

Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

PARISH MAGAZINE

MARCH 2016



Diocese of Connor - Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug

WHO'S WHO IN OUR PARISH



The Revd Iain Jamieson
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CLERGY

Rector (Vacant)

Curate Assistants

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LAY READER

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YOUTH WORKERS

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PARISH OFFICE

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Web Site - ballymena.connor.anglican.org and Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ballymenaparish>

Open - Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Lorraine McBride

CHURCH WARDENS

St Patrick's	Rector's	Mrs Stephanie Johnston
	People's	Mrs Rosalie Grainger
Ballyclug	Rector's	Miss Nicola Burnett
	People's	Mr Jackie Greer
St Columba's	Rector's	Mr Jimmy Tuff
	People's	Mr Les Hughes
Glebe Wardens	Rector's	Mr Kenneth Hughes
	People's	Mr Peter Chestnutt

SELECT VESTRY

Clergy, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens and: Mr William Burnett, Miss Ruth Dixon, Mr Barry Duke, Mr Ronnie Fleming, Mrs Liz Hughes, Mr Stuart Jackson, Mr Alastair Marrs, Mr Alex McKay, Mr Jackie McMaster, Mr Jonathan Nevin, Mr Oliver Reid and Mr Richard Todd.

Honorary Secretary:	Mr A Marrs	32 Granville Drive, Ballymena
Honorary Treasurer:	Mrs L McBride	11 Ballyloughan Park, Ballymena
Sextons	St Patrick's St Columba's	Mr John Linton Miss Margaret Mawhinney
Organists	St Patrick's St Columba's	Mr Frank Hewitt and Mr Adrian Poston Vacant



The Curate's Letter

Well we have a rector appointed at last and it has taken not quite so long as it might have done, all things considered. The parochial nominators can now go back to their wives (or in Patricia's case to her husband) and have their Sundays to themselves, without having to spend the Sabbath travelling to obscure corners of the island of Ireland hunting down clergy. I would like to have known whereabouts in Ireland they actually went, but the nominators were, as they should be, far too professional to break confidentiality in response to my heavy hints.

Let's hope Mr McConnell has advanced skills in preaching, worship-leading, financial management, people management, young people's work, pastoral visiting, DIY skills (especially in the rot and decay departments), can play the organ, can sing (in a beautiful tenor voice), will be prayerful and reflective and yet entirely practical, is able to lead funerals with reverence, get along with old people, and play with young children without making them cry, be excellent at IT and yet never lose the intimate face to face touch. Let's hope he will read biblical languages like a native and be able to bring those difficult to understand parts of the book of Joshua into line with the gospels. And we hope that he will be Unionist, Orange, evangelical and yet never lose an opportunity to be present at an ecumenical conference.

