



Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead

Saint Nicholas'

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Our Lady of Lourdes

21st December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Week 4

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
C'fergus - 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

Do This in Memory Mass

Today Sunday, December 21st. Light refreshments will be served after Mass.

Christmas Draw

The Events Team would like to thank everyone for their generous donations
towards the draw which will take place **today**, Sunday, December 21st after Mass.

Tickets are on sale today and we would appreciate your support. £1 per strip.

We are having a special visitor today, all the way from the North Pole!
Please take a few moments to look at the display of prizes at the back of the
Church. Thank you. The Events Team.



Family Advent Carol Service

The annual Family Carol Service will take place today
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.

Liturgical 'Sign of Peace'

The Sign of Peace remains an integral part of the celebration of the Eucharist and
has been reintroduced as a normal practice across the Diocese.

The customary expression of the Sign of Peace in Ireland is a handshake.
However, other non-contact forms of the sign of peace such as a nod, a bow or a
smile are also legitimate expressions of the Sign of Peace. No offence should be
taken if someone prefers to express a non-contact Sign of Peace.

The Diocese encourages all to continue to exercise good hygienic practices,
particularly over the Christmas season, and if they exhibit flu-like symptoms, they
are encouraged to remain at home.

**The Christmas Offerings
will be collected at the
Christmas Eve/Day
Masses.**

A Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to all our Parishioners.

The next bulletin will be on Sun 11th January 2026

Masses for Christmas and the New Year

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

Vigil Mass at 5.00pm in Whitehead
Vigil Mass at 7.00pm in Carrickfergus

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

Mass at 9.30am in Whitehead
Mass at 11.00am in Carrickfergus

*Friday 26th to Saturday 27th December -
No Masses except funerals*

Sunday 28th December

Mass at 9.30am in Whitehead
Mass at 11.30am in Carrickfergus

*Monday 29th December to Saturday 3rd January -
No Masses except funerals*

Sunday 4th January

Mass at 9.30am in Whitehead
Mass at 11.30am in Carrickfergus

NORMAL SCHEDULE RESUMES THEREAFTER



Parish Shop

Gifts and cards for Christmas.



Wooden Playset Crib & Figures for Children Calendars 2026

2026 Diary

Open each Sunday.



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

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA FLYING DIRECT FROM BELFAST INTER

7 Nights F/B Avenida Hotel
14th/21st August. Spiritual
Director Fr Andrew McMahon
PP Convenient flight times.
£845pps. For further info.
contact Joe 07776425631

Offerings

Weekly Collections for the
five weeks in November
amounted to **£6,722.20**

Monthly Stipend Collection
£1,385.21

Bishops Commission
£463.28

*Many thanks for your
generosity.*

This Coming Week
22nd Dec – 28th Dec

Tues

St. John of Kanty

Thurs

Nativity of the Lord

Fri

St. Stephen
Sat

St. John
Sun

Holy Family



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.

Trocaire Gifts of Change

'Gifts of Change' are gifts that transform lives, bringing real hope and opportunities to families and communities living in poverty. There are 24 Gifts to choose from starting at £5 for the 'Gift of Soap' for families in war-torn South Sudan. All the gifts are real items, sourced in-country which go to families in need of our support. You can buy a Gift and help change lives this Christmas by contacting Patrick Quinn, at the Parish Shop.

THE CLOSE OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Bishop Alan McGuckian will celebrate the Rite of the Closing of the Jubilee Year with Mass at 3.00pm in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast on Sunday 4th January 2026. He would like to invite as many as possible, from across the Diocese, to join him for the Mass and some refreshments afterwards in St Comgall's Centre. While the Jubilee Year of Hope will formally close, the task ahead will be to carry its Message of Hope with us into the New Year 2026.

YOUTH CORNER

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY Wed. 7pm – 9pm At Greencastle Parish Office. Please join the NET Team for a 6-week, young adult (18 – 30) Bible study. This is a time for growing in Faith, building fellowship and having fun. Please RSVP the NET team at 07823368504.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION & PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Thursdays, 7 - 8pm in St James' Whiteabbey.

YOUTH 2000 PRAYER GROUP

Fridays at 7pm, we are hosting a Youth 2000 prayer group. Please join us at St Mary's Greencastle for adoration, bible study, and praise/worship music!

Readings for Sun 28th Dec

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3: 12-21
Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

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