

St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's Parish News for You! March 2026



Photo by [IKECHUKWU JULIUS](#)

Mothering Sunday 15th March

Real Temptations.....	2	Passover Meal.....	9
Worship in March.....	3	Mothers' Union News.....	11
Parish Register	4	Lost Property.....	12
Flowers.....	4	What have you lost?.....	12
Ground Force	4	Easter Appeal.....	13
"The Crucifixion" 2026	5	Access NI Applications	14
Mothering Sunday.....	5	Safeguarding Trust (Re-)Training	14
Prayer Pointers	6	Annual General Vestry:	15
The Parish Website	8	News Sheet Deadline.....	15
World Day of Prayer	9	Calendar March 2026.....	16

Real Temptations

Jealous of the world or zealous for the world.

They have it easy!

I wonder if you, as a believer, are ever tempted to think or say that people around you "have it easier than me?" Easier because they have less demanding scruples, have no problem bending rules, or do not have to spend time daily in the pursuit of spiritual growth?

Life with the anchor.

Ask yourself this instead: Do I want an easier life that has no anchor in Christ, who is God over all, to be praised forever?

It changes your perspective, doesn't it? Living life without the knowledge of God's hand guiding you, protecting you, and saving you from yourself is to live a fairly treacherous life. We don't like feeling guilty about things we have done, but how much more we might hurt others without God's hand upon us!

They have it hard.

We sometimes become so familiar with the comfort God gives, and the strength he supplies, that we forget how hard life is without him. But when we follow a daily routine, we are enabled to recall his presence even when life seems so busy that we imagine we can cope without him. When we have scruples about cheap shortcuts or slippery deals, and as a result choose a better way, we find that God blesses us in doing so.

Instead of being jealous of what the world offers to give us, let us be zealous to offer the world what God longs to give them.

Life without an anchor.

Jesus said that he "came that they may have abundant life." If you have that life already, start living it in such a way that others will want to have it too. But if you have lost touch with life, as Jesus offers, or have never experienced the joy of being forgiven by a creator who loves you so much, then ask someone you know is a Christian, or one of the clergy team, how you too can have that life.

Worship in March

The **weekly communion on Wednesday Lunch times** is a half hour service in the middle of the day that allows those who work in the town, or who are in the business of shopping at our lovely town centre to take time aside for God. It is a communion service with a short address, led by some of the clergy who support our parish month by month.

It is interesting to see how people who *drop in* to see it, quite often become *regular* worshippers! If you're free, why don't you try joining them!

15th March Mothering Sunday

You probably know that the popular Mothers' Day in UK and USA derives from a decision by an English vicar. He realised that mothers should be given proper respect by having Sunday dedicated to them. A day was set aside, the fourth Sunday in Lent, for the workers in the community to go home to their mother church – home where their mums lived - and give thanks to God for them.

In a hard-pressed workforce this was extremely popular and the idea gained momentum and was widely observed. It is good to know that the specific day was chosen, not because of the weather for nice flowers or the like, but because the Sunday reading for that day mentioned Jerusalem which is our mother. Sadly, many people avoid church because of their grief, but how better to remember your mum well, than by going to church and giving thanks to God for how much she did for you and still means to you! See you 15th March!

Sundays

Stephen, Stuart, Paul, Ian and Robert will be leading the **Sunday Services**. During March, Walter McConnell and Philip Barnes will be speaking at teaching services in St Patrick's at 6:00 pm.

The Prayer Room

Each Sunday morning, for a few minutes before the 10:00 am service, worshippers pause at their seats and some in the Prayer Room, to pray for those around them, that God would pour out his Spirit on the gathered people, and speak his life-changing truth to everyone present. *Please spend time in prayer (at your seat or with others in the Prayer Room) to ask God to bathe the people at worship with his love.*

Parish Register

Funeral Service

6th February – James McClelland

14th February – Jeannie Mulholland

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

Flowers

8th February –

Donated in Memory of Hugh and Edith Mark from daughter Barbara

15th February –

Donated in Loving Memory of dad, Tommy McCandless from Ann, Doreen, Trevor, Valerie and Karen

22nd February –

Donated in Remembrance of Alice & Uel Nevin from daughter Donna & family

Ground Force

Would you like to be part of a team that gets together in St Patrick's Churchyard for a bit of work and some light-hearted banter? The small team is looking for new members who are willing to spend some evenings tidying up the church grounds. They are called **GROUND FORCE!**

Ground Force are starting back on the 8th April from 6.30 p.m.

