

Parish of Ardkeen Silver Circle

The final Silver Circle Draw for our seventh year will take place on **Sunday 25th March**. Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed so generously during the past year – the support of members within our Parish and friends in the wider community has made it possible to achieve another successful year. The total amount will be disclosed after the March draw.



The first draw for the 2017/18 year will take place at the end of April. The monthly prize money for the eighth year will be 1st - £200, 2nd - £150, 3rd - £125 and 4th - £100 with an extra draw at Christmas for 10 prizes of £100.

Renewal forms will be sent to existing members over the next few weeks and forms will be available at the church doors for anyone who would like to join up for the first time. ***Great prizes but if you're not in you can't win!!***

Dates for your Diary

Primary 7 – Service of Light: Monday 26th March at 7.00pm in St Joseph's.

Sacrament of Confirmation: Wednesday 18th April at 12noon in St Joseph's.

Sacrament of First Communion: Saturday 5th May at 10.30am - St Mary Star of the Sea.

Blessing of the Graves 2018 - 3pm

Parish of Ballygalget, Sunday 27th May; Cooley Wells Mass, Sunday 10th June

Parish of Portaferry, Sunday 17th June; Parish of Ardkeen, Sunday 24th June

Offering Envelopes

The Parish of Ardkeen Weekly Offering Envelopes
The Weekly Offering Envelopes for the new year begin on Sunday, 8th April 2018. If you are working and have not received a box of envelopes or have recently moved into the Parish and would like to contribute to your Church, please give your name and address to Fr Neeson as soon as possible. **Parish Gift Aid: If you pay Income Tax**, please consider **signing a Gift Aid Form** and therefore give an extra **25% of your donation** to the church at no expense to yourself! Gift Aid forms available at the Church Doors.

If you joined the Gift Aid Scheme some years ago, have retired and **are not paying tax**, please advise Fr Neeson as soon as possible as gift aid cannot be claimed on your donation.

Penitential Services for Easter

Sunday 25th March - Ballygalget at 6.00pm

Sunday 25th March – Portaferry at 7.00pm

Monday 26th March - Newtownards at 7.30pm

Tuesday 27th March - Bangor at 7.30pm



Trócaire

Working for a just world.

"O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalms 118:1. This Palm Sunday we celebrate God's love that is manifested by the support we give to those in the world who are less fortunate than us and face daily hardship. People like Daniel from

Uganda who appeared on the Trócaire Box in 2012 aged 9. Daniel is now 15 and doing well in school. The support Daniel's family received ensured that he and his siblings could get an education and dream of a better future. www.trocaire.org

Sackcloth and Ashes on the Altar as a Sign of Penance.

The Colour Purple as a Sign of Bruising and Suffering.

Parish of Ardkeen

Fr Patrick Neeson, Parish Priest

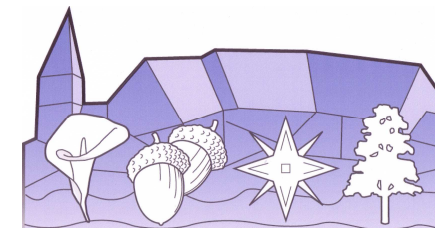
(028) 4273 8294

www.parihofardkeen.co.uk

kircubbin@downandconnor.org

 Parish of Ardkeen

Fr Mulholland PP Portaferry and Ballygalget (028) 4272 8234



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

25th March 2018

Times for Holy Week

Fr Neeson and Fr Clarke will hold a "come and go" Penitential Service on Sunday evening 25th March in St Mary Star of the Sea, from 5.30pm – 6.30pm followed by Stations of the Cross and Benediction in St Joseph's at 7pm.

Monday 26th March 9.00am - St Joseph's

Tuesday 27th March 7.30pm (Novena) - St Mary Star of the Sea

Spy Wednesday 28th March 9.00am in St Mary's Primary School

Holy Thursday ~ 29th March

Chrim Mass St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast 11.00am

Mass of Our Lord's Supper St Mary Star of the Sea Church 7.30pm

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament after Mass at the Altar of Repose

Will conclude with Night Prayer at **10.00pm**.

