

**St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's
Celebrate Easter as God's Family!
April 2026**

Easter Sunday 5th April

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For me to live is Christ, to die is gain

Resurrection Thoughts

The day Jesus died and the day he rose again are the most important days for everyone who is born on this planet.

But how important are they for you? Are they, like St Paul, a matter of life and death? St Paul made clear that for him to live is Christ and to die is gain. It meant *everything* to him.

Most of us are caught up with tasks, and are busy every day, trying to keep our families and ourselves - our homes and our health - at their best, with a view to living for a long time in relative comfort and in good standing among our friends.

What difference does the death and resurrection of Jesus make to us?

God is beyond our *reach*, separated from us *because* of our sin, and *we fight* what seems like (*and is*) a hopeless battle to control even our own thoughts, never mind our words and deeds!

God our creator, however, *has not given up on us*, so has given us a Way to come back to him. A Person, in fact, someone who shares in his divinity, Jesus of Nazareth, who has overturned our hopeless attempts at living, and, instead, has lived a pure life, wholly acceptable to God.

He was free from the sinful weakness of everyone else in humanity, and so was uniquely able to step forward and offer his life to receive what WE deserve. That is, death. He did this so that we, in his love, could have the barrier between us and God removed.

Although he deserved and received death because of the sins he now bore, God raised him up after that death so that Jesus could be the first to rise again, free from sin.

- every time I (or you) fall short of God's standards, God forgives us.
- every time you (or I) forget about God's love, God remembers his love.
- every time any of us fouls up a relationship, God is there to restore us.
- every time we hurt someone, or wreck something, or write off a person's hope, God can start us afresh, to say we are sorry, and seek reconciliation

Jesus died to take our place in God's disfavour and rose again to bring us back into his love.

We hope that you too will experience the love & hope that knowing Jesus brings..

Holy Week

Passover Meal

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Ollie Sims of [CMJ](#) will facilitate a Passover Supper on **Maundy Thursday at 6.30 pm in St. Andrew's Church** with Shepherd's Pie and Apple Cake. We will finish with Holy Communion celebrating the Last Supper.

Our Communion Services can seem far removed from the meal our Lord shared with his disciples in the Upper Room. The way we can bring the event into life is to share an actual meal while sharing in the bread.

One participant in such a meal said: "I never really understood communion before – it was very meaningful." To find out what he meant add your name to the list for the Passover style meal and come to **St Andrew's on Thursday 2nd April at 6:30 pm.**

Good Friday

Meditation on the Crucifixion

Stephen Lowry will lead us in an hour-long meditation for **Good Friday at 1:00 pm** in St Patrick's. You're welcome.



John Stainer's Crucifixion

The choir is rehearsing for the Good Friday service when they will be joined by guests, swelling the choir to 40 singers to present '**Crucifixion**' by **John Stainer**. Soloists are Glenn Tweedie and Jason Poots. The service is at 7.30pm.

5th April Easter Day:

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at St Patrick's and St Andrew's on Easter Day 5th April.

The Prayer Room *every Sunday*

Please spend time in prayer (at your seat or with others in the Prayer Room from 9:40 am) to ask God to bathe the people at worship with his love.

Pray for those around you, that God would pour out his Spirit on the gathered people, and speak his life-changing truth to everyone present.

Weeknight Prayers

Members of the parish meet for prayer **each Tuesday night in St. Andrew's Church at 7.00 pm**. It is an opportunity to share together and to encourage one another in the work of praying for the parish. The monthly Prayer Pointers in this newsletter give you an opportunity to pray at home as well.

Ground Force

Don't forget: Ground Force are starting back on the 8th April from 6.30 p.m.



Join the team of willing volunteers attempting to make the grounds of our churches look well this year. Please bring *your own tools*

Save the Date

It is time to save a date in your diary

St Patrick's Ladies' Group Meal

Venue: The Lodge Hotel

Date: Thursday 4th June

Time: 7:00 pm

To find out more, speak to Gillian Anderson

Thanks for the update, Gillian!

The Church Bells

We took the opportunity to ask Karen McCandless, our Tower Captain, about the Church Bells we hear ringing on Sunday Mornings at St Patrick's. The first thing we asked was about her interesting job-title

I'm told you are the Tower Captain. I've never heard that phrase before. What does it mean?

The tower captain is responsible for managing the band of ringers, ensuring safe operation of the bells and acting as the main point of contact within the church.

So you are part of the team of bell-ringers at St Patrick's. How many bells are there, and how many bell-ringers do the bells need?

