

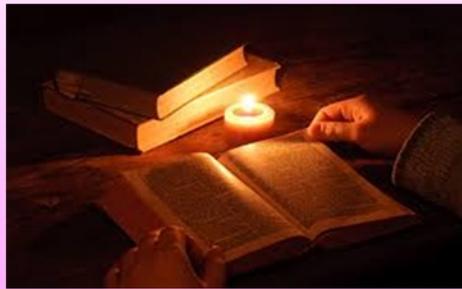
Parish Newsletter

SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2026



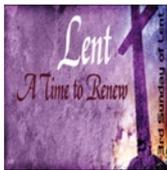
Prepare for Easter this Lent 2026 by joining a Lectio Divina evening for 5 Tuesdays.

In Western Christianity, *Lectio Divina* (Latin for "Divine Reading") is a traditional monastic practice of reading scripture, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. In the view of one commentator, it does not treat Scripture as texts to be studied, but as the living out of God's Word. It is not a Bible Study Group but a sharing of how the Gospel of the next Sunday's Mass means something personal right now in my life.



When: Tuesday mornings or evenings check the times below.

24 th February,	Time: 7pm - 8pm	Pastoral Space Moume Road
3 rd March,	Time: 7pm - 8pm	Pastoral Space Mourne Road
10 th March	Time: 11am - 12 md	Oratory
24 th March,	Time: 11am - 12md	Oratory
31 st March	Time: 7pm -8pm	Pastoral Space Mourne Road



During Lent candles for "Healing & Renewal" are available at all Masses and from the Parish Office. Offering €1

PLANNED GIVING BOXES 2026

can be collected from the Parish Office.

A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped to label and assemble the boxes and to those who are helping to distribute the boxes. Your help is very much appreciated.

Thought The Scottish Olympic ice skating dancers were fabulous. Their programme was both spectacular and tricky. Though they slipped occasionally, they brought joy. The judges, voting according to the rules, condemned their faults, and they lost their medal. We too slip, but Jesus offers forgiveness. He doesn't expect us to be faultless. He expects us to take Him at His word, come be forgiven and continue the dance of life with Him. He's our unlimited helper, forgiver and restorer. All we have to do is repent and ask.

WHAT'S ON

Monday 23rd February
Choir practise at 7.45pm

Tuesday 24th February
Sacramental Team

Meeting at 1.00pm for the next First Holy Communion & Confirmation Preparation Mass next Saturday at 6.30pm.

Lectio Divina for Lent in the Pastoral Space from 7-8pm.

Thursday 26th February
After Mass the Holy Rosary in the Oratory is specifically for vocations to the priesthood. All are welcome.

Friday 27th February
Eucharistic Prayer Group meets in the Oratory from 2.30pm-3.30pm. All welcome.

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday to Friday
10.30am to 5.00pm.
in the Oratory.



Miraculous medals and a leaflet with prayers are available in the church for anyone who wishes to pray the Miraculous Medal Novena.

Church Collections

w/e 14th/15th February 2026

1st Priests: €616

2nd Relationship Care/accord:
€592

Envelopes: €474

PARISH LOTTO

Development Fund

There was no winner of last week's Jackpot.

The winning numbers were

Lotto Nos 8, 16, 21, 29

The Jackpot is €2,800

Congratulations to last week's winners of the three €20 Prizes.

The Draw takes place on

Tuesday morning before 10 a.m. Mass. Entries for the Lotto draw each week must be put into the safe in the church by 11.00a.m. on Mondays.

All are welcome to attend the draw.

First Sunday of Lent

First Reading Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given.

There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

*He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'*

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.