Good Friday ~ 30th March ~ Day of Fast and Abstinence

The Passion 3.00pm - St Joseph's

Stations of the Cross 7.30pm - St Mary Star of the Sea



Collection for Catholics of the Holy Land is taken up today.

(There is an envelope provided for this collection if you use parish collection envelopes)

Holy Saturday ~ 31st March

Morning Prayer 10.00am in St Joseph's followed by **Confessions**

Solemn Vigil 9.00pm in St Mary Star of the Sea

Easter Sunday ~ 1st April

Morning Mass 9.00am - St Mary Star of the Sea

11.00am - St Joseph's

Please bring your Trocaire boxes to the Mass on Holy Thursday.
As always it would be greatly appreciated if coins could be changed for notes.



Our prayers and sympathy to the families and family circles of **Maria Mercer**, Belfast; **Bessie McGee**, Portaferry; **William Irvine**, Portaferry who died recently.

On their souls Sweet Jesus have mercy.

Months Mind: Niall O'Connor; Mary Savage; Hugh Bradley.

First Anniversary: May Quinn; Martin McGuinness; Deirdre McElveen.

Anniversaries: Kathleen Ennis, Henry Ennis, Fr Brian Tumelty, James Hamilton, Frances Sweeney, Lewis Hanna, V Rev. Andrew McGrattan, Patrick John Braniff, William Ennis, Seán Byers, Paddy Hughes, Daniel Crawford, James and Lily Conlon, Martin Caldwell, Peggy Arthurs, William Murray, William James Kearney, Alice Caldwell, Hugh Ennis, Niall Higgins, Kathleen Savage, Cliff Hamilton, Josephine Ennis, Thomas Corr, Margaret Smyth, John Ennis, William J Kearney, Robert McNamara, James Adair, Agnes Bryce, Jimmy Mageean, Martin Keith, Edward Lyons, David Hedigan, Lucille Doherty, Hannah Murphy, Jane Whyte, Matt McCarthy, Sue O'Neill and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. We remember especially those who have no one to pray for them.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

MONEY MATTERS



This week's weekly offering amounted to: £1490
Needy Parishes: £360

Thank you for your continued generosity

Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

St Mary Star of the Sea Church

(SL) Genevieve McCullough RIP

If you wish to put forward an intention for one of the lamps please call into the Sacristy after Mass. Suggested offering £5

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - SUSPENDED THIS WEEK AS IT IS HOLY THURSDAY.

St Mary's Primary School News - Telephone 028 4273 8581

Wednesday Morning Mass at 9.00am. Everyone welcome.

The Sacrament of First Confession. Congratulations to all the P3's in the Parish who celebrated their Sacrament of First Confession last Monday evening in St Mary Star of the Sea Church: Theo Atcheson, Caislin Boyle, Seán Crawford, Neala Dorrian, Eabha Fitzsimmons, Patrick Hinds, Jack Kelly, Alex McCready, Cara McGrath, Emilia Moohan, Connor Reid, Alex Rogan, Conor Torney, Aoife West, Jude Wooley.

'Twenty's Plenty' for Trocaire: all pupils are being asked to bring in 20 pence a day to contribute to Trocaire and parents, grandparents, family members are asked to support the children. Similarly, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who attend the Wednesday morning Mass are also asked to bring 20 pence with them for Trocaire. *Every little helps!*

St Joseph's Ballycran GAA Club News – www.ballycran.down@gaa.ie

Club Lottery: Sun 18 March. Numbers: 7, 20, & 24. Jackpot not won. £10 to Matthew McCarthy, Emma Irvine, Francis Ritchie and Mrs Eimear Caughey. Jackpot this week £750

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN BALLYCRAN: Thank You to everyone who supported our Family Day in McKenna Park last weekend. What a great day!

