



NEWRY CATHEDRAL PARISH



Know - Love - Serve

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Mission Statement

Nourished by word and sacrament, we seek to become Christ for one another



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From the Administrator

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the Newry Cathedral Parish Directory. The Parish Clergy, Parish Pastoral Council, and various Ministry Leaders from our community have worked together to bring you this directory to help share some of the activities that take place in the parish, and most importantly, to help parishioners understand the opportunities we have in our parish to learn and serve.

Through our baptism, we are all called to know God, to love Him, and to serve Him. We grow in our knowledge of God through prayer and study. We show our love for God in prayer, through our worship at Mass, and by sharing Him with others, and we serve God by serving His holy people in our parish and beyond. To grow in discipleship means being intentional about taking our next steps in each of these areas. I invite you to reflect on how you currently know, love, and serve God in your daily lives. Think about the gifts and talents with which God has gifted you, and ask yourself how you can use those gifts to build up God's Kingdom, grow in holiness, and help others do the same.

Consider how you can take your next step in faith, whether that is making a commitment to coming to Mass more frequently, joining a bible or book study group, sharing your talents in our choirs or serving while you are at Mass as a steward, a reader, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or an offertory collector. There is a place for you.

Please use this directory to learn more about the various ministry roles and where your God-given talents and skills might fit. We are a parish family; like any family, we are better when all members feel welcome, valued, and connected. We really thrive when we serve one another in love. Let us pray, grow, and work together as full, active members of the Body of Christ committed to growing as disciples and bringing the light of Christ to our broken world.

Yours in Christ,

Canon Francis Brown
Administrator

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"
"Here I am," I said; "send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)*

From the Parish Pastoral Council

Our parish mission statement states that: 'Nourished by word and sacrament, we seek to become Christ for one another.' It explains simply and clearly that the Word of God inspires us and that the Eucharist strengthens us, as we are sent on mission to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ within the parish and beyond.

Each of us is called to recognise and nurture the various gifts God has given us; and in answering Jesus' call to discipleship, in thanksgiving for all we have been given, we offer those gifts for the glory of God, and for the benefit of those in our parish and wider community.

Some of us may feel shy about the gifts or skills we have to offer, but each of us has strengths, something we enjoy, are good at, and would be pleased to share with others. We ask you to take some time to think about where your talents and skills are, and where you might find a place to serve.

This booklet outlines the parish ministries that currently exist in Newry Parish, along with some we would like to start in response to feedback from our surveys and from the Synodal Pathways feedback. There are visible ministries such as those that take place at Mass or celebrations, and there are some 'behind the scenes' support ministries that are less visible but so important.

Please take some time to prayerfully reflect on the ministry opportunities presented in this directory and if you hear that whisper from the Holy Spirit nudging you to give some of your time to help others, or to help make our parish a welcoming place for all, please fill out the **enquiry form** and take that next step forward in faith. We will be very happy to help you and support you!

*"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone."
(1 Corinthians 12: 4-6)*

A Prayer for our Parish

Heavenly Father,

We know that all we are and all we have flow as gifts from you.

We thank you for our many blessings: our world, our faith community, our clergy, our families and all our loved ones.

Help us to use our gifts wisely and share them generously as we respond to your call to grow as disciples.

Teach us to listen to where you may be leading us and grant us the courage to answer that call in faith and trust.

May your Holy Spirit work through us, bringing your message to those we serve and help us bear witness to the love and light of Christ in our lives.

We pray in thanksgiving and with joyful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*"Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)*

Administration and Communication Ministries

Church Cleaning Teams

Keeping our church buildings clean is part of how we welcome everyone to Mass and other celebrations. It also supports the maintenance of a comfortable and respectful worship environment. The nature of this work means participants need to be physically capable of dusting, washing, sweeping, mopping, etc.

