



PARISH OF  
KIRKINRIOLA

Ballymena

Directory  
of Parish Groups

**April 2023**

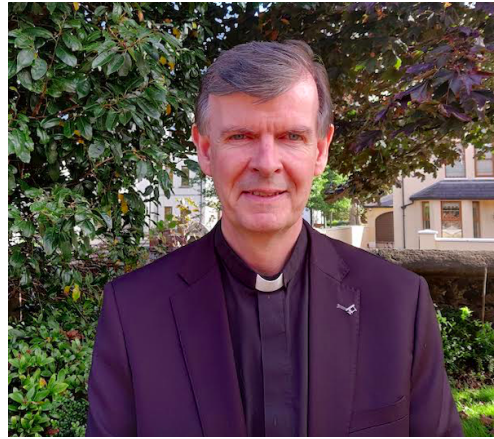
***Mission Statement: - We, the Parish Pastoral Council of Ballymena, inspired by the Holy Spirit, will nurture the gifts of all our people in order to grow as a vibrant, welcoming and joyful Christian Community where everyone feels called to build the Kingdom of God.***

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# Foreword

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the life of every parish, including our own. However, in recent months there have been positive signs of rebuilding, renewal and hope. The Holy Spirit is prompting us to imagine and build a new vision of our Parish; one where we all can play our part in creating a welcoming community, in which everyone is



encouraged to use their gifts and abilities in the service of building God's Kingdom. As St. Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians, 'there is a variety of gifts .... given by the Spirit .... working in all sorts of ways in different people.'

This Directory provides a brief outline of the many groups in which parishioners are using their gifts to help create a welcoming, vibrant and faith-filled community. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who give of their time and gifts in the service of our Parish groups. Without them, the Parish could not function or respond to the needs and interests of our parishioners.

As you read this Directory, notice what catches your eye. Is there a Parish group that you might like to join or at least find out more about? If so, pray about it and then contact the group. All our groups are keen to share the good news about what they are doing and to welcome new members.

Finally, I invite you to pray for our parish community, using the prayer at the end of the Directory. Only with prayer, can we hope to create the kind of faith community in our parish where we can all grow in friendship with Christ and one another.

With prayerful best wishes, Fr Michael McGinnity P.P.

April 2023

# Parish Information

## Priests

Very Rev Michael McGinnity PP VF

Rev Joe Davis CC

Canon Paddy McKenna PE

Parochial House, 4 Broughshane Road, Ballymena, BT43 7DX

Tel: 028 2564 1515

Email: [kirknriola@aol.com](mailto:kirknriola@aol.com)

Website: [www.ballymenaparish.org](http://www.ballymenaparish.org)

## Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

Contact the Parish Office:

Members of PPC: Lisa Hanna (Chairperson), Declan Stevens (Vice-Chairperson), Tracey Cassidy, Paul McAuley, Rosemary Quinn, Danuta Smolinska, Bernie Irvine, Jackie Kerr, Canon McKenna, Fr. Joe Davis, and Fr. Michael McGinnity

The Pastoral Council is a consultative body which provides advice and support to our Parish Priest. The Council discusses and determines the priorities, in consultation with the parishioners. The Council's Mission is to nurture the gifts of all our people and so create a welcoming, joyful, Christian community where everyone can participate in building up God's Kingdom of love.

## Parish Safeguarding Committee (PSC)

Contact: Parish Office 028 2564 1515

Members: Clare Barr, Fiona Delargy, Elizabeth McKee, Maurice Goldring, Paul McAuley and Fr. Michael McGinnity

The committee is responsible for creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all children/young people and adults who avail of services and activities offered by the parish.

## **Parish Centre Committee**

Contact Janice McKeith 079 2708 9125

Members: Carroll Falls, Patricia Diamond, Rosemary Quinn, Chris Matthews, Janice McKeith and Fr. Michael McGinnity

The aim of the Committee is to provide good governance of the Parish Centre and ensure that the highest standard of service is made available to all user groups.

## **Finance Committee**

Contact: Paddy McAllister (Chairperson) 075 7674 6964

Members: Neal Doherty, Arthur Byrne, Liam Magill, Joseph McMurray, Frances O'Rawe

The committee was formed in accordance with the provisions of Canon 537 'there is to be a Finance Committee in every Parish of the Diocese of Down & Connor to help the Parish Priest or Administrator in the administration of the temporal goods of the Parish'.