Here at St Patricks, we have 8 bells in total, ranging in differing sizes, the treble or number 1 bell is 570lbs in weight, going up to number 8, the tenor bell, that weighs 2280lbs, which is roughly a ton. The minimum number of ringers we need on any given day is 5, so, if there are no bells ringing on a Sunday it usually means we don't have enough ringers!

Is it heavy work, pulling those big ropes? Do some bells need more strength than others?

Some of the bigger bells need a little bit of "oomph", to get them started. After that, it's all about weight and balance to help the ringer keep the swing "correct" and avoid bells "coming down", which is all very technical speech!

Does it take a long time for a person to go from pulling the rope for the first time to become a reliable member of the team: i.e. to pull in time with everyone else!

Learning to ring bells takes a little bit of time but it's very much dependent on the individual, as in everyone learns at their own pace. Some pick it up very quickly, some not so much (no names!!!)



St Patrick's Bell Tower was the location for the "The Cunningham Cup" competition in 2023

How often do the bellringers practise, and for how long are the bells rung on Sundays?

Our practice night is on a Monday evening at 7.30pm. We aim to ring every Sunday morning, for 30 mins before the service.



If someone is interested in joining the team how do they go about it?

If anyone is interested they can speak to any of our ringing team - you'll see them at the bell tower before and after ringing - or by contacting the parish office.

Did you ever pull the bells for particularly happy or sad occasions? Tell us about them:

The sound of bells ringing is a joyous thing and they are rung for all different occasions such as weddings and national celebrations. For example Royal occasions as in the crowning of the King and Royal weddings and of course sadder moments like funerals.



As ringers we are part of the Irish Association of Change Ringers, IACR, so it is part of a wider community and there are even competitions. St Patrick's hosted the Annual General Meeting last year and the Cunningham Cup.

We say thank you, Karen.



1st Coleraine Company Boys' Brigade

The Boys completed "The Northern Ireland Boys' Brigade Scripture Exam" last Thursday and they were awarded the **Battalion Scripture Shield** with an average mark of 88.16%.

Two Boys received 1st place in their respective years: Oscar 94.5% & Elzton 100%



Prayer Pointers April

Jesus said, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23: 43)

For Ourselves

Thank you Jesus for what you did on the cross that we might have everlasting life. Help us to seek purity in all we think and do. "Search me O God, and know my anxious heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life." (Psalm 139: 23-24)

For our Parish

We give thanks for the clergy, vestry, children's and youth leaders and the many volunteers who enable our church life to continue and thrive. Lord help our witness this Easter to encourage those who have strayed or grown lukewarm in their faith to know the strength and power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus sent to help us.

We pray for God's guidance as we hold our Easter Vestry; for the right people to be willing to serve or continue to serve, that you, Lord, would be glorified. We ask you to guide and protect all who are making decisions for our church and that the problems we have would be resolved soon.

We remember those in our church family who are sick or anxious and ask for your healing and peace for each one.

For our Community

Thank you for opportunities to share what you have given us with Food Bank and Restored Ministries. Thank you that we have a beautiful building that others can use too. May St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's churches provide a warm welcome to the needy and give people the opportunity to know the blessing and transformation in our lives that Christ offers.

Help those who are struggling financially or with family relationships. Help parents who are exhausted and feel guilty. Bless marriages and families, the elderly and the vulnerable. Encourage our health workers and carers and help us all to value the things that you value and to live and work to that end.

For our World

“...the Lamb will overcome them because he is the Lord of lords and King of kings.” (Rev. 17: 14)

In these days of uncertainty and anxiety, Lord, we pray for your help to bring peace and stability in all the world. Give the nations’ leaders wisdom and integrity, cooperation and fear of the Lord.

We pray for relief for the suffering, shelter and food for the homeless, medical aid for the ill and injured, comfort for the victims of war and the hope that is found in Christ for all.

For our Mission Partners

Pray for:

- fruit from their labour
- doors to be open to them
- good health and protection
- good communication links with their families
- good relationships with the local people
- both prayer and financial support
- the power of the Holy Spirit to send workers and increase the harvest
- time to rest and be refreshed



More information is available at the Mission Table at the back of the church. To find out a little more information see the Parish Website [Mission Page](#)

We encourage you to use these prayer points daily.