Unlock your inner Alan Titchmarsh and join us. **Please bring *your own tools***



before



after



*Stainer's Crucifixion
Fri 3 April 7.30pm*

St Patrick's, Coleraine

*Join us for this beautiful work
Remembering Christ's Death*

"The Crucifixion" 2026

Good Friday 3rd April, 2026 in St. Patrick's Church, Coleraine will again be marked by the performance of **John Stainer's "The Crucifixion"** by St. Patrick's choir and guests under the musical directorship of Tony Morrison our organist and choirmaster.

Please make a note in your diaries for this very special and reflective event at 7.30 pm in St. Patrick's Church which will finish our Holy Week services for 2026.



All Age Worship

Mothering Sunday

15th March 2026

at 10:00 am in St Patrick's

at 11:30 am in St Andrew's

**Worship
AND
Wonder**

Prayer Pointers

March 2026

*“God demonstrates His own love for us in this:
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5 v 8*

For Ourselves

In this Lenten season let us make time to be still, to reflect on our lives and ask ourselves how well we are living in the light of God’s presence and power made available to us in Jesus.

Praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He has done for you –
John 3:16

Remember God’s love and grace for you – Ephesians 2:8-9

Confess to God those times when you have been selfish, judgmental,
proud, unforgiving..... – 1 John 1:9

Ask God to reveal those areas in your life that need to change by His
transforming power – Ps 139:23-24

Thank God that he loves you no matter what your life’s experience has
been, is or will be – Zephaniah 3:17

For Our Church

Give thanks for a real sense of God’s presence with us in our services, for
the faithful preaching of God’s word by our clergy, for all involved in
leading worship, and all who faithfully volunteer week by week.

Pray for the upcoming Easter General Vestry that it will be an
opportunity to praise God for the year that has passed and seek His
wisdom as we move forward in His name.

Pray for those who are ill at home or in hospital; those who are worried,
lonely or grieving. Ask God to be their companion, their comfort,
encouragement and hope.

For our Community

Pray for those who are living on the breadline and struggling to provide for themselves or family. Give thanks for those agencies that seek to bring relief – Foodbanks, Restored Ministries, Samaritans, Simon Community etc.

The 15th of March is Mothering Sunday – Pray for those who will find this a difficult day for a variety of reasons and for those families who will enjoy the opportunity to meet together.

For our World

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”. Psalm 24 v 1

Because “the earth is the Lord’s”, we then are stewards or caretakers. Pray wisdom for world leaders as they consider how we care for our world both in terms of climate change and also in dealing with conflict.

Pray protection for those who live in war-torn parts of our world, particularly those who suffer because they believe and trust in God.

For our Mission Partners

Pray for our mission partners using the words of Ps 139.

Thank Him for His complete knowledge of them and their work, of their joys and sorrows, their hopes and fears. And then bring to Him the latest requests from their prayer letters found at the back of the church.

Thank you for praying, at home, at our weekly prayer meeting and as we gather for worship each week.

A green-themed poster for the 'FLIPSIDE' event. The background is light green with white starburst graphics. At the top, it says 'SAMS IRELAND' in bold green letters, followed by 'GOD'S MISSION-SHAPED STORY' in smaller black letters. The word 'FLIPSIDE' is written in large, bold, dark green letters. Below that, it says 'FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE HAS A NEW NAME & A DIFFERENT LOCATION' in black. A paragraph of text describes the event as an opportunity to gather and worship God, mentioning it will be held on Friday 6th March. At the bottom, the date and time 'FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026 7:30PM - 9:00PM' are listed in bold green and black. The location 'Vic-Ryn T3 Conference Centre Lisburn BT28 2RF' is at the very bottom in black. The poster is framed by stylized green hills at the bottom and starbursts on the sides.