## **Parish Office – (At the rear of the Parochial House)**

Opening Hours: 9.00am -1.00pm (Monday – Friday)

Tel: 028 2564 1515

Email: [kirknriola@aol.com](mailto:kirknriola@aol.com)

## **Parish Centre**

Opening Hours: 9am – 9pm Tel:028 2563 1236 Email: [allsaintspc@outlook.com](mailto:allsaintspc@outlook.com)

- Conference facilities available: 9.00am-5.30pm
- Old School Café: Opens Monday to Friday- Call 078 7977 4749 for bookings
- Repository: The Repository sells Mass cards, religious booklets, and other devotional items. It is open daily 10.30am to 12.30pm (hours are flexible – see Parish bulletin)

## **Vincent's shop**

Contact: Mary Dempster 028 2564 4122

Vincents,11 Cushendall Road

Opening Hours: Tues/Weds/Thurs/Fri - 9am to 5pm, closed for lunch 12.45 – 1.30pm (*Times subject to change – check parish bulletin*)

## **Masses in the Parish:**

### **All Saints' Church**

Sunday Vigil 6.00pm, 8.30am & 10.00am Polish Mass 12.15pm  
Monday to Saturday 10.00am (First Friday 7.30pm)

### **St Patrick's Church**

Sunday Vigil 5.00pm, 11.00am

## **Holidays of Obligation**

***Check parish bulletin and Website – [Ballymenaparish.org](http://Ballymenaparish.org)***

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**All Saints' Church** Saturday 12 00pm -1 00pm  
Before Mass on First Friday – 7pm

***Church is open for private prayer daily 11am to 6pm.***

***(Any changes to the above times will be published in the weekly Parish Bulletin)***

## **Baptisms**

Saturday and Sunday at 10.45am in All Saints' Church. Parents must give one month's notice and complete a Baptism Card in advance at the Parish Office.

## **Marriages**

By arrangement and with a minimum of three months' notice. Contact the parish office – 028 2564 1515

## **Mother of Perpetual Help Novena**

First Friday during the 7 30pm Mass

## **Eucharistic Adoration in the Oratory**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8.30am - 6.00pm.

Saturday 8.30am -1.00pm Sunday 3.00pm – 5.00pm

## **Schools**

### **St Brigid's Primary School**

Hugomont, Broughshane Road, Ballymena, BT43 7DZ

Tel: 028 2563 3450                      Principal: Mr Jim Brady

### **St Colmcille's Primary School**

Cullybackey Road, Ballymena, BT43 5DW

Tel: 028 2563 9970                      Principal: Mr Henry Walls

### **St Joseph's Early Years Centre**

90 Doury Road, Ballymena, BT43 6JE

Tel: 028 2564 2883

First Steps Pre School

Tel: 028 2565 0050

Sure Start

Tel: 028 2564 3555

### **St Louis Grammar School**

Cullybackey Road, Ballymena, BT43 5DW

Tel: 028 2564 9534                      Principal: Mrs Jacqui O'Neill

### **St Patrick's College**

Broughshane Road, Ballymena, BT43 7DZ

Tel: 028 2565 6984                      Principal: Dr Martin Knox

## **PARISH GROUPS**

*(A Parish Group is a group which is registered with the parish and has a named leader/co-ordinator who acts on behalf of the Parish Priest. The aims of the Group are in keeping with the Catholic Ethos of the Parish. Each Parish Group is covered by the parish insurance policy for public liability, when using parish premises. Parish Groups that have members under 18 years of age are required to comply with Diocesan and parish Safeguarding regulations.)*

### **Altar Society – All Saints’ Church**

Contact: Bridie Gallagher 028 2564 4181

The teams operate on a rota basis to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in the sanctuary precinct and the sacristy. Membership is open to adults, male or female.

### **Altar Society – St Patrick’s Church**

Contact: Declan Stephens 075 6836 2978

The teams operate on a rota basis to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in the sanctuary precinct and the sacristy. Membership is open to adults, male or female.

### **Apostolic Workers Society**

Contact: Brigid McLarnon – 028 2225 4497, 077 4068 0189;  
Lynn Black – 028 2564 7134

The Society’s objectives are to join in the missionary apostolate by prayer and giving material and financial aid to small developments. The Society needs more members and would particularly like to encourage younger people and members of newcomer communities to become involved.

### **Baptismal Visitation Team**

Contact: Margaret – 028 2565 2023

Members of the Team visit parents before and after their child is baptised to welcome them into the parish community. Membership is open to parishioners who are interested in supporting parents in preparing for the baptism of their child.

### **Bingo Club**

Contact: Gabriel Hagan 077 6353 1194

The Club meets on Sunday evenings in the Parish Centre – 7 30pm - 9 00pm.  
Anyone over 16 years can take part.