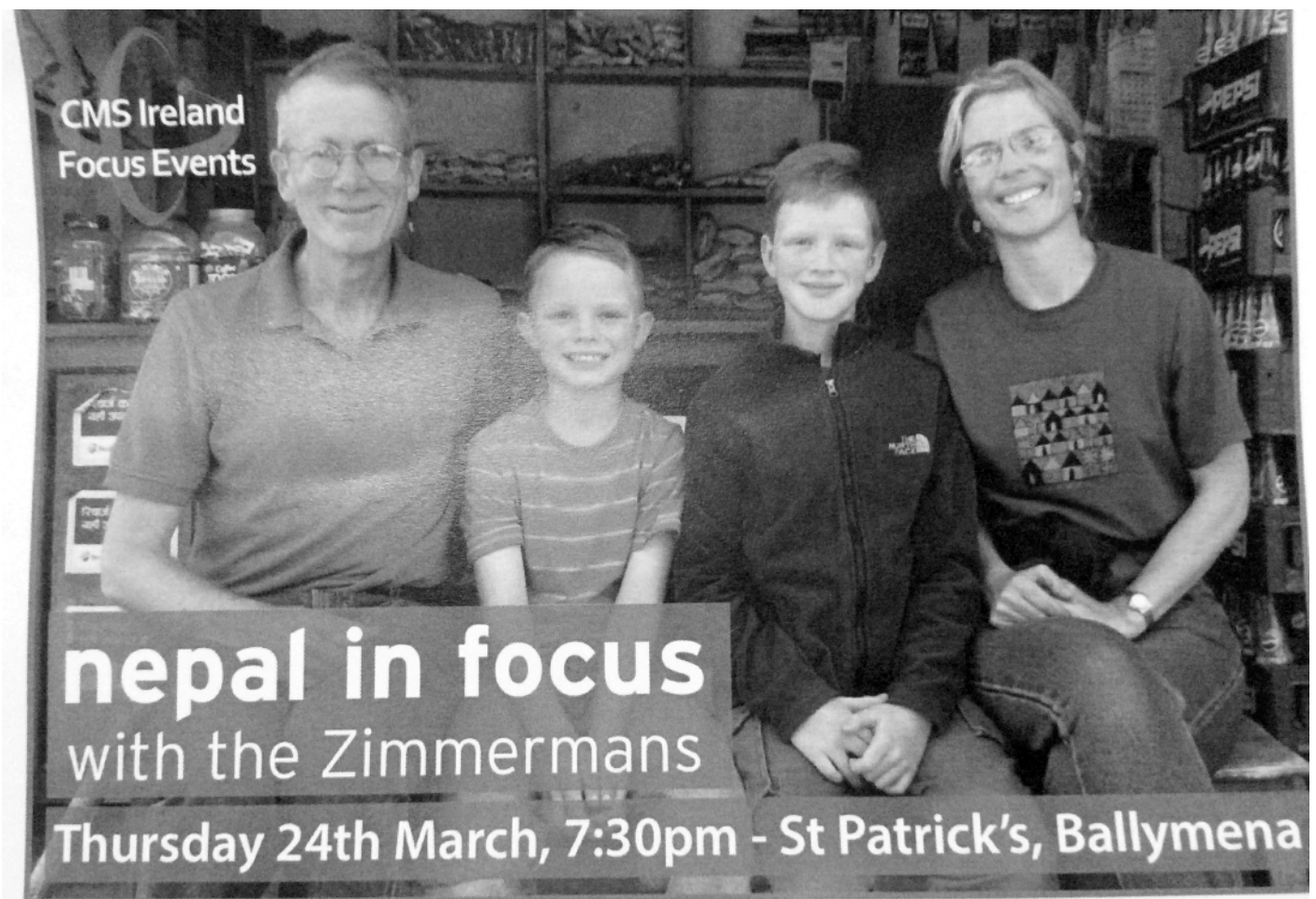
I apologise for the irony but the task of a rector in a busy parish is something like that. One of my first questions to the nominators was "Does he have a sense of humour?" I'm told he does, and I thank God (and

the nominators) for that. Please make Mark and his wife and family very welcome in Ballymena in the same way that you made me very welcome in 2012.

Please support our Holy Week services as we give thanks for the final days, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, in whom is our hope of eternal life and our expectation that despite evil goodness will prevail. Can I make a particular invitation to all parishioners and friends to come along on Maundy Thursday at 7.30 pm to Communion with a Nepal theme followed by a talk and refreshments? It would be good to see as many of you there as possible to welcome our friends from Nepal.

Best wishes.

Iain Turner





Parish News

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

Yes, its that time of year again when we encourage all who receive the magazine to make their annual subscription. You should find a subscription envelope in this month's magazine and this should, when filled, be returned to church. We are keeping the subscription rate at the same level and thus would like people to give at least £6. We do appreciate all who do return their envelopes - unfortunately many manage to avoid payment! Please try to do your best.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Thursday 17th March - Holy Communion at 10.30 am in St

Patrick's. No Holy Communion service on the Wednesday 16th.

FAMILY SERVICES

THERE WILL BE NO FAMILY SERVICE ON PALM SUNDAY (20th MARCH). EASTER SUNDAY (27th MARCH) WILL BE A FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE WITH NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Good Friday Family Service at 10.30 am with Buns and Crosses in St Patrick's Hall afterwards.

APRIL MAGAZINE

Due to the Easter Holiday articles for the April magazine must be in the office on **Monday 14th March**. Thank you for your cooperation which is very much appreciated.



GOOD FRIDAY



**Family Service at
10.30 am in St Patrick's
And afterwards 'BUNS AND CROSSES'
For all the family - crafts and activities for
young people with refreshments**



New rector

The Rev Mark McConnell, rector of the Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston, has been appointed as rector of the Parish of Ballymena and Ballyclug.

