

Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead

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Saint Nicholas'



Our Lady of Lourdes

7th December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Week 2

Fr. Peter Owens PP
 Parochial House,
 8 Minorca Place,
 Mount St. Nicholas, Carrickfergus,
 Co. Antrim, BT38 8AU
 Tel: **028 9336 3269**
 Parish Email:
carrickfergus@downandconnor.org
 Website: www.carrickparish.org

Baptisms
 (one month's notice)
 Whitehead - 1st Sun of the month
 Carrickfergus - 2nd Sun of the month
Weddings
 (three month's notice)
 By arrangement
Funerals
 By arrangement

The **Rosary** is held
 before Wednesday Masses at
 9.30am in Our Lady of Lourdes and
 6.30pm in Mount Saint Nicholas.

The **Sacrament of Penance** is available on
 the first Wed of the month from 6.00pm to
 6.45pm in the Reconciliation Room
 in Mount Saint Nicholas.

Eucharistic Adoration is available every Saturday between 11.00 and 12.00 noon
 in Mount St. Nicholas' (please enter via the back door of the church).

Weekly Mass Times (** Streamed Masses - see parish website)
 Holy Days : As announced.

St. Nicholas' Carrickfergus	Our Lady of Lourdes Whitehead
Sun 11.30am **	Sun 9.30am
Wed 7.00pm **	Wed 10.00am

The second collection today is for Monthly Stipend.

Masses for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Mon 8th December

Our Lady of Lourdes Whitehead 10am
 St Nicholas' Carrickfergus 7pm

Advent Meditation on 8th December.

Advent is a time to look forward to the coming of the Christ-child. We invite you to take some time out of your busy life and join us as we meditate in our hearts on the Christ Child being born this Christmas. The meditation will take place in St. Nicholas' committee room on Monday 8th December at 7.30 p.m. (after 7.00 p.m. Mass). Light refreshments will be provided and everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you there. The Panel of Catechists/Liturgy Group.

Penitential Services

Monday 15th December
 St Nicholas' Carrickfergus
 at 7pm

Tuesday 16th December
 St Bernards Glengormley
 at 7pm

Wednesday 17th December
 St Gerards Antrim Road
 at 7pm



Family Advent Carol Service

The annual Family Carol Service will take place this year on **Sunday 21st December at 3.00 p.m.** The Carol Service will be in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Whitehead, followed by Christmas treats in the Pastoral Centre and a visit from a very special guest. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Draw

Ballot Tickets On Sale - Sunday 7th, 14th 21st December.
 Tickets £1 per strip
 Draw to take place Sunday 21st December after Mass



Whitehead Cell

is holding a Christmas Meeting on **Tuesday 9th December** at 11 am till 1pm. It will start with a prayerful time followed by a 'Wee Party'. If anyone wants to hear more phone Ruth on 0787 64208 67



Christmas Flowers - Carrickfergus and Whitehead

If you would like to donate towards flowers for Christmas in our churches, please see Anne Quinn in Carrickfergus or Margaret O'Neill in Whitehead. Alternatively, leave your offering in the boxes provided in the church porches.

Thank you.

Parish Bereavement Support Group

Annual Mass for the Bereaved 2025

Wed. 10th Dec. 2025 at 7pm in St Nicholas' Church

Carrickfergus. All very welcome especially those who have been bereaved this year. During our Eucharist a candle will burn for each person buried in our parish this year. After Mass a member of each family is invited to pick up the candle together with a Cross symbolising this year's theme of Hope and Love. Light refreshments will be served after the Mass.

On behalf of the group who planned and organised the weekend celebrations, sincere thanks for all your help.

We could not have done it all without you.

We also extend sincere thanks to those who so generously donated towards the cost of the event.

The Parish Pastoral Council,
the Liturgy Group and the Events Team.

SVP Christmas Appeal

The ongoing cost of living crisis is putting a lot of pressure on the people Saint Vincent de Paul help throughout the year. This Christmas we are asking for cash or gift cards through our 'Gift of Choice' appeal. That will empower individuals, couples and families to make decisions on how to manage their own circumstances. They can choose the presents they put under the tree for Christmas morning and the meals that suit their needs.

To support our Christmas Appeal this year, please leave donations of cash or gift cards in the Red Box by Sunday 14th December. Thank you for your generous support throughout the years. Have a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

DOWN and CONNOR DIOCESAN TRUST VACANCY

ST MARY'S on the HILL PARISH - PARISH MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE

St Mary's on the Hill Parish are seeking to recruit into the part-time role of Parish Maintenance Operative. The role will be based at St Mary's on the Hill Parish, Carnmoney Road, Glengormley, Co Antrim, BT36 6JU. A sample of the responsibilities within this role will include:

- Ensuring the efficient and effective maintenance and repair of grounds, buildings, and facilities within St Mary's on the Hill Parish and liaising with outside companies.
- Carrying out maintenance when required in a safe, efficient manner.
- Ensuring the Churches and Parish grounds and other Parish properties are maintained to the highest standard, and that all who use them can do so safely and securely.

The terms are based on a permanent part-time appointment requiring 8 days of attendance per month, working 6 hours each day of attendance. Days of attendance to be agreed with the Parish Priest. Availability to work flexible hours is required from the post holder from time to time. Rate of Pay - £13.50 gross per hour. Full details relating to the vacancy can be found on the Diocesan website at: <http://www.downandconnor.org> clicking on the tab: **JOB VACANCIES** and on the Community NI website. Application packs can also be obtained from St

Mary's on the Hill Parish Office.

Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Thurs. 11 Dec. 2025



Parish Shop

Gifts and cards for Advent and Christmas now available.



Wooden Playset Crib & Figures for Children Calendars 2026 2026 Diary

Open each Sunday.



See parish website for more information
www.carrickparish.org/shop

Trócaire Gifts of Change

Bring real hope and opportunity to at risk families and communities around the world with a Trócaire Gift of Change. There's a gift for Everyone such as: The Gift of Chicks, Emergency Water and Solar Lamps. Prices start from £5. For more information contact Patrick Quinn, at the Parish Shop, or check the Trocaire noticeboard.

The Methodist Church in Carrickfergus receive food donations each Christmas, which they use to deliver **Christmas dinners** to those spending Christmas on their own, on Christmas Day. They have kindly reached out to our parish to ask if we know of anyone who would wish to avail of

this service. If you, or someone you know is spending Christmas alone and would be interested in receiving a meal, please contact Jacqui on 07523 166240 by Tues. 9th Dec.

Recharge Young Adult Group - Advent Retreat.

Sat. 13th Dec. 10am-6pm St Colmcille's Church, Belfast Free Register via Eventbrite
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/quo-vadis-a-retreat-by-recharge-tickets-1758337688359>

This Coming Week 8th Dec - 14th Dec

Mon

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wed

St. John Roberts

Thurs

St. Damasus

Fri

St. Finian

St. Jane Frances de Chantal
Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sat

St. Lucy

Sun

3rd Sunday of Advent

Readings for Sun 14th Dec

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

Contact details for the 'Stella Maris' Family of Parishes

Parish	Website	Priests	Telephone No.
Carrickfergus	www.carrickparish.org	Very Rev. Peter Owens, PP	(028) 9336 3269
Glengormley	www.stmarysonthehill.online	Very Rev. Pat Sheehan PP Very Rev. Canon Aidan Kerr PE PM	(028) 9083 2979 (028) 9083 2488
Loughshore	www.loughshoreparishes.org	Very Rev. David Delargy PP	(028) 9037 0845