SAMS IRELAND
GOD'S MISSION-SHAPED STORY
FLIPSIDE
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE HAS A NEW
NAME & A DIFFERENT LOCATION

FLIPSIDE is an opportunity to gather & worship God, to still our hearts & to be reminded of the incredible story we are part of. Following Jesus is never passive, it is something we live, share & practice. Celebrate with us on Friday 6th March, as we partner with the church in South America.

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026
7:30PM - 9:00PM

Vic-Ryn T3 Conference Centre
Lisburn BT28 2RF

The Parish Website

Whenever new neighbours come into a town or parish, one of the first things they do, before asking anyone directly, is to search the internet to find out more about their new surroundings.

I recently checked a mission agency website, and their last entry was sometime in mid '25. Who's not been keeping their eye on the ball!

It is great to see stpats.co.uk is trying to stay up to date with the monthly Newsletter, our magazine, being posted every time it is published, and with occasional news items keeping us up to speed!

This Newsletter has links in some of its articles to help online readers find out more about the events we advertise.

For instance there are links on the page about the Passover Meal leading you to "CMJ", the organisation that Ollie is supporting at the Maundy Thursday Meal.

The Calendar page can never be *absolutely* up to date as events are rearranged at short notice: If you click on the title "Calendar March 2026" this will take you directly to the list of events on the website – which should show any late additions or amendments in highlights.

The Index on the front page helps you, not only to find where articles are, but, if you click on one, it will take you directly to that page! No need to scroll through 15 pages to find the calendar: one click and you are there!

So how do you get all these clicks and links? *At this stage* the only way is to go to the website www.stpats.co.uk and visit the magazines tab, and open this month's edition. But, if you want to have one on your phone or tablet or computer, it *could* be emailed directly to your device.

We have not set up a system from the office to do this automatically, but if a decent number of readers request it, it becomes worthwhile doing.

Send an email to admin@StPats.co.uk requesting a copy and we will send you a link. Last month the long-winded link was <https://stpats.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/February-2026-Newsletter2.pdf>. Try it!



*I will give you
rest, come*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
A service for everyone!
Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

World Day of Prayer

This year takes place in our area on Friday 6th March, 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

We thank St. John's RC Church, Coleraine for welcoming us all.

[This year's service](#) has been prepared by women of Nigeria. All welcome

Passover Meal

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Ollie Sims of [CMJ](#) will facilitate a Passover Supper on **Maundy Thursday at 6.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Church**

We will have Shepherd's Pie and Apple Cake as we explore the Passover meal and the origins of our Holy Communion. We will finish with Holy Communion celebrating the Last Supper.

Please book your place in advance, as we need to know the numbers for catering purposes. Please use clipboards at back of Churches. Shalom.



Choir News

Trevor after choir practice celebrating his 90th birthday which was on 16th February. He really enjoys his singing and this is his second spell propping up the bass line.

Marbles

There has always been a tension around church buildings. A tension about the memorials and tablets which adorn the wall and windows.

Some people are entirely in favour of them and have little difficulty in using them to celebrate the lives of others, be they civic dignitaries, military heroes, godly clergy or church members. Some of you probably have a similar opinion.

Others are very suspicious of such memorials. Their concerns range from the use of a place dedicated to the worship of God to glorify people, the system for agreeing to install them, as well as the size and proportion of them. Sometimes they can seem rather large and 'over the top', don't they?

The method used to reach a compromise is to begin the text on the memorial with "To the Glory of God". It displaces the sense of 'worshipping' the deceased, while at the same time acclaiming the deceased's efforts to live for God. Win Win.

In one church the new rector asked about the memorials to former clergy which adorned the chancel walls; the answer? "Those are limited to clergy who have served over 25 years!" Is that the criterion? Length of service, staying power, or, being rather negative about it, not being wanted anywhere else?

Acquaintances of Cuyler included Horatius Bonar, Charles Spurgeon, D. L. Moody, Charles G. Finney, and Prime Minister William Gladstone.

But imagine if your life's purpose was to get a plaque on the church wall! How sad! How self-obsessed!