Prayer Image by pngtree.com

Calendar April 2026

The dates and events mentioned here are correct at the time of going to press. Occasionally requests are made for the use of church facilities which mean details of the events may change. Online users can click on the title above to visit the parish website where last-minute changes will be noted. *The clergy initials are indicated to help other participants know whom to ask re details.*

Palm Sunday 29th March

(Purple)

2:00 am	Clocks spring forward: <i>don't sleep in!!</i>	
10:00 am	Morning Prayer (Feels like 9am!!) ICB	St Patrick's
11:30 am	Morning Prayer (Feels like 9am!!) ICB	St Andrew's
4:30 pm	Teaching Service <i>note amended time</i>	St Patrick's
7:00 pm	Gathered Service	St Patrick's

Wednesday 1st April

(Purple)

1:00 pm	Midweek Communion. RJS <i>A half hour communion service in the Prayer Room</i>	St Patrick's
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Maundy Thursday 2nd April

(Purple)

10:15 am	Gathered: Prayer and Fund-raising Walk	St Patrick's
12:00 pm	Gathered: Prayer and Fund-raising Walk	St Andrew's
6:30 pm	Holy Communion / Passover Meal RJS <i>Please sign up using the forms available at churches</i>	St Andrew's



Good Friday 3rd April

(No colours)

1 to 2 pm	Meditation SHL <i>Hymns readings and prayerful silences</i>	St Patrick's
7:00 pm	The Crucifixion: Sir John Stainer RJS <i>Featuring the Church Choir & Friends</i>	St Patrick's

Easter Sunday 5th April

(White)

10:00 am	Easter Communion DPH	St Patrick's
11:30 am	Easter Communion DPH	St Andrew's

Easter Monday 6th April

10am to 12pm **Gathered Centre** opening (see article) Kingsgate St

Wednesday 8th April

6:30 pm *No Midweek Communion today*
Ground Force season begins St Patrick's

Sunday 12th April 2nd Sunday of Easter (White)

10:00 am Morning Prayer ICB St Patrick's
11:30 am Morning Prayer ICB St Andrew's

Monday 13th April

7:30 pm Mothers' Union District Service SHL St Andrew's

Tuesday 14th April

7:00 pm General Vestry Meeting St Patrick's

Wednesday 15th April

Please provide the monthly Newsletter notes by this day
1:00 pm Midweek Communion ICBS St Patrick's
7:00 pm Safeguarding Refresher Course Bushmills

Saturday 18th April

8am to 6pm [Growth Conference](#) (Northern) Stormont Hotel

Sunday 19th April 3rd Sunday of Easter (White)

10:00 am Church Family Service SHL St Patrick's
11:30 am Church Family Service SHL St Andrew's

Wednesday 22nd April

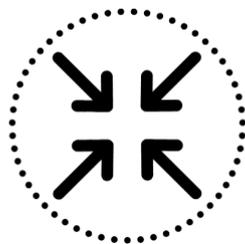
1:00 pm Midweek Communion SHL St Patrick's

Sunday 26th April 4th Sunday of Easter (White)

10:00 am Morning Prayer RJS St Patrick's
11:30 am Morning Prayer RJS St Andrew's

Wednesday 29th April

1:00 pm Midweek Communion RJS St Patrick's



GATHERED

== A PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY ==

Gathered is led by Pioneer Minister, Jonny Diamond, and serves the local community in 3 ways - outreach, discipleship & worship.

At Gathered - A Partnership Ministry, we specifically focus on young people and young families who have little or no connection to church and wait expectantly to see what God will do in and through this ministry in the days, weeks, months and years to come.

Jonny writes:



In Matthew 18:20 Jesus says "for where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them." We believe that there is significance when people gather together, especially when followers of Jesus are gathered. In the North Coast area, approximately 1 in 4 to 1 in 5 people state that they have no faith. A "missing generation" is increasingly apparent in our local churches, yet we believe that the local church has so much to offer people of all ages and has a great heart for children, young people and young families.

Outreach

We are delighted to announce progress on our Gathered Centre situated in Coleraine Town Centre - we are extremely grateful to St Patrick's Church for their assistance in this exciting project. Building work has now been completed ahead of our opening on Easter Monday (10am-12noon) where all are welcome to drop-in, see the space and talk to a member of the Gathered Team. This centre will operate all Gathered's Coleraine programmes as well as launching new outreach programmes including drop-ins - we would love for members of St Patrick's & St Andrew's to get involved: whether that is making toast, pouring tea or engaging with our local communities. Ahead of the opening of the centre please pray for God's will to be done through this space.

Alongside our new Centre, Gathered engages with young people and young families including schools work in our local primary and secondary schools, a range of community work including events during holiday times as well as hosting Holiday Clubs in St Andrew's (6th-10th July) and in Dunluce (10th-14th August.)