A native of Lisburn, Mark is a former pupil of Lisnagarvey Secondary School and Lisburn Technical College. He grew up in the Parish of Lisburn Cathedral.

After A Levels, Mark worked in Redmond Jefferson's hardware store in Bow Street, Lisburn, for two years before moving to the Northern Ireland Civil Service where he held jobs in a number of departments, all relating to industrial development and the export of Northern Ireland goods overseas.

He was with the Civil Service for more than seven years, and it was during this time that Mark felt the call to ministry. He moved to north London to study theology at Oak Hill Church of England Training College.

"At the start of the course I was not sure that ordained ministry was for me, but I knew I wanted to serve the Lord and needed a good grounding," Mark said. "It was while I was at Oak Hill that the call to ordained ministry arrived.

"The then Bishop of St Alban's, Bishop John Taylor, and the Diocese of St Alban's took me under their wing, and in my last year I was accepted for Church of England ministry."

Mark took a year out, during which time he married Cherith, who hails from Omagh, Co Tyrone, and was employed as a church worker in the

parish of St James' in Muswell Hill. "That was a great year of growth and learning," Mark said.

After his ordination he served a three year curacy in Christ Church Parish, Bedford, before he and Cherith had a call, in 1992, to return home to Northern Ireland.

They moved to Bangor Parish Church, Co Down, with their young son Daniel, where Mark served a second curacy in this very busy church.

His first incumbency was as rector in Killyleagh, Co Down, and he was appointed rector of Ballynure and Ballyeaston in 1999.

Mark and Cherith now have three children, Daniel, Matthew and Erin. Cherith, a former special needs teacher in primary schools, works for Barnardo's.

"We prayed long and hard about a move, being very happy and blessed as we are in Ballyclare," said Mark. "We wanted to stay close to our elderly parents, and we wanted Erin, who is 13, to transition gently, we did not want to suddenly unplug her from everything that her world is."

"We were bold enough to pray those prayers and God has answered us amazingly."

Of his family, Mark added: "We are a unit, a team. I can only do what I do because of the support, tolerance and inspiration of my family."

Mark said the news that he had been appointed to a large parish like Ballymena had come as something of a shock. "I have been curate in a large parish and have experience of being a junior in a large team, but I don't have any real experience of being a leader in a big parish unit," he said.

"There is apprehension and shock that we have been called to such a charge, yet beyond that very natural human reaction we both have had a sense of peace that we are moving in the direction that God wants us

to move and he will provide us with whatever we need to serve Him in our new parish.”

Reflecting on the 17 years he has spent in Ballynure and Ballyeaston, Mark said: “I have built very unique and special relationships with the staff and people. You start out as rector and then you are privileged to become part of the church family. That’s very special to me. The two churches are not places where I go to work, they are places I go to worship, places where we pray together and have seen God in action together, and these are the things I will not forget.”

The date for the institution is 1st June and we would encourage all parishioners to attend.

Guest Tea

*With music and a guest speaker
In aid of rectory funds*



*Friday 22nd April at 7.30 pm
St Patrick's Church Hall*



DAY OF PRAYER

On Sunday 6th February we had a day of prayer for the young people and youth ministry. Young people and leaders led the prayers and then there was a rededication of Lucy and Alan our youth and children's workers. Lucy and Alan have been working in our parish for 10 years now and it was to acknowledge their work within the parish.



Lucy and Alan Re-dedication Service

They both spoke about themselves. Lucy told the congregation how she had been called to the role of children's and youth work as she remembered her time as a young person growing up in the church through Sunday School, Guides, Choir, Bell Ringing and Youth Fellowship. She felt

that she wanted to give something back to the church and she found that working with young people was very rewarding and challenging. She really enjoys her work and especially the relationships she formed with the young people.

She thanked the Sunday School teachers and all the youth leaders and said that without their help they could not do it alone - it was a team effort. Lucy reminded the congregation of the vast amount of youth work that goes on in the parish. This includes Sunday School, Youth Club, Uniformed Organisations, Children's Week, Summer Scheme, Energize, Engage, Messy Church, Family Services, Christmas Nativity, Children's Day, Events - Kids Big Adventure, Summer Madness, Buns and Crosses, Fun Night, CMS Project and Courses for Leaders and Connor Youth Council.