Offertory Counters

Meeting weekly – this team counts the offertory collection. We would welcome new volunteers for this ministry. If you've worked with money in retail, branch banking or similar that might be beneficial, but full training will be provided for volunteer teams.

Parish Newsletter Team

This is a 'behind the scenes' ministry that can be done from home. Those who enjoy writing and have a good eye for editing and proofreading would be well suited to this ministry. Anyone with graphic design skills might also enjoy being involved in this quarterly publication. If you are involved in ministry already, you can support the Parish Newsletter Team by providing regular updates on what's happening in your ministry, parish diocesan events, etc.

Online Media Team

This team manages the parish website, social media channels and church webcams. They also provide photographic and video coverage of major events to share the life and celebrations that happen in our parish. Adults of all ages with an interest in gaining experience of online communications would be particularly suited to this ministry.

Administration and Communication Ministries

Parish Management Group

This group supports the ADM in some of the administrative and practical matters that arise as part of managing a large parish. If you are a hands-on person and can provide practical assistance in areas of parish management, you'd be most welcome to assist in this ministry.

Grounds and Buildings Maintenance

Helping with small maintenance tasks inside and around our church buildings, this ministry is suited to those experienced in construction, furniture repair, garden maintenance etc helping to address small maintenance problems before they become bigger and helping to keep our outdoor and garden spaces beautiful and welcoming to all.

Newry Cathedral Gardening Group

A group of volunteers has recently formed to oversee ongoing maintenance of the gardens adjacent to the Cathedral. We hope to enhance the welcoming atmosphere of our parish, for the whole community. New members of the gardening group are always welcome; gardening expertise while not essential, would be helpful. The group meets two to three times a week, Mon/Tues and Fridays, usually between 11am and 1pm.

Liturgical Ministries

Parish Liturgy Team

Meeting to plan the liturgical year in advance and as needed throughout the year, the parish liturgy team comprises representatives from the various liturgical ministries along with representatives from our parish clergy to help with the smooth, reverent celebration of all parish liturgies. This team also spends time in prayerful consideration of how best to encourage and support “fully conscious and active participation” by the congregation. (Sacrosanctum Concilium)

Stewards/Greeters

Greeting those arriving for Mass, stewards provide the first point of welcome for parishioners and visitors alike. Stewards also assist in the procession of the faithful to the altar to receive Holy Communion in a reverent and orderly fashion. They may also assist with the distribution of literature at the end of Mass.

Altar Servers

Open to adults or young people in Primary five or above, this important ministry assists the priest celebrant at the altar. This ministry is also open to males and females and is a great way to learn more about the Mass. Full training will be provided.

Ministers of the Word

Suited to those comfortable with public speaking, who can project their voice well with good diction, proclaiming the readings during the Liturgy of the Word is a way to share your gifts with your faith community. Preparing to read can enhance your own understanding and appreciation of sacred scripture and proclaiming the readings well will help the congregation do the same. Training and ongoing formation will be provided.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) assist at Masses when there are too few priests/bishop/deacons to distribute Holy Communion to the faithful. This ministry is open to adults and those over 16 who have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Training and ongoing formation will be provided

Liturgical Ministries

The Parish Screen Team

This group was established in 2024 to support congregational participation at Newry Cathedral, enriching the Mass and other liturgical celebrations. We warmly invite new members to join this important ministry, especially those with basic IT skills, including PowerPoint. Volunteers assist with the screens once a month at either the Saturday 6pm or Sunday 12pm Mass and may be called upon for special liturgical events throughout the year. Full training will be provided.

This ministry helps our parish community participate fully at Mass and lend their voices in prayer and song. "The one who sings, prays twice." – St. Augustine

Offertory Collectors

Offertory collectors are present at each weekend Mass and pass the basket to facilitate the collection of financial offerings from the parish community. This is a simple and important way to serve when you are at Mass.

Gift Bearers

Bringing the gifts to the altar during the offertory is a beautiful way to participate in the Mass, representing all those gathered as we offer ourselves, our gifts and our concerns to God.