Here is a quote from a man called [Theodore Cuyler](#). He was a presbyterian minister, serving as pastor of the largest Presbyterian Church in the USA. A local park was named after him, "Cuyler Gore" but when they wanted to put a statue of him there, he refused. You will see what lay in his heart when you read his words:

Marble and granite are perishable monuments, and their inscriptions may be seldom read. Carve your names on human hearts; they alone are immortal! Theodore Cuyler

This month's challenge is to enrich someone else's life with your kindness, your love, your assistance or your heartfelt prayers. Ask God to guide you and help your life this month be to the greater glory of God and the good of someone else, not yourself. You'll not get a memorial stone, but you may find a place in someone's eternal gratitude.

Mothers' Union News



A wonderful night with an inspiring speaker Jennifer Smyth who spoke about the charity she set up called Jenn's Gym. We were also delighted to welcome her Mum Pamela and Granny Willa.



Hazel was presented with a small token to show our appreciation for nearly 20 years as a very efficient treasurer.

Patricia McWhirter has now taken up the role.

Our next meeting is on 9th March at 7.30pm in St Andrew's.

The title is **Treasures of the Heart** and we ask you, please, to bring in a small treasured item and tell us why it is so special to you.

We will also be filling emergency wash bags for Causeway Hospital and Women's Aid. Please bring in a few items from the attached list or leave in box at back of church.

All donations gratefully received. Thank you.

Join us, Join in! All welcome.

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Comb/brush
- Deodorant,
- Tissues
- Mini shower gel.

Lost Property

Several items remain in the lost property box unclaimed.

These will be held until 15th April. We intend to donate unclaimed items to charity after this date.



What have you lost?

People? Purpose? Priorities? Passion? Or...

Have you simply lost your way?

A few pages ago we read this:

Have you lost touch with life, as Jesus offers it, or have you never experienced the joy in life of being forgiven?

There is no need to go through life without God's direction and God's strength.

If you once were *nearly* in the family of God, outwardly anyway, but not quite *sure* about your faith in God, then you may have been thinking about it the wrong way. Let me explain.

Being a child of God is not the result of a science experiment where we list criteria to tick off that prove God is real and interested in you. It is not an experiment, but a relationship.

We may not be expert romantics, any of us, but many of us behave as if we were, for we spend a long time looking for that "someone special!" When we do find them, they turn out **not** to tick all the boxes we made on our list for our perfect match.

Rather, simply spending time with someone, getting to know them - by exchanging letters, texts, calls and conversations - we gradually reveal more about each other, until the understanding grows to a deepening love. We still need to take the plunge, as it were, but it is not about absolute proof, it is about the desire to spend the rest of our lives finding out about them and loving them.

God gave us Jesus to let us know about his love and his power: read about him, ask others about him, get to know him, and then plunge into life with the one person who shows us how to live with a holy lifegiving purpose: in love!

Easter Appeal

This year is the Easter Appeal is for the Building Fund



The Parish of Coleraine is blessed with two churches. Those who come to worship God in St Patrick's appreciate that we have a beautiful old building. Even the much newer St Andrew's is now over 40 years old. Both need continual repairs and maintenance.

Our very active Property Committee are careful to keep both buildings well maintained and are very successful at obtaining the best value for money. But it does require a good deal of money to keep up with repairs. We would appreciate your prayerful contribution.

St. Patrick's is a B+ listed building and as such requires conservation accredited professionals for much of the repairs, specialists trades, special permissions and large budgets!

1. Currently we are awaiting planning permission and costings to restore the railings and coping stones on the south and west perimeter walls of St. Patrick's; also the demolition of the old shed at the rear gate of St. Patrick's grounds and restoration of drainage around the St. Patrick's site.
2. Additionally, we are awaiting the report from the triennial bell inspection which was carried out on 17th February 2026 but undoubtedly this will show work that needs to be done as highlighted in the last inspection.
3. The stonework in the tower and around the tower door and south door entrances is in need of restoration as highlighted in the last quinquennial report of 2024.
4. The railings and wall restoration works do not qualify for grant assistance. We have a rough estimate of £150,000 + VAT for this project alone.
5. If anyone has fundraising experience, then please speak to Patricia and Jenny.

Your Select Vestry

Access NI Applications

St. Andrew's Church, Coleraine

Tuesday 10th March, 2026 at 7 p.m.