## **Bowling Club**

Contact: Sean Haveron 078 4148 6979

Members meet each Wednesday in the Parish Centre - 7.30pm – 10pm. New members always welcome.

## **Boxing Club**

Contact: Barry Gordon 077 5150 2174; Tony McAvoy 079 2349 2028

The aim of the Club is to promote the sport of amateur boxing at all levels and promote opportunity for recreation and competition. The Club is open to boys and girls aged 9 years and upwards.

## **Cell Groups**

Contact: Michael Looney 028 2564 4541

The aim of Cell Groups is to create a Christian fellowship amongst its members and to raise an awareness of God in a personal way. Groups meet in members' homes to pray, read scripture together, listen to audio talks, have intercessory prayer and share a cup of tea.

## **Children's choir**

Contact: Phoebe McDonald 077 3812 9600

A children's choir sings in All Saints' Church at 10am Mass on alternate Sundays. New members are always welcome

## **Creative Crafters**

Contact: Colette Walsh 077 1994 0409

This group meets on Mondays, 10.30am – 12.30pm in the parish centre. Group members have an interest in sewing, embroidery, art craft etc. New members are always welcome.

## **Divine Mercy Sunday Apostolate**

Contact: Bernadette 079 5645 1655

The aim of this group is to spread the messages of Divine Mercy by prayer and action. The group promotes the Divine Mercy Novena and meets around the 3rd week of lent to make preparations for the Divine Mercy Sunday mass and the Novena which takes place during Holy Week. Membership is open to anyone who has devotion to Divine Mercy

### **Entertainments Committee**

Contact: Sean Haveron 078 4148 6979

The aim of the group is to provide regular entertainment events in the Parish Centre for the enjoyment of our parishioners and those from neighbouring parishes. Regular events include Indoor Bowls, the Whist Drive and the Wednesday Get Together. The Wednesday Get Together members meet on Wednesday each week, 2-4pm in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a range of activities including, live music, crafting, bingo, quiz, exercise, games and outings. Refreshments provided. (Donation basket). Volunteers are needed to join the Committee.

### **Eucharistic Adoration Group**

Contact: Brendan 079 0027 8932 Rosemary 075 8432 2607

The Adoration Chapel is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm, Saturday 8.30am to 1pm; Sunday 3pm to 5pm. These opportunities for adoration are available to all who wish to spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

### **Folk Group**

Contact: Phoebe McDonald 077 3812 9600/Kathleen Agnew 077 4505 4744

All Saints' Folk Group aims to lead the congregation in praise and worship to God through music. Membership is open to anyone who can hold a tune or play an instrument. New members always welcome.

### **Irish Language Development Group**

Contact: Rosemary Lyness 077 4068 4152

This group aims to promote the Irish Language, music and culture in the parish and in the local community through weekly classes, regular workshops and traditional music nights. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the Irish language.

### **Ladies' Exercise Group**

Contact: Parish Centre 028 2563 1236

This group meets in the Parish Centre on Mondays, 11am – 12 noon.

### **Lectio Divina**

Contact: Jackie Kerr, 074 8387 5761

The Lectio Divina group meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the Slemish

Room, Parish Centre, 7.30pm – 8.30pm. The group prayerfully reflects on the Gospel passage for the following Sunday.

### **Men's Exercise Group**

Contact: Frank McGreevy 028 2564 1483

The group meets every Wednesday morning after 10 am Mass. After the class we go to Claire's Cafe for tea scones and chat. We collect £3 per head to pay room hire & the Physical Education Tutor. Activities include walking, football, outings, gardening, Sea Angling, and environmental trips. We also have a small group of our members who get together to play music.

### **Marian Movement for Priests**

Contact: Claire Agnew – 077 2038 7557.

The group meets to pray on a Wednesday morning at 11am.

Weekly meeting – called Cenacles, last approximately one hour. They take the form of reading a Message from a special Blue Book, a short Reflection, Rosary and an Act of consecration to Our Lady.

### **Ministers of Holy Communion**

Contact: Eileen Kearney 077 4609 6870

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion distribute Communion at daily, vigil, Sunday and Holy Day Masses in the parish churches on a rota basis. They also take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. Membership is open to parishioners over 16 years who are proposed by another parishioner. Ministers usually serve three years but may agree to stay longer. Training is provided for all Ministers.

### **Ministers of the Word**

Contact: All Saints – Jackie Kerr, 074 8387 5761  
Crebilly – Caroline, 077 4510 8367

Ministers of the Word proclaim God's Word at vigil, Sunday, and Holy Day Masses and at other liturgical celebrations on a rota basis in the parish churches. They must be over 14 years old and undertake the training programme provided.