Discipleship

We don't want to just 'gather' a crowd but for those we encounter to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

We have a lot to celebrate with our youth discipleship including our weekly Gathered Youth in Coleraine (Sundays 7pm-9pm), our new Gathered Youth in Bushmills (Wednesday 7pm-9pm), as well as BELIEVE, our Confirmation Preparation Programme. Gathered Youth is open to all young people in Year 8-14 and if any young people (currently Year 10 or older) are seeking to be confirmed, please express interest to Jonny as soon as possible.

Every Friday evening from 7pm our Gathered Pod meets in Coleraine to discover and discuss what it means to follow Jesus. Our current pod is for young adults who are just coming to the end of an Alpha Course.

Finally, we are so thankful to the Sunday School Leaders in both St Patrick's & St Andrew's who take time each week to share Jesus with the children of our parish. Gathered supports these leaders through Together Nights where leaders can be encouraged and blessed a number of times throughout the year while also providing engaging material for Sunday School Sessions.

Gathered Services are
at 7:00 pm on:
29th March - St Patrick's
26th April - Dunseverick
31st May - Ballyrashane
28th June - St Andrew's
26th July - Ballintoy
30th August - Dunluce

Worship

Every Sunday Morning, Jonny, moves around the 7 churches involved in the Gathered Partnership and is usually at St Patrick's & St Andrew's once a month. Alongside joining with our partnership parishes for their Sunday Morning Worship, Gathered hosts their Gathered Services on the last Sunday of each Month at 7pm. These are contemporary Anglican worship which are open to everyone - all ages as well as members of our congregations.

Get Involved

As Gathered - A Partnership Ministry continues to grow and develop, there are plenty of ways to give including volunteering and financial giving. If you would like to hear more about Gathered - A Partnership Ministry you can find us online (www.gatheredministry.com), on Facebook (Gathered - A Partnership Ministry), on Instagram (@Gathered_Ministry) and if you would like to hear about how to get involved, speak to Jonny or contact him on +4474848430242.

Background: This is a Pioneer Ministry Project in partnership with The Grouped Parishes of Ballyrashane & Kildollagh, The Grouped Parishes of Ballintoy & Dunseverick with Rathlin Island, St Patrick's and St Andrew's Coleraine and Dunluce Parish, Bushmills which exists to 'gather' young people and young families to help them discover the love, joy and life only found in Jesus, by becoming lifelong disciples of Christ.

Appearance isn't everything: is it?

Focussing on good *character* instead of on good *looks*

The older people reading this will remember a time when very few people had good teeth. A common procedure in early adulthood was to have numbers - if not all - of your teeth removed and false ones fitted. People would say "you have lovely teeth" simply for having a full set that were more or less in good order!

In the last three or four decades the role of dental specialists to straighten young teeth has become almost a rite of passage for so many youngsters. But it's not just teeth!

Hair implants, extensions and colouring ensure that youthful good looks are available (at a price) long past your twenties or thirties.

Along with these changes, which admittedly make life more pleasant for us all, have come a less attractive change: the reduction in importance of good character and beautiful behaviour.

- if a new comedian's pitch is going stale, just add a four-lettered jibe and the audience is almost guaranteed to release some nervous laughter
- the well-groomed worker makes sure they are taken seriously by boasting of their weekend drinking binge and their crude humour
- the would-be employee treats potential parenthood as an unimportant aspect of a distant future rather than admit they would love to be a parent sometime soon

The dilemma is that people of faith can sometimes find themselves challenged to conform by copying these shallow values, instead of asserting the goodness of pure language, moderate living, and the richness of family life.

In what ways do we want to appear?

In 2 Samuel 22:36 David says: **Your gentleness has made me great. (NKJV)**

I recently read this comment on the words by William Arnot, a Scottish minister of old:

*The gentleness of Christ is the comeliest ornament
that a Christian can wear.*

Meditate on that for a few moments, as I did, and then decide what you are going to wear today. Ask yourself how much emphasis we are going to place on other less comely elements of our appearance!

Mothers' Union

The MU Meets each month in St. Andrew's Church, usually on the Second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm



In March the members brought **Treasures from the Heart**, to share their stories together. Also at the gathering gifts were packaged and arranged to help those who arrive in hospital unexpectedly lacking basic personal washing materials.

MU District Service

It is our turn to hold the Mothers' Union District Service. This year it will DV be in St Andrew's Church at 7:30 pm on Monday 13th April. Members are requested to come early to help provide a warm welcome to our guests from other local branches.

