

Parish of Bright Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent - 15th March 2026

Parish Priest: Fr Peter O'Kane,
16 Rossglass Road, Killough, BT30 7QN
Tel: 028 4484 1221
Email: parishofbright@downandconnor.org
Website: parishofbright.net

Mass Times: Week Beginning Monday 16th March

<i>St Patrick's, Legamaddy</i>	<i>St Joseph's, Killough</i>
16th March Monday 10am	17th March Tuesday 10am
17th March Tuesday 7.30pm	18th March Wednesday 7.30pm
20th March Friday 7.30pm	21st March Saturday 10am
22nd March Sunday 10am	21st March Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Rossglass

19th March Thursday 10.00am

St Patrick's Day (Holy Day of Obligation)

Masses: Tuesday 17th March St Joseph's, Killough at 10am
Tuesday 17th March St Patrick's, Legamaddy at 7.30pm

Faithful Departed

Recently Deceased: Donna Smyth (Scotland, formerly Killough),
Vincent Sharvin (Downpatrick, formerly Killough),
Carmel Tipping (Lurgan)
Ann Flynn (Loughinisland)
Month's Mind: Sylvo Laird (Dublin, formerly Rossglass)
Anniversaries: Pat & Nancy Fitzsimons, Marie Feely, Malachi Curran

Weekly Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available: after all weekday Masses;
and in St Joseph's every Wednesday 8.00pm-8.45pm and at 6.00pm before the
Saturday Vigil Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration

St Joseph's, Killough every Wed: 1.30pm-7.30pm & after Mass 8pm-9pm.
St Patrick's, Legamaddy every Friday: 6.30pm-7.30pm.

Sunday Collection, 8th March:

Weekly £611-09. Thank you for your generous contributions.

Did St. Patrick really expel snakes from Ireland?

'A famous legend from the life of St. Patrick explains how he banished snakes from the entire country of Ireland after praying on top of the mountain Croagh Patrick during the 40 days of Lent.

It is a legend that is always popular around St. Patrick's Day and is included in nearly every biography that is written about him.

Fact or fiction? According to an interview with National Geographic, Nigel Monaghan from the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin said, "At no time has there ever been any suggestion of snakes in Ireland. There was nothing for St. Patrick to banish." Most researchers agree that snakes were never able to reach the island and simply never existed there in the first place.

A common theory is that the snakes in the story were meant to symbolise the expulsion of paganism from the country.

One of the most popular images that the local Druids held on to was that of a serpent, and some historians believe there was a thriving cult of serpent-worship on the island.

In Christianity the serpent or snake is usually associated with Satan, who appears in Genesis as a serpent-type creature. In Revelation, Satan is described as a fierce dragon who actively pursues Christians.

It is not surprising, then, for Christians to attribute to St. Patrick the expulsion of "spiritual" serpents from Ireland and waging a spiritual war against the demonic presence on the island.

This fits with the traditional "Breastplate of St. Patrick" that is associated with the saint, which is a powerful prayer against the powers of darkness.

Yet, many still debate whether or not snakes existed on the Emerald Isle before St. Patrick, and historians continue to investigate how the Druids were caught up in a serpent cult when these creatures may not have existed on the island.

Whatever the truth may be, it is fact that St. Patrick drove out paganism in a miraculous fashion, making way for Christianity and creating a foundation that would later support the lives of countless holy men and women, earning Ireland the title of "the land of saints and scholars."

(By Philip Kosloski)

Wishing you a Blessed & Happy St Patrick's Day!