### **Mothers' Prayers**

Contact: Betty Hanna 078 9680 4215

The Mothers' Prayers group meets on Wednesday 5 – 6pm in the Oratory. It is a group for mothers who wish to pray together for their children and grandchildren. Each meeting is guided by the Holy Spirit and members unite in prayer with one

another. New members are welcome. Information booklets and a DVD are available to borrow.

### **People of the Way**

Contact: Contact Barney 075 9814 1125 Rosemary 075 8432 2607

The group meet every Monday evening at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre to meditate on and share the Scriptures and pray for all the needs of our parish.

### **Pioneer total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart**

Contact: Jennifer - 028 2564 2432

The objectives of the Association are to show personal love for Christ, to become independent of alcohol in order to do good, to make reparation for sins of indulgence, including our own sins, to pray daily for excessive drinkers and victims of substance abuse and those who suffer as a consequence.

### **Pitter Patter Mother & Toddler group**

Contact: Caroline McDonald 079 8006 3979

The objective of the group is to bring mothers and children together in a safe environment with a view to improving their social and emotional development and to encourage interdenominational and inter-ethnic integration through play. The group meets in All Saints' Youth Club and is open to children up to 3 years. The Play Group currently meets on Monday mornings between 10.00am and 12.00pm during school term time. Helpers to setup and pack away the equipment before and after each meeting are needed.

### **Polish Community Group - Polska Grupa Parafialna Ballymena**

Contact: Danuta Smolinska 075 9343 0473

The Group meets on the last Sunday of each month.

### **RCIA**

Contact Parish Office 028 2564 1515

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults provides basic Catholic teaching for those who may wish to become members of the Catholic church, those wishing to return to their faith or practising Catholics who wish to learn more about the basics of our faith.

The course usually begins in September/October and continues until Easter.

### **Society of St Vincent de Paul**

Confidential Helpline 028 2565 0417

SVP is a Christian voluntary organisation working with people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. The Society promotes community self-sufficiency, enabling people to help themselves. SVP members are volunteers who provide practical help and support to people who are struggling to manage, for whatever reason. The Society respects the dignity and confidentiality of those who contact us, offering assistance and friendship on a non-judgemental spirit, based on need.

### **St Joseph's Young Priests' Society**

Contact: John 077 3036 6458 Yvonne 028 2564 4730

The SJYPS is a Catholic lay organisation which exists to help student clerics on their journey to the priesthood both financially and by prayer. It promotes the vocation of the laity and fosters a greater understanding and love of the Mass. Membership is open to all.

### **Youth Centre**

Contact: Leader – Louisa Reed 075 1099 9565 Ciara 079 4471 4708

The aim of the Youth Centre is to provide a safe place for the youth of our parish to enjoy social and leisure activities, including team games, arts and craft, cooking and using computers. All young people, strictly over 7 years, are welcome to join.

## **Volunteers Needed**

**The following groups are not currently active within the Parish. New members or leaders are needed to allow the important and valuable work of these groups to resume. Could you use your gifts and experience as a member of any of these groups?**

**For further information or to express an interest in joining a group, please contact the Parish Office on:**

**Tel: 028 2564 1515**

**Email: [kirknriola@aol.com](mailto:kirknriola@aol.com)**

### **Bethany Bereavement Support Group**

The group consists of volunteers, who are not counsellors, but are trained to give a confidential listening ear to those bereaved or going through the painful process of grieving. Members of the Bethany Group provide home visits.

### **Caring and Befriending Group**

The aim of this group is to develop closer and caring relationships within our parish community by making regular visits, in teams of two, to parishioners on request. Membership is open to adult parishioners who are vetted in accordance with current legislation.

### **Children's Liturgy**

Children's Liturgy aims to provide children with an opportunity to experience the Word of God in a way that makes sense to them. Through readings, guided questions, activities and song, they are encouraged to talk about the liturgy and how God's message can apply to their everyday lives. Leaders are vetted in accordance with current legislation.

### **'Do This in Memory' Group**

'Do This in Memory' is a parish-based programme that helps prepare children for the celebration of their First Holy communion. It complements the sacramental preparation work carried out by the Primary Schools and acknowledges the central role of the family in nurturing and development of an active faith in Primary 4 children. Volunteer parents form the Co-ordinating Group and other parents are welcome to become involved throughout the year.

## **Laudato Si**

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote his encyclical letter 'Laudato Si' (Praise to you Lord), to draw attention to our shared Christian responsibility to care for creation. The Laudato Si group promotes the care of creation through practical activities and awareness raising events.