Advance Notice

Mothers' Union are having a Tea Party at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 11th May in St. Andrew's Church. All are welcome to come along and join us and join in for fun, food and fellowship. This will be **our last meeting before we break up for summer** so we would love to see a great turn out!

Rosters for April

April	Readings	Prayers	Service	Foodbank
5 th	June Ballentine	Sheila Orr	Paul	-
12 th	Barry Mitchell	James McDowell	Ian	John & Phyllis Logan
19 th	Jenny McGeehan	Helen Cushion	Stephen	James McDowell
26 th	Alistair Taylor	Scott Brown	Robert	Alan Robinson

If you are on this list but are unable to serve on the particular Sunday, please ask someone to swap with you and speak to the office to confirm the changes.

Easter Appeal

Thank you to all those in our parishes who have already contributed to the Easter Appeal. Envelopes are *still* available at both churches for you to give your sacrificial gift towards the repair and maintenance work required in our buildings. See the [March edition](#) for full details of the appeal

Easter Sunday Flowers

To celebrate Easter in St Patrick's the flower team would welcome contributions of flowers to decorate the church. If you would like to give a monetary donation, this too would be welcome and will help towards the decoration of the church on Easter Day and throughout the year. Please bring materials to the church before 10:00 am on Saturday morning or give your donation to any member of the Flower Team. Your help decorating is welcome.

Jennifer Mitchell

Safeguarding Trust Refresher 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.

Visit/Follow the
Parish Facebook
Page



Vestry Notices

St Patrick's & St Andrew's Annual Vestry Meeting

As mentioned last month, the parish's annual meeting is due to take place on **Tuesday 14th April at 7.00 pm**

The agenda includes the presenting of the financial report for the year just ended, the appointment and election of wardens, and voting for twelve additional vestry members. The other task of the meeting is to nominate Auditors to examine the accounts for the incoming vestry. See you at 7:00

Growth Conference

On Saturday 18th April an exciting event is planned to take place in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast. Ten different approaches to growing local churches will be presented and discussed, with a view to local churches taking responsibility for growing their parishes. This is a work of God, but it often happens when local believers are searching for ways to reach up to God for his help, while looking out to find the needs and opportunities which exist around them.

To find out more either speak to any member of the vestry or, if reading the online version of the magazine, click [here](#).

Or you can search for the Church of Ireland Website: and then look for "Growth Conference Belfast" <https://is.gd/DnEQiD>

May 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 14th April, for publishing on Friday 24th April. Thank you.



Church of Ireland
Commission on Ministry

GROWTH CONFERENCE

Has anybody got good ideas?
I'M NEW. HOW DO I KNOW MY AREA?
WHERE DO I FIND THE PEOPLE?
Who can I ask?

2026							APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
26	27	28	29	30									

SATURDAY, 18TH APRIL
STORMONT HOTEL
UPP. NEWTOWNARDS ROAD
BELFAST
[BIT.LY/BELFAST18APR](https://bit.ly/BELFAST18APR)

SATURDAY, 25TH APRIL
RADISSON BLU HOTEL
GOLDEN LANE
DUBLIN
[BIT.LY/DUBLIN25APR](https://bit.ly/DUBLIN25APR)

Parish Register

Holy Matrimony

12th March–Ellen Claire Kane & Matthew Kevin O'Hara

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

FLOWERS

15 March Wedding Flowers and Mothers' Union Flowers

Property Looking "Blu"

Please note that anyone wishing to promote events in St. Patrick's Church using posters should use the clear plastic stands or the existing fire wire rings and nylon thread already on the church pillars.

Recently several posters were attached to pillars inside St. Patrick's using Blu Tack which is not suitable to use on sandstone and is difficult to completely remove.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.
from *The Property Committee*

The Missing Peppermint Creams!



Fifteens and snowballs made by **Girls Brigade Seniors and Brigaders** under the instruction of **Mothers' Union** committee members Rena, Jean and Bridie. We are told Bridie and the girls made peppermint creams but, strangely we were unable to produce any evidence of this. sorry!!

GB Explorers and Juniors

Explorers and Juniors GB girls created their bears with a special wish inside each one. Happy girls! **Thank you to Create a Teddy.**



GB Seniors and Brigaders with Jonny at our puddings and prizes night!



Girls Brigade Visitor

Sofia came to visit Seniors and Brigaders at GB to say thank you for their gifts at Christmas and to see her progress after her accident.

It was great to have her as our special guest.