



Saint Nicholas'

Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead



Our Lady of Lourdes

Follow us on-line at www.carrickparish.org

8th March 2026 3rd Sunday of Lent Cycle A Week 3

Fr. Peter Owens PP
Fr. Andrew Black
Tel: **028 9336 3269**

Parochial House,
8 Minorca Place,
Mount St. Nicholas, Carrickfergus,
Co. Antrim, BT38 8AU
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.

Confessions
are available on Sunday mornings
from 11.00am to 11.20am
in St. Nicholas' Carrickfergus.

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).

Bulletin Notices
to be submitted to the
parish Email Address by
12 noon Wednesday

Mass Times for week starting Sunday 8th March
(* Streamed Masses - see parish website for link)
Holy Days : As announced.

St. Nicholas' Carrickfergus	Our Lady of Lourdes Whitehead
Sun 11.30am **	Sun 9.30am
Mon 8.00am	
Tues 8.00am	
Wed 7.00pm **	Wed 10.00am
Thurs 8.00am	
Fri 8.00am	

Requiescant in Pace

Recently Deceased
Phil Moran

Anniversaries
Eileen Rice
Kathleen O'Toole
Tommy Maginn
Terry Maginn
Donard Haveron
Christopher Quinn
Sara Torrance
Anna Morgan

*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine
upon them. May they rest in peace.
Amen*

PARISH BEREAVEMENT GROUP
If you or a member of your family wish to talk to someone about your grief
please contact the PARISH OFFICE Tel: 028 9336 3269 or email:
carrickfergus@downandconnor.org The Parish Secretary will forward your
request to a Bereavement Minister who will contact you to arrange a visit.

Teas in Whitehead Light refreshments will be available in the Pastoral Centre
after 09.30 Mass **today Sunday, 8th March.** Everyone is welcome.

'Baptised and Sent'
Pastoral Letter from Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ February 2026
The Season of Lent as a Journey in Renewing our Sense of Baptismal Identity
Please read the letter from Bishop Alan now available to download from the
Parish website or the Down and Connor website. <https://www.downandconnor.org/blog/2026/02/27/baptised-sent-pastoral-letter-bishop-alan-mcguckian-sj/>

Children's Liturgy Groups
This is a request for parishioners to
consider joining and helping out with
the Children's Liturgy groups in the
parish. If you are interested in offering
your assistance some Sunday
mornings, please speak to Elaine or
Mary in Carrickfergus, or Noleen or
Gerardine in Whitehead.

**Pope Leo's prayer intentions for
2026 March**
For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that
nations move toward effective disarmament,
particularly nuclear disarmament, and that
world leaders choose the path of dialogue and
diplomacy instead of violence.

**Discernment Retreat for Diocesan
Priesthood**
*They left everything at once and followed
him.*
6th – 8th March 2026 Drumalis Retreat House,
Larne. For further details, contact Fr Conor
McGrath [c.mcgrath@downandconnor.org](mailto:mcgrath@downandconnor.org)

This March, **HSC NI Foster Care** are hosting two special child specific virtual information events, featuring 8 children from across Northern Ireland who urgently need foster homes.

EVENT 1 Tuesday 10 March 2026 7.30pm - 9.00pm

EVENT 2 Thursday 12 March 2026 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Read their profiles: <https://adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net/our-community/childrenwaiting/>

At the virtual events, you can hear directly from the people who know the children personally and learn about their individual personalities, interests and needs. To register for either event, please provide your contact details (including postcode) and which event you are interested in hearing about: Tel. 0800 0720 137 or email hello@adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net

St. Patrick's Ceilidh Party

in Carrickfergus Golf Club 7pm Saturday, 14th March 2026

Tickets cost £6 including supper.

Tickets are now on sale from any member of the events team.

Catholic Men's Retreat - Standing in the Breach. A morning retreat for Catholic men will take place at Portglenone Monastery on Sat. 14th March from 9am to 1pm. The theme will focus on spiritual warfare and remaining steadfast in faith during Lent, with a talk by Fr Martin Graham, along with testimonies from Catholic laity. The morning includes the Rosary, Holy Mass, and refreshments. To register, visit: <https://catholicminute.co.uk/mens-retreat/> or call Thomas on 07967620435.

ACCORD NEEDS YOU! ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG/NI is currently recruiting volunteers to train as marriage preparation programme facilitators to support couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. The marriage preparation programmes are fun and interactive and very popular with couples. Working as part of an enthusiastic, friendly and experienced team, facilitators typically provide four marriage preparation programmes per annum. Successful applicants will receive free professional training during seven in person workshops at venues around the country and will be part of a team delivering marriage preparation programmes in your local area. The closing date for receipt of application forms to be included in Selections for this year is Friday 29th May 2026. Contact Aisling on 00353 1 505 3112 or by email to marriagepreparation@accord.ie

PARISH CELL GROUP MEETINGS

There will be a Cell meeting at 7.30 and 8.00pm on Tuesday, 10th Mar. For more information, please contact Margaret Webb: 07779729505 or Anne McFerran: 07809906792 or Stephen Lavery: 07742 575308. There will be a meeting at 11.00 am on Wed, 11th Mar.

Contact Matt Monaghan: 07428247820 or Jim Mullan: 07841428436.

"Come and see." (www.parishcellsireland.ie)

Whitehead Cells will start on Tuesday 10th Mar. at 11am at 4 Marine Parade. New members welcome. Tel Ruth 07876420867

CARRICKFERGUS AND WHITEHEAD PARISH CELL GROUPS

FROM ENCOUNTER TO MISSION

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue (Isaiah 50:4) Carrickfergus and Whitehead Parish Cell Groups are hosting the annual National Parish Cells Seminar in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne on Saturday, 28th and Sunday, 29th March 2026. We would greatly appreciate the prayerful support of our fellow parishioners as we prepare for the seminar. The seminar is open to non-cell members and all are welcome. For more information contact: Margaret Webb @ 07779 729 505 or Anne McFerran @ 07809 906 792 [Website: parishcellsireland.ie](http://www.parishcellsireland.ie)

Gluten Free Hosts There are gluten free hosts available for anyone who may require one. If you need a gluten free host, please ask the Sacristan before Mass to organise one for you.

Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CarrickfergusParish>

Contact details for the 'Stella Maris' Family of Parishes

Parish	Website	Priests	Telephone No.
Carrickfergus	www.carrickparish.org	Very Rev. Peter Owens, PP Rev Andrew Black	(028) 9336 3269 (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



Cards & Gifts for St Patrick's Day now available from the Church Shop.



Open each Sunday. See parish website for more information

www.carrickparish.org/shop

Parish Lenten Talks

Please come along and join us In our Parish Lenten Talks this year, where we will look at the tender mercy and love Jesus has for us, as revealed in the Scriptures. The talks will help us in our preparation for the Penitential Service, which will take place just before Easter.

Our final talk will take place in St. Nicholas' Church Committee Room, on

Wednesday 25th March after 7.00 p.m. Mass

Light refreshments will be available afterwards, when we will have time to chat and discuss what we have just heard. Everyone is welcome.

The Liturgy Group/Panel of Catechists

Cemetery Sunday 31st May 2026

Islandmagee

After 9.30am Mass

Mount St. Nicholas'

After 11.30am Mass

Victoria - 2.00pm

Prospect -3.00pm

This Coming Week 9th Mar - 15th Mar

Mon

St Francis of Rome

Wed

St. Aengus

Sun

4th Sunday of Lent

Readings for

Sun 15th Mar

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7; 10-13

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9: 1-41