## **SPRED**

SPRED (Special Religious Development) offers friendship to parishioners with learning disabilities and facilitates their spiritual development. Each has a helper/friend.

## **ORGANISATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARISH**

### **Accord**

Contact: 028 9033 9944 (Gordon Nicholl – Chairperson).

The aim of ACCORD is to support Christian marriage through the provision of pre-marriage courses and counselling. Counselling is by appointment. Membership is through a selection process.

### **Gaelic Athletic Club**

Contacts: Jim Brady 077 1979 8099

All Saints' Gaelic Athletic Club promotes Irish culture through Gaelic games, sports, leisure, and language. Membership is open to all with an interest in Gaelic games and culture.

### **Kenbaan Pre-School**

Contact: 028 2565 8377

Quality pre-school education to children from 3 to 5 years of age.

### **St Joseph's Early Years Centre**

Contact: St Joseph's Centre Reception Desk - 028 2564 2883;  
firststeps90@btinternet.com

Pre-school education for children in the local area is provided in the Early Years Centre by Surestart and First Steps.

### **Sure Start**

Contact: Adele - 028 2564 3555; [adele.holme@activityforchildren.org.uk](mailto:adele.holme@activityforchildren.org.uk)

Sure Start supports the healthy development of children by providing health, education and parenting support service in a co-ordinated way. It is open to all parents, grandparents, guardians and children from 0 to 4 years in the local area.

### **First Steps**

Contact: 028 2565 0050

First Steps provides pre-school education for children aged 3-4 years old. For more information – [facebook.com/firststeps90/?locale=en\\_GB](https://facebook.com/firststeps90/?locale=en_GB)



## **Order of Malta**

Contacts:           Kieran           075 1582 3002 (Mobile unit)  
                      Bernie           [Bernie.ervine@btopenworld.com](mailto:Bernie.ervine@btopenworld.com)

The Order provides First Aid training to volunteers and employees within the Parish Centre. It also provides First Aid cover at special events in the parish and standby emergency cover for the emergency services. Membership is open to adults over 16 years. Cadets between the ages of 12 and 16 years train in First Aid and participate in competitions.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Ballymena All Saints Scouts' Group**

Contact: Eugene Neeson – 077 4068 3977

The cubs, beavers and scouts meet on Thursday and Friday evenings in the Parish Centre. Membership is open to both boys and girls of all faith traditions, background and ability.

Scouting is based on three principles – Duty to self; Duty to others and Duty to God.

## **Knights of Columbanus**

Contact: Kieran Downey 079 7648 5279

The objectives are spiritual, social and charitable. Membership is open to any Catholic layman in good standing within the Church.

## **PAUSE - Pastoral Response to drugs and alcohol**

Contact: Martin McManus, 077 6141 2503 and 075 0571 0919,  
                      martinmcmanus121@gmail.com; John Keenan 075 1742 8918

PAUSE provides a confidential point of contact to discuss problems and anxieties relating to addiction and to offer support to find solutions to the individual's own problems. PAUSE offers a wide range of services such as emotional support, empathy and understanding to anyone in distress including family members and guardians of those who may be substance users.

## **What has Pope Francis said about parish volunteers?**

- ‘Parish volunteers are precious in the life of the Church and parish communities.’
- ‘Your presence in the parish is the hand of Christ held out to all and reaching all.’
- ‘Be always happy and full of joy in the service you provide for others; for love grows day after day, helping our communities to be signs of fraternal communion.’
- ‘The world and the Church need volunteers committed to seeking the common good.’
- ‘Being a volunteer who helps others is a choice that makes us free. It opens us to other people’s needs, to the demands of justice, to the defence of the poor, to the care of creation, to the service of the parish community.’
- ‘Being volunteers means being artisans of mercy – with our hands, with our eyes, with an attentive ear and with our closeness.’

Father of Mercy,

We pray for our parish community.

May your Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your people and kindle in them the fire of your Love.

With the fire of your Love, open our minds to remember and give thanks for the people we meet each day.

With the fire of your Love, open our ears to really listen to others; may they know that they matter and are precious to You, our Father.

With the fire of your Love, open our eyes to see your people, that we may see and encounter Jesus, in their faces, in their love and in their need.

With the fire of your Love, open our hearts to carry those who struggle or who are on the margins, knowing that when we do, we carry Jesus your Son.

With the fire of your Love, open our hearts, minds and hands to serve You and work with others, so that 'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.'

With the fire of your Love, unite us as one in our parish family, with all our joys and blessings, our hurt and pain, so that all praise and glory will be Yours, now and forever and ever. Amen