



Parish of Carrickfergus & Whitehead

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Saint Nicholas'

Our Lady of Lourdes

30th November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Cycle A Week 1

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.

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

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 |

Notice - Sunday Masses 30th November 2025

Mass will be held at 1.00 p.m. – St Nicholas' Carrickfergus

There will be
no morning Mass
in Whitehead or Carrickfergus on 30th November

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.

Carrickfergus & Whitehead Parish Cells

There will be a joint meeting of Carrickfergus and Whitehead Parish Cells in the Gathering Space in St Nicholas' at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 2nd December.

www.parishcellsireland.ie

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.

Penitential Services before Christmas

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

Please check the Parish website for the **Pastoral Statement from Bishop Alan McGuckian** in response to the recent Supreme Court ruling on Religious Education provision in Northern Ireland. Link to website. <https://www.carrickparish.org/info>

There are some printed copies at the back of the church, for those who cannot access the Statement on the website.

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.

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.

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

The Methodist Church in Carrickfergus receive food donations from local businesses each Christmas, which they use to prepare and 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.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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!



Parish Shop

Gifts and cards for Advent and Christmas now available.



Advent Calendars

2026 Diary

Calendars 2026

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.

Discernment Group for Young Women

For Young Women (18-40yrs) who are discerning a Vocation to Religious Life, monthly meetings are held in Charleville Retreat Centre, Cork. If you are interested in attending, please email womendiscern@corkandross.org

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? How can you live your vocation out more faithfully? Sat. 13th Dec. 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>

This Coming Week

1st Dec - 7th Dec

Wed

St. Francis Xavier

Thurs

St. John Damascene

Sat

St. Nicholas

Sun

2nd Sunday of Advent

Readings for

Sun 7th Dec

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Romans 15: 4-9

Matthew 3: 1-12

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 |