christmas Message from Bishop Alan McGuckian December 2025

My dear brothers and sisters,
Each Christmas calls us to pause and reflect on the
profound mystery of God's love. We are reminded that
Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the herald of Peace, Joy
and Hope, was born into the
fragility and humility of a manger.
The same God who loved with a human heart remains
always with us. In the midst of the human experience of
ongoing conflict and vulnerability, the challenge of
increasing secularism, and the threat of political and
economic insecurity, God will always be with us.
Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our suffering
sisters and brothers across the world in places such as
East Africa, Palestine, Somalia, Syria, Ukraine and
Yemen. Closer to home, we were recently reminded of the

agonising wait of the families of the Disappeared,
who want to give a Christian burial to their loved
ones. May God bless the work of all agencies and
individuals whonhear the cry of God's children and
are taking action to respond throughout the world
and here at home to the needs of the vulnerable,
the stranger and the lonely.

Christmas reminds us that we have a dignity and
value that comes from being created in the image
and likeness of God. In a world where this dignity
is often threatened, we are called to be guardians
of the inherent dignity of every individual. It is the
child born at Christmas who grounds and inspires
our conviction of the dignity of every child of God.
I pay tribute to parents and teachers who pass on
the faith to new generations guiding them with the
Truth of Christian values and virtues like the wise
men who were guided by the Christmas star.
May God bestow his blessing upon all of you this
Christmas and into the new year, as you continue
to contemplate the face of the Christ-child, the
herald of Peace, Joy and Hope.
Nollaig Shona daoibh uilig.
+Alan McGuckian SJ
Bishop of Down and Connor

The Close Of The Jubilee Year 2025. His
Holiness Pope Leo XIV will officially close the Holy
Year on 6th January next, the Feast of the
Epiphany. Bishop Alan McGuckian will celebrate
the Rite of the Closing of the Jubilee Year
with Mass at 3.00pm in St Peter's Cathedral,
Belfast on Sunday 4th 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.

Liturgical "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 custom in Ireland is a handshake.
However, other non-contact forms of the Sign of
Peace are also legitimate expressions of the Sign
of Peace. The Diocese encourages all to continue
to exercise good hygienic practices, particularly
over the Christmas season, and if they exhibit flu-
like symptoms, they are encouraged to remain at
home.

Christmas has come to us because God sent his
angel to Our Blessed Lady to say to her, "Listen,
you are to conceive and bear a son, and you
must name him Jesus. The Lord will give him the
throne of his ancestor David." Nine months later
the shepherds had a visit by angels who said,
"Today in the town of David has been born to you
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."
Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to
men who enjoy his favour."

We are blessed that God sent his angel to our
Blessed Lady for God is now with us. May the
Lord be with each of you. Happy Christmas and
a blessed 2026. Fr Henry McCann