Church Environment

Do you enjoy making floral arrangements, taking care of plants, and decorating your home for the seasons? We would like your help in honouring the sacred space in our churches, to support an atmosphere that draws the faithful into our celebrations across the liturgical seasons. We work in teams and oversee floral arrangements for a month at a time. Full training will be given.

Liturgical Ministries

Music Ministry

We are blessed with music ministry leaders who give their time to accompany and coordinate our choirs, cantors, and instrumentalists at weekends and special Masses. If you have gifts in the areas below and would like to help as part of vibrant liturgy celebrations, please get in touch and we will connect you with the appropriate music director.

- **Instrumentalists** – if you can play your instrument proficiently, we invite you to consider assisting in music ministry, either on a weekly schedule or as you are available for special celebrations.
- **Cantors/Psalmists** – At masses where no choir is present, cantors lead the congregation in singing the various parts of the mass and the congregational hymns. At all weekend Masses, a cantor/psalmist sings the Psalm during the Liturgy of the Word. A strong, pleasant voice with the ability to stay on pitch is required. Cantors should also be prepared to practice at home in addition to any scheduled rehearsals. New cantors are invited to audition with those who lead our choirs.
- **Parish Choirs** – Each of our parish churches has adult choirs, and St. Catherine's and the Cathedral have youth choirs also. Adult choir rehearsals take place at 5:15pm on Saturday evenings for the 6:00pm Vigil Mass and the Junior Choir meets at 11:15am on Sunday mornings for the 12:00pm Sunday Mass.

Faith Development Ministries

Adult Faith Development

Baptism Preparation Team

We would like to grow our baptism preparation team. This ministry is suited to anyone with a passion for helping others grow in their understanding of our faith and supporting young families in our Parish.

Perhaps you are a younger couple in the midst of building your 'Domestic Church' or you are 'empty nesters' with the wisdom of your experience to share, or a teacher who enjoys facilitating adult faith development. This ministry is a great way to welcome growing families in our midst and support them as they raise their children in the faith.

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina currently runs on Thursday mornings, following the 10:30 Mass. It finishes off with tea and biscuits at around 12:30 pm. The session involves a beautiful and immersive way of reading, reflecting on and responding to scripture. If we could gather sufficient interest, we could do another evening session either by Zoom or in person.

Alpha

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, usually run over 11 weeks. Each week focuses on a different faith question and is designed to spark conversation. All are welcome to these sessions, people who have never heard the Gospel before, those who haven't been active in their faith for a while, and anyone who regularly attends Mass but wants to develop a deeper understanding of the Christian faith.

Alpha groups run periodically in the parish and will be announced in the bulletin, on the website and via social media.

Faith Development Ministries

Adult Faith Development

Bible Study

Throughout the year, various bible study sessions are held. These are great opportunities to participate in the study of sacred scripture in a small group setting. Please review the bulletin regularly for details of upcoming sessions. We run a Zoom session on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm which lasts 60 minutes.

Book Club

Each month we review a book, usually on the first Tuesday at 7:30pm by Zoom. The books are proposed by the members of the group. The reviews are informal and wrap up within an hour.

Other book study groups may run from time to time, please review the bulletin for details of upcoming studies.

Neo Catechumenal Way

The process of initiation into the Catholic Christian faith is called the “catechumenate”. The Neocatechumenal Way is a catechumenate, a way to return to faith for many of those who have lapsed or didn't grow up with a sound understanding of our Catholic Christian faith. It is a journey of conversion through which the richness of the gospel can be rediscovered.

Usually beginning with an eight-week small group study, these communities are present in Newry parish and welcome everyone who wants to discover the greatness of their Catholic faith and understand more fully that to which we are called through our baptism.