She also said that much work is carried out behind closed doors. It is mainly in the youth room that all the planning and preparation goes on, including preparing resources, services, communication with other parishes and youth leaders and also the day to day work which includes accounts and shopping.

Alan said he had been working with young people for many years in the church. He was a 50 year old with the heart and mind of a 16 year old. He said he loves to see young people smiling and enjoying themselves in church. As a family we all have a part to play in welcoming young people into the church. Families are very important in the church if it is to grow. Alan finished by saying when you see young people smile at them, ask them how they are and make them feel welcome. If you don't we will lose them.

YOUTH TRAINING

It was a very interesting day meeting other youth workers and clergy. We started off by looking at statistics - 59% of young people 18 - 29 year olds drop out of church but still consider themselves Christians. They find the church does not make sense and they can't ask questions so they turn to social media for answers.

Summer Madness this year did research on young people and the church. The following was found:-

48% always connected to the church
32% somewhat connected

10% involved then lapsed

10% not connected

4 - 5 year olds 1% came to faith

10 year + 38% came to faith

It was noted that the youth ministry makes a difference.

We looked at verses in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and how important it is for parents to model faith and to teach it. It is important for young people to feel that they belong in the church and we need both young and old to help growth within the church.

YOUTH CLUB

Everyone has been busy in the Youth Club doing different activities. We made Valentine cards and learned that the most important Valentine we will ever receive is from God. We also made pancakes and had a visit from GODMODEX and enjoyed our gaming night.



Youth Club - visit from GODMODEX

In Sunday School over the next couple of months we will be looking at this year's CMS project which is called 'The Meeting Place'. It explores global mission with a particular focus on the Diocese of Madi West Nile in

Uganda. The project looks at the importance of bringing people together to learn, to play, to grow and to worship.

This year we want to help the church in Uganda and in particular Madi West Diocese in two ways -

1. Helping to restore and refurbish the old cathedral in Arua so that it can be used by the church for its work with children and young people.
2. Supporting new initiatives for work with children and young people so that they can gather together to learn more about God.

The young people will be collecting 20 pence pieces in Smartie tubes and collection boxes will be left at the back of the church.

Lucy





Around the Parish

MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday 9th March - artist Nigel Ellison also Bring and Buy sale.



Jean Kennedy, Hon. Sec.



CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

The Ulster Regiment of the Church Lads' Brigade and Church Girls' Brigade will parade to St Patrick's on Sunday 13th March at 3.30 pm. Our annual Parents and Friends evening will be held on Friday 1st April. Thanks to everyone who helped at our Jumble Sale.

Alan Ross

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

We had two visits from Sure Start in February; we all enjoyed the action songs and crafts. Our Easter party will be on held 15th March and, weather permitting, we will roll eggs in the church grounds.

There will be no Mothers and Toddlers on 22nd and 29th March as we will be on Easter break.

Our numbers continue to stay low this year and we would welcome any newcomers. We offer spacious premises with a great variety of toys and crafts - not to mention the tasty healthy snack for children and adults. Please spread the word to any mums, dads, grandparents or child-minders who might enjoy our group. Everyone is welcome and affiliation to St Patrick's Parish is not essential.

Finally, we are delighted to learn that our catering volunteer, Dorothy Hegan, is making a good recovery and we look forward to her return.



DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
1 st March	Rosemary Stacey, Sandra McKay, Mary Cochrane and Jean Cunningham	Tea
	Bee Robinson	Welcoming
	Alex McKay and Eddie McClelland	Car Park
8 th March	Evonne Stinson, Eleanor Burnett, Vera Owens and Marlene Gray	Tea
	Mary Steele	Welcoming
	Oliver Reid and David Oliver	Car Park
15 th March	Dorothy Hegan, Isabel Halliday, Karin Agnew and Sandra Duke	Tea
	Ann Fisher	Welcoming
	Jackie McMaster and Jimmy Tuff	Car Park
22 nd March	EASTER HOLIDAY	
29 th March	EASTER HOLIDAY	