"Give a Gift for Hope" for Easter: Support SVP Ghana and Botswana. For example: Mosquito Net £5, Blankets £5. Now available at Vincent's. Kircubbin

ASSUMPTION GRAMMAR SCHOOL - HOLY WEEK VIGIL: On **Wednesday 28th March** from **6pm-6am**. You are invited to join the school community **for one hour** as they participate in a **12 Hour Vigil** in the School Oratory. **Mass** will be celebrated at **11pm**. Further details **Twitter** @assumptionlive; **Facebook** Assumptionlive; Contact the School - 028 9756 2250

Weekly Offering Envelope No: 257 - would the Parishioner who has been allocated this envelope number please speak to Fr Neeson as soon as possible. Thank You.



Stations of the Cross and Benediction Sunday Evening at 7pm St Joseph's, Ballycranbeg

PASTORAL COMMUNITY LITURGICAL MUSIC WORKSHOP DAY: The Parish Folk Groups of Holywood, Ballygalget, Bangor, Newtownards, Ardkeen and Portaferry are holding a Liturgical Music Workshop Day on **Saturday 14th April 2018**. The event will be held in St.Patrick's Parish Hall Ballygalget with registration from 9.30am. Musicians and singers from all choirs in all parishes are most welcome to attend, either as a participant or an observer. Anyone not currently involved but interested in Parish Music Ministry is also most welcome to come along. The day will end with the joint groups enriching the Mass in St.Patrick's Church, Ballygalget at 6.30pm with music and singing.

HUMANITARIAN AID COLLECTION: Ezra Ministries is collecting good second-hand clothing to distribute to needy Russian and Ukrainian immigrants arriving in Israel. The clothing will be shipped from Belfast Docks and all items will be collected from your door. **What We Need:** children's and adult's clothing and shoes; duvet and pillow covers; new packs of baby's and adult's nappies. **What We Don't Need:** badly worn, torn or soiled items; electrical items, furniture or liquid items (creams, toothpastes etc) For more information contact Jim on 07561 397 224 or ezra.ni@yahoo.com.

Living Youth - Habitat for Humanity Gala Ball, in support of the African partnership, in The Titanic Suite, on **Friday 27th April 2018** at 7pm. Price (PP): £55. Drinks reception on arrival; ballot with the chance to win amazing prizes; music from The Housem8's; amazing 5-star food and much more! If you are interested in attending, or would like to know more, please get in touch with Kiera on 028 9023 2432. Furthermore, you can purchase your tickets on the Habitat for Humanity website: www.habitatni.co.uk/donate/gala-ball-2018. Don't miss out on a fabulous night, for a wonderful cause!

FIRST COMMUNION GIFTS: prayer books, rosaries, and accessories are available in Adoration Sisters' Convent Shop, St Joseph's, at very reasonable prices. We also carry a range of items for baptism, confirmation, prayer cards, candles, icons, the nursery and Catholic Children's books. What we don't stock we can order! Adoration Convent, 63 Falls Road, Belfast. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (except 11:30 -2pm). Tel 028 9024 7175

RADIO MARIA IRELAND: is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station. Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting Music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies – all commercial free – Listen via FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND", streaming on www.radiomaria.ie or via PHONE – get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply). Please join our growing faith family!

Take The First Step to Overseas Volunteering! Viatores Christi runs Overseas Volunteer training weekend courses in Dublin - if you are interested in becoming an overseas volunteer or just want to learn more about social justice at home or away, this course is for you. Call us today - Viatores Christi +353-1-8689986 or email apply@viatoreschristi.com for more info.

ST JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY: on behalf of S.J.Y.P.S., I would like to ask you to renew your membership/subscription of £6. New members are also welcome. Please put your subscription in an envelope with your name and address, on the collection plate at any of the weekend Masses, or hand it into the Sacristy in Ballycran or Nunsquarter. I thank you for your generous continued support. *Phyllis Gilmore. Branch Chairperson.*

PRAYER FRIENDS: Exam time again, any students who would like a friend to pray for them during this exam time, please place your name on the pink form in each church. We are again asking for prayer friends to pray for a student for the duration of their exams. Phyllis Gilmore (co-ordinator) will notify you in due course of your Student/Prayer Friend