



**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)

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Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stanthonybelfast>.  
Website: <https://www.saintanthony.co.uk>

#### MASSES:

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](http://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 Turnbill, Agata Szymánska  
**Anniversaries:** James Murray, Sally Watson, Peter Hughes, James McCann, Brenda Crilly (Wed 24<sup>th</sup> 8pm),

#### FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>: St John Kęty, priest  
Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day  
Fri 26<sup>th</sup>: St Stephen, first martyr  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup>: 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk) [bjc@jesuit.ie](mailto: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](http://www.belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk) [bjc@jesuit.ie](mailto: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](http://www.belfastjesuitcentre.co.uk) [bjc@jesuit.ie](mailto: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](http://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.** 8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026. £645 up to 30<sup>th</sup> 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 who hear 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