Dorothy (2589 2740), Anna, Anne, Catherine, June

nepal in focus



An evening of stories and inspiration from Nepal
with Mark and Deirdre Zimmerman

Maundy Thursday Service, St Patrick's Church, Ballymena - 7:30pm
Followed by more slides, stories and refreshments in the Minor Hall

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HOLY WEEK

21st March – 25th March

St Patrick's Church

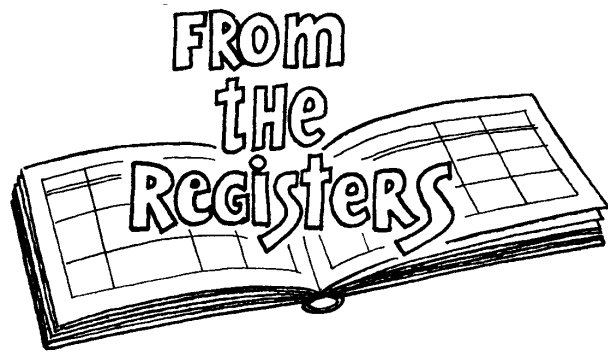
**Jesus
on His way
to the cross**



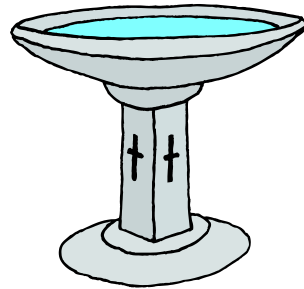
MONDAY	7.30 pm	Evening Prayer Form 1 - said
TUESDAY	7.30 pm	Evening Prayer Form 2 - said
WEDNESDAY	10.30 am	Holy Communion Form 1 followed by refreshments
	7.30 pm	Holy Communion Form 2 - said
THURSDAY	7.30 pm	Holy Communion Form 1 - sung with Washing of Feet and sermon by Deirdre Zimmerman followed by talk in the hall and refreshments
GOOD FRIDAY	10.30 am	Family Service and 'Buns and Crosses'
	12.30 pm	Walk of Witness
	7.30 pm	Tenebrae Service – sung

EASTER DAY

St Patrick's	8.15 am	Holy Communion Form 2
	11.30 am	Family Communion Form 2
Ballyclug	6.30 pm	Holy Communion Form 1
St Columba's	10.00 am	Holy Communion Form 1
	11.30 am	Family Communion Form 2



HOLY BAPTISM



31st January

Layla Elizabeth
Martha Rock
Sofia Isobella Rock

3 Lanntara, Ballee,
Ballymena
3 Lanntara, Ballee,
Ballymena

14th February

Benjamin Alexander
Livingstone
Charlie George Rock

2 The Knowe,
Ballymena
16 Prospect Place,
Ballymena

CHRISTIAN BURIAL



2nd February

Florence McKinley

81a Galgorm Road,
Ballymena

9th February

Elizabeth Murray

59 Queen Street,
Ballymena

10th February

Violet Owens

51 Old Park Avenue,
Ballymena

Florence Margaret McKinley

Florence Margaret McKinley was the eldest of a family of six children and grew up in Fintona in Co Tyrone. She was one of the first to pass what was then the new eleven plus exam and gained her Senior Certificate at Omagh Academy. She went from there to teacher training college in England where she gained qualifications in Special Needs teaching which she upgraded to a B.Ed degree at the University of Ulster. She began her teaching career in Strabane and then Belfast, she established a Special Needs School in Magherafelt and then in Ballymena where she was principal of Loughan Special Needs School for 25 years until her retirement. She married Robert (Bob) McKinley in Donaghadee Parish Church on New Year's Eve 1963 and they have one son, Nigel. They moved to Ballymena in 1978 where Bob became the organist of St Patrick's Church. She held office at various times in the Mothers' Union, the Women's Institute, the Soroptomists, Ballymena Hospice Committee and was a founding member of the Friends of Antrim Hospital in 1993 and she was there most Tuesdays as part of the Visitor Support Team. It was there on Thursday 28th January that she peacefully passed away. The large turnout for her funeral service in St Patrick's Church was representative of her many interests in Ballymena and beyond. The service was conducted by the Rev John McClure and the address was given by her brother, Canon Cecil Wilson.

