



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),
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Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stanthonysbelfast>.

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

Parish Collections

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

Weekly £580.50

Dona Digital £55

DONATE (website) £120

Second Collection: Monthly Stipend in
support of the priests of the diocese

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Malachy Connolly (brother of
Monsignor Sean), Maureen Turnbill
Anniversaries: Terence & Sarah McCartan, James
Murray, Sally Watson, Peter Hughes (Sun 7th Dec)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 8th: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Tues 9th: St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Wed 10th: Our Lady of Loreto
Thur 11th: St Damasus I, pope
Fri 12th: Our Lady of Guadalupe or St Finian,
bishop
Sat 13th: St Lucy, virgin & martyr

**Times of Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate
Conception** (Mon 8th December): Polish 9am; English
11am

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

Parish Pastoral Council. The current Parish Pastoral
Council was commissioned in 2018, for a period of 4
years, but because of the Covid Pandemic, it continued for
another term. Each parish is highly encouraged to have a
Pastoral Council in place, consisting of elected and
appointed members.
New members of the council have been approached, and
the new Council will be undergoing training in the next few
weeks. Many thanks to all who have worked on or will be
working on the Council. Parishioners will be encouraged
to support the work of the Council with their own
volunteering. May God bless the work.

Bambinelli (Gaudete) Sunday. This year we will
celebrate 'Bambinelli Sunday' during the mass of the Third
Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), December 14th. All
children and families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus
figure from their homes to be blessed during the 11:30am
Mass. Please bring your Crib Figure of Jesus to be
blessed, then wrap it and let it be the first gift you open on
Christmas Day.

Christmas Fair. St Anthony's and the Polish Community
are holding a Christmas Fair after the masses next Sunday
14th December. Christmas Crafts and Decorations will
be available for sale. Please come along and support us.

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

**Cantiunculae - A Concert of Christmas Music and
Readings,** Sunday 7th December 2025, 8pm, St
Comgall's Church, Brunswick Road, Bangor. Tickets £5
(children free). Available through Bangor parish office, T:
(028) 9146-5522 E: bangor@downandconnor.org W: www.bangorparish.com,
McMullan's Shop, Brunswick Road, or
from any member of the choir. All proceeds to Bangor
Parish Funds.

Recharge Young Adult Group - Advent Retreat. Aged 18-
35? Join us this Advent to prepare well for Christmas but also
for the future. Take some time to ask yourself: Where are you
in life? Where are you going? Have you found your vocation?
How can you live your vocation out more faithfully? Saturday
13th December 10am-6pm, St Colmcille's Church, Belfast.
Free Event - Register via Eventbrite
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/quo-vadis-a-retreat-by-recharge-tickets-1758337688359>

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.

Special Mass for Mothers and Grandmothers. Catholic
Mothers Ireland are hosting a special Mass on Tuesday, 9th
December at 6:30pm in St Malachy's Church, Armagh to mark
the end of their 10-year Anniversary celebrations. The Mass will
be celebrated by Archbishop Eamon Martin. All are warmly
invited to attend and join in prayer for mothers and
grandmothers. For more information, please email:
catholicmothers@outlook.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

**Belfast Homeless Services, Christmas Shoebox Appeal
2025.** A list of items needed for the Shoe Boxes: toothbrush/
toothpaste, deodorant, socks, hats, baby-wipes, scarves,
gloves, shampoo/conditioner/body wash, sweets/chocolates.
Donations can be dropped off Monday - Thursday 2-10pm.
Drop off point location, 35a Kings Street, Belfast, BT1 1HU. Cut
off date for donations, Monday 8th December 2025.

Sycamore Training Day, Sat 10th January 2026, St Comgall's
Centre (next to St Peter's Cathedral), 10-5pm. Called to
Evangelise: Nurturing a Culture of Mission. Facilitated by Dr
Susan Longhurst, Sycamore Mission Development Manager.
Following the momentum of the Hearts on Fire conference
earlier this year, this one-day Sycamore training event offers
practical guidance, inspiration, and tailored support for those
eager to spread the Gospel using Sycamore in their parish,
school or community. Together we will explore: What it means
to share faith in today's culture - the joys, challenges and the
reality of mission; The distinctive ethos and culture of
Sycamore; Concrete & practical ways to develop your
networking skills and to build confident teams. Through talks,
guided reflection, and practical workshops, participants will
leave equipped and energized with a clear plan for launching
the Sycamore Lent Pathway in their own setting. Join us to be
nurtured and encouraged, with plenty of opportunities to

connect with others, and to rediscover the joy of
sharing our faith with others. Cost £30 pp (includes
Lunch). To register email
pathwaystothefuture@downandconnor.org. Cut off
date Monday 15th December 2025. Form in the
Sacristy.

Lay Funeral Ministers Leaders Training. Purpose to
have a dedicated, trained team of lay people who will
be able to lead families in a time of prayer in the family
home or at a funeral home, lead liturgies at the
graveside for bereaved families at the time of
committal of the deceased, lead liturgies at the
crematorium for bereaved families at the time of
committal. Training Dates:
Thurs 22nd Jan 2026, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Sat 31st Jan 2026, 10am - 4pm
Thurs 5th Feb 2026, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Thurs 12th Feb 2026, 6:30pm-8:30pm
Sat 21st Feb 2026, 10am-4pm
At Diocesan Offices, 120 Cliftonville Road, Belfast,
BT14 6LA. More information and Registration form in
Sacristy. Applications to be returned by 12 noon Wed
17th December 2025.

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>

School Open Mornings. ST MATTHEW'S P.S. AND
NURSERY. Seaforde Street, Belfast, BT5 4EW.
Monday 8th December 9am - 12noon. We warmly
welcome you to visit our school and nursery, where
learning begins with care, inclusion and community
spirit. A chance to meet staff, guided tour of learning
spaces, insight into our family-oriented, all-inclusive
educational approach. 028 9045 7885

Down & Connor Job Vacancy. Parish Maintenance
Operative for St Mary's on the Hill Parish,
Glengormley. Visit Latest News or www.downandconnor.org or nijobs.com.

St George's Singers. Bach's Christmas Oratorio in St
George's Church, High St, on Wednesday 10th
December at 7.30pm. Tickets £25 (students £15). E:
contactstgeorges@gmail.com.

Anam Cara the organisation that supports bereaved
parents will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening
on Monday 8th December at 7:30pm in the Crowne
Plaza, Shaws Bridge Belfast.

Raising Hope. You are warmly invited to a Raising
Hope Conference feedback session on Thursday 11th
December at 7.00pm in the Belfast Jesuit Centre, 193-
195 Donegall Street. (also available via Zoom). The
Raising Hope Conference took place recently in Italy to
mark the tenth anniversary of Laudato Si'. A group
from Northern Ireland took part, including
representatives from Down & Connor, Corrymeela, the
Northern Ireland Interfaith Forum and the Ulster
Farmers' Union. This gathering will share highlights
from the conference and explore how its insights can
inspire our local efforts to care for creation. All are very
welcome. Further info from Juanita Majury,
imamajury@gmail.com