

In the life of the Church, priests are called to accompany, support and serve their communities. But they themselves can go through difficult moments in which they need closeness and support. With this in mind, Pope Leo XIV, in his prayer intention for the month of April, invites us to pray for priests experiencing a crisis, that they might experience the nearness of God and his people, and rediscover hope and joy in their vocation.

In this month's intention, the Holy Father thinks especially of priests when loneliness weighs heavily, when doubt clouds their hearts, and when exhaustion seems stronger than hope. He prays that they might rediscover that they are not mere functionaries or lonely heroes, but beloved sons and pastors sustained by the prayer of their people. Likewise, he invites the entire community to care for them through being near, sincere listening, and constant prayer, recognizing that they too need to be supported on their journey.

You are not alone. By praying, you join the millions of people who belong to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network who, from every corner of the world, are praying for the challenges of humanity and the Church's mission.

**Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd and companion on the journey,** today we place in your hands all priests, especially those going through moments of crisis, when loneliness weighs heavily, when doubt clouds their hearts, and when exhaustion seems stronger than hope. You who know their struggles and wounds, renew in them the certainty of your unconditional love. Let them feel they are not mere functionaries or lonely heroes, but beloved sons, humble and cherished disciples, and pastors sustained by the prayer of their people.

**Good Father,** teach us as a community to care for our priests: to listen without judging, to give thanks without demanding perfection, to share with them the baptismal mission of proclaiming the Kingdom in word and deed, and to accompany them with closeness and sincere prayer. May we support those who so often support us.

**Holy Spirit,** rekindle in our priests the joy of the Gospel. Grant them healthy friendships, networks of fraternal support, a sense of humour when things don't go as expected and the grace to always rediscover the beauty of their vocation. May they never lose trust in You, nor the joy of serving your Church with a humble and generous heart. Amen.

Pope Leo XIV

This Easter, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that the Resurrection is not just a single day in the calendar, but a living reality that renews our hope daily. In a world often marked by uncertainty and pain, the Risen Christ walks with us, bringing peace that no darkness can overcome. He calls us to let the Easter greeting, "Peace be with you," echo in our hearts and actions. The joy of the Resurrection is an invitation to become witnesses of reconciliation, compassion, and unity in our families, communities, and the wider world. Every day can be Easter when we live with the awareness that Christ is alive among us. The Resurrection transforms ordinary life into a journey of hope, courage, and love even in the smallest acts of kindness.

Bookings for Mass, Month Minds, Anniversaries, Baptisms and Weddings are to be made through the Parish Office 02897510237 or Parish email address at: [saintfield@downandconnor.org](mailto:saintfield@downandconnor.org). Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11.00am - 1.00pm. Thursday 12 - 1pm. Please use the Parish Email outside of Office Hours and we will respond as soon as possible.

## Easter Sunday

5<sup>th</sup> April 2026



He is Risen! Alleluia!

Saintfield & Carrickmannon

Parish Bulletin

Fr Michael Sheehan PP 028 9081 2238  
Fr Anthony McHugh PE 028 9751 0237  
Email: [saintfield@downandconnor.org](mailto:saintfield@downandconnor.org)

**New Parish Family Website**

Now that Carryduff and Saintfield are a Parish Family we have adopted one new website for the family. This will contain details and contacts for both Parishes and the three Churches. To access the web please use this new website [www.carryduffsaintfield.co.uk](http://www.carryduffsaintfield.co.uk)

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**Mary, Mother of the Church  
Saintfield**

Open Sun, Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 am - 4 pm  
Mon, Fri, Sat 10 am - 8 pm

**MASS**

Saturday 6:30 pm  
Sunday 11:00 am  
Friday 7:30 pm  
No Monday Mass

**St Joseph's Church, Carrickmannon**

Open Sat & Sun 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**MASS**

Sunday 9:00 am  
No Tuesday Mass

**CONFESSIONS**  
Before and after Vigil Mass

**ALTAR SOCIETY**  
Saintfield - Group 1  
Carrickmannon - Team 1

**READERS 11/12 April**  
Vigil: Katrina Godfrey  
9am: Lucy Gurr  
11am: Brian Linden

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS  
11/12 April**

Vigil: Margaret Bennett, Agnes O'Hea  
9 am: Paul McGouran  
11 am: Geraldine Conway  
Sarah Morris, Patricia McMahon

Weekly Collection 29<sup>th</sup> Mar £1639

**St Vincent de Paul**  
Contact: 07521463667 or email  
[stmochai.saintfield@svpn.co.uk](mailto:stmochai.saintfield@svpn.co.uk)



Recently Deceased  
**Kathleen McGreevy**  
May she rest in peace

**Please also remember in your prayers**  
Breda Cunningham, Marian Teggart, Irene Stewart, Sheena McKerritt and Mary Agnes Murray recently deceased.

**Anniversaries:** Elizabeth Farrell, Bernadette Carson, Sean Fitzsimons, Sarah McGreevy, Maureen, Patrick and Kevin Greene, Rose Trueman, William James Greene, Una O'Hare, Kathleen Jones, James McMahon, Mary Jane Mullan, Noel Degan, Raymond Newell and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**Months Mind Mass** for Mary Agnes Murray will be offered in Saintfield Church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30 pm  
**First Anniversary Mass** for Elizabeth Farrell will be offered in Saintfield Church on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00 am

Please return the contents of your  
**LENTE TROCAIRE BOXES**

**DIVINE  
MERCY  
SUNDAY  
12<sup>th</sup> April  
2026**

The feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated in the Church of Mary, Mother of the Church, Saintfield. The Holy Rosary will be recited at 2:30 pm followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Confessions will be available from 2 pm. **The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 3 pm.**

**Mary's Meals**

A representative from Mary's Meals will speak at masses on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April about their life-changing work of feeding a daily school meal to children in some of the world's poorest countries and their current Crisis in Haiti Appeal. Mary's Meals welcomes your continued prayers in support of their work. There will be a bucket collection and card machine available after mass if you wish to support financially. Further details can be found at: [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

Anam Cara, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Crowne Plaza, Shaws Bridge, Belfast.** This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance. We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)



Hello children. Today is a very special day. It's Easter Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead. We are filled with hope today because Jesus' resurrection shows us that nothing is impossible for God. We give thanks and praise to God for the new life we have received and which we can see springing up in nature all around us. This week, try to get outside as much as you can to enjoy God's wonderful world. And Happy Easter!

**Loving God, we know that all things are possible for you. Fill us with hope for a future where all people may live their lives to the full. Inspire us to work together to build a better world. Amen.**

Worksheets and the Kids Bulletin to support this week's Gospel are available in both churches. Pick up copies for your children/grandchildren.  
**Children's Liturgy resumes next Sunday.**

**Crois Dharach CLC Club**  
Lotto Numbers: 14 18 29 32

No Jackpot winner. Consolation prizes: Brendan Fairfield, Declan Flynn and Paul Mullan. **New Jackpot £9000.** Tickets available on Klubfinder page, Oaks Bar, Chestnut Bar, Vivo Shop, Dufferin Bar, International & Central Bars.



**Monday Social Club**  
Next meeting  
13<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
12:30 - 2 pm