Elizabeth Murray

Elizabeth known to her friends as Elsie was born in Cullybackey on the 4th May 1926. She met and married David Murray and moved to Queen Street which remained her family home. Elsie was a devoted wife and Mother and cared for her husband David who suffered from a series of strokes over the last ten years of his life. David passed away 23 years ago. Elsie remained a very independent person who found great comfort and faith in her church. She was a perfectionist and will be remembered for cleaning all the brass items within the church. Over the last ten years Elsie had to have some major surgery but more recently she had struggled with her breathing and her mobility. During this time she never complained. She was a wonderful person and will be remembered for being pleasant, funny and a very good cook. Over the past year Elsie spent much of her time living with her son Billy and his wife Marie although her goal was always to return to Queen Street. Unfortunately this was not to be. Marie took great care of Elsie and Elsie appreciated everything that

Billy, Marie and her grandchildren, Gail and Andrea did for her. We remember all the family as they seek to cope with their loss.

Violet Owens

Violet was a great family person who was married to her husband Billy for over 60 years. They had three children, Ian, Sylvia and Marion and she took great pride in watching them grow up. She also loved her seven grandchildren. Sadly after her husband Billy passed away in 2011 Violet's health began to deteriorate. She developed Parkinson's disease and had a lot of other health issues. In the last year in particular she faced a lot of challenges but she still loved to keep up-to-date with all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She lived a simple life but was blessed with a great family who will now miss her very much. She loved to hear all the stories and the tales that the girls had to tell her every day about their lives and what they were getting up to. Violet meant the world to everyone who knew her and will be forever in their hearts. We remember the family as they seek to cope with their loss.





OUR ACTIVITIES

SAINT PATRICK'S

	Day	Time	Venue
<i>Bellringers</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>	<i>Tower</i>
<i>Bible Fellowship</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Choir Vestry</i>
<i>Church Choir</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Choir Vestry</i>
<i>Church Lads' Brigade</i>			
<i>YBC</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>7.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>JTC</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>CLB</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Girls' Friendly Society</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>7.15 pm</i>	<i>Minor Hall</i>
<i>Healer Prayer Group</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>7.15 pm</i>	<i>Church Vestry</i>
<i>Indoor Bowling Club</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Mothers and Toddlers</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Mothers' Union</i>	<i>2nd Wed.</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Minor Hall</i>
<i>Still Active Club</i>	<i>3rd Wed.</i>	<i>2.00 pm</i>	<i>Minor Hall</i>
<i>Youth Club</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Junior Youth Club</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>7.00 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Badminton</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>
<i>Sewing Group</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>	<i>Parochial Hall</i>

SAINT COLUMBA'S

	Day	Time	Contact
<i>Beavers</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mrs L McCullagh</i>
<i>Cubs</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>7.00 pm</i>	<i>Miss H Hughes</i>
<i>Ladies' Circle</i>	<i>4th Monday</i>	<i>8.00 pm</i>	<i>Mrs L Hughes</i>
<i>Brownies</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mrs S Cardwell</i>
<i>Squirrels</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mr P Houston</i>
<i>Guides</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mrs K Black</i>
<i>Choir</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>10.15 am</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Rainbows</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>	<i>Mrs H Strain</i>
<i>Scouts</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>7.45 pm</i>	<i>Mr K Hughes</i>



OUR WORSHIP

ST PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.15 am		<i>Holy Communion</i>
10.15 am	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Service</i>
11.30 am		<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>1st Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Parish Communion</i>
6.30 pm		<i>Evening Prayer</i>
	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	<i>4th Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Living Faith Service</i>

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10.30 am	<i>Holy Communion</i>
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ST PATRICK'S, BALLYCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.00 am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	<i>4th Sunday in the month</i>

ST COLUMBA'S, DUNCLUG

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30 am	<i>1st Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
11.30 am		<i>Morning Prayer</i>
	<i>2nd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Service</i>
	<i>3rd Sunday in the month</i>	<i>Family Communion</i>

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

ST PATRICK'S

11.30 am	<i>Church</i>	<i>Leaders - Mrs L McLaughlin and Mr A Ross</i>
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ST COLUMBA'S

11.30 am	<i>Church</i>	<i>Superintendent - Mrs S Foster</i>
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HOLY BAPTISM

At Sunday services by arrangement