To gain the necessary ACCESS NI certificate, which opens the door for you to serve as a volunteer or leader in the parishes, we encourage all those involved to come to get your certificates. You may *think* you already have one, but certificates need updating every three years and our records indicate that many volunteers need to reapply. Why not do it together?

In advance you will need

1. **A NI Direct Account.** Volunteers will need to have their email address and password with them. It would be better if this was set up beforehand because the process requires the applicant to submit a photo of themselves and other identification.
2. To apply for the Enhanced Disclosure (required by all volunteers) on the night you will need to bring with you your:
 - National Insurance Number (if they have one)
 - Driving Licence (if they have one)
 - Passport (if they have one)
 - Addresses at which you have lived in the past 5 years (along with corresponding dates)
 - Two identity documents

The advice from Access NI is for the identity documents to be

1. a birth certificate and
2. Photo ID such as a Passport or photo card part of their driving licence.

These forms of identity process the quickest.

Safeguarding Trust (Re-)Training

Dunluce Parish Centre

Wednesday 15th April, 2026 at 7 p.m.

For all members of staff, volunteers and leaders

This is your opportunity as volunteers and leaders with young people and vulnerable adults to update your skills and understanding of the correct and safe ways to serve in the church.

Annual General Vestry:

St Patrick's & St Andrew's

The meeting is due to take place on **Tuesday 14th April at 7.00 pm**

Reports

The Annual Meeting of members of the church whose names are on the List of Registered Vestry-members is an opportunity to hear from the Rural Dean, where a rector is not in office, and the Select Vestry. The chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer may give short reports. The Annual Financial Report is presented to allow members to ask questions about it. Simple explanations are given there and then, but more complex issues may be referred back to the incoming vestry to answer in due course.

Elections

The chairman has the responsibility of nominating Rector's Warden and Rector's Glebewarden. The members propose candidates for election to the following positions: People's Church Warden, People's Glebewarden, and members of the Select Vestry. Elections take place at once and the results are announced as soon as possible.

Triennial Year

This is a Triennial year: every third year parishes are required to appoint Diocesan Synods persons to represent the parish at the diocesan synod, and to elect Parochial Nominators to serve in the process of nominating a new rector to the bishop should a vacancy occur.

The other task is to nominate Auditors to examine the accounts for the incoming vestry.

News Sheet Deadline

We like to get this publication into your hands and onto your devices before the end of the month. With that in mind, please email articles for the next edition to admin@stpats.co.uk by Tuesday 17th March. Thank you.

Calendar March 2026

Sunday 1st March

10:00 am Parish Communion
11:30 am Parish Communion
6:00 pm Teaching Service

Lent 2

(Purple)

St Patrick's
St Andrew's
St Patrick's

Wednesday 4th March

1:00 pm Midweek Communion.

St Patrick's

Friday 6th March

7:30 pm World Day of Prayer (Nigeria)

St John's RC Church

Sunday 8th March

10:00 am Morning Prayer
11:30 am Morning Prayer
6:00 pm Teaching Service

Lent 3

(Purple)

St Patrick's
St Andrew's
St Patrick's

Monday 9th March

7:30 pm Mothers' Union **Treasures of the heart**

St Andrew's

Wednesday 11th March

1:00 pm Midweek Communion

St Patrick's

Sunday 15th March

Mothering Sunday

10:00 am Church Family Service
11:30 am Church Family Service
6:00 pm Teaching Service

(Purple)

St Patrick's
St Andrew's
St Patrick's

Parish Newsletter article submission date.

Wednesday 18th March for St Patrick's Day

1:00 pm Midweek Communion

St Patrick's

Sunday 22nd March

Passion Sunday

10:00 am Morning Prayer
11:30 am Morning Prayer
6:00 pm Teaching Service

(Purple)

St Patrick's
St Andrew's
St Patrick's

Wednesday 25th March

1:00 pm Midweek Communion

St Patrick's

Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

10:00 am Morning Prayer (Feels like 9am!!)
11:30 am Morning Prayer (Feels like 9am!!)
Teaching Service
7:00 pm Gathered Service

(Purple)

St Patrick's
St Andrew's
TIME/VENUE TBC
St Patrick's