Faith Development Ministries

Adult Faith Development

RCIA

The Knights of Columbanus lead the Dromore Diocesan RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Armagh. RCIA is designed for those who have never been baptised and those baptised in other faiths who are seeking to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church. If you are an adult, or know an adult, seeking more information on the Catholic faith with a view to coming into full communion in the Church, please contact the Parish Office.

Accord NI Marriage Preparation Programme

Couples preparing for marriage do a marriage preparation programme run by Accord NI, and should access the booking system at [this link](#) well in advance of their wedding date.

Accord is looking for facilitators for the pre-marriage courses. This is a great way to support those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage and enrich your own faith development in the process. Those interested in training as a Marriage Preparation Programme facilitator should contact Accord NI on info@accordni.com

Accord NI Couples Therapy

Couples and co-parenting individuals who wish to work on improving the quality of their relationship can access Accord NI's couple therapy service in the local area by contacting newry@accordni.com. An online and in-person couple therapy options are available.

Faith Development Ministries

Youth Faith Development

Pope John Paul II Award

The Pope John Paul II Award is a faith achievement award for young people between the age of 16 and 18. It is non-competitive, inclusive, flexible and voluntary. The Award was created to commemorate the late Pope Saint John Paul II who was so committed to young people and who had such belief and confidence in them. Making young people visible in their church, community and society, the Award is committed to helping young people enhance their spiritual, physical, emotional and social development through participation in school, parish and community activities. The Award calls our young people to discipleship, to minister and to serve others through the values of Christ. Students interested can contact the Diocesan Youth Director dromoreyd@btconnect.com. Volunteers are always needed to help facilitate and minister to our young people.

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT)

This is a three-year programme offered for 6 weeks each year and continues in year 8, after Confirmation. It provides young people between the ages of 11 and 14 opportunities to develop their faith. It also nourishes and encourages the faith of those who serve as leaders ministering to young people. Through GIFT, we aim to form a community that nurtures and supports the faith of its members. We welcome parents, adults (especially young adults) or teachers to volunteer in this programme.

Volunteer at Knock Shrine (VAKS)

We are inviting YOU to be part of Knock Shrine and volunteer for one or more weekends throughout the summer. This is a fun opportunity to meet new people, welcome pilgrims and help the people who visit Knock. The Volunteer @ Knock Shrine (VAKS) programme is open to all people over 16 years old. It is an opportunity for you to serve the pilgrims at Knock Shrine and to grow in faith through prayer together with peers and others – Many of our young people in Newry Parish volunteer each summer as part of a larger Diocesan group – volunteers are welcome to help with this programme.

Faith Development Ministries

Youth Faith Development

Youth Alpha

Youth Alpha creates a space for young people to have meaningful conversations about life, faith, and purpose. Alpha enables young people to create community through shared food, games, short videos, and conversations. Alpha invites and welcomes young people from all faiths, beliefs and backgrounds. We need people to help develop, promote, and facilitate Alpha at our parish.

Sacramental Preparation

We have recently established teams to connect the Parish with our schools as they collaborate to support parents and young parishioners as they prepare for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. This ministry involves a small number of meetings at schools and being present at First Communion and/or Confirmation celebrations to represent the parish. Full training will be provided.

Safeguarding

All parishioners who serve or wish to serve in ministries involving children, youth and vulnerable adults are required to complete the Diocese of Dromore Safeguarding procedures which includes vetting via Access NI and full safeguarding training. For full information on our safeguarding policies and procedures, [please visit Diocesan webpage on safeguarding at this link.](#)

Outreach and Pastoral Care Ministries

Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

Ministers to the sick and homebound provide a precious link between the church community and those who, for various reasons, are homebound or in hospital. We would like to grow this ministry, so if you feel called to take the Eucharist to those who cannot be with us at Mass and are willing to train as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please consider joining this ministry.

Bereavement Ministry

Members of the Bereavement Ministry accompany our parish families in a time of profound sadness. They visit the home to pray with the family at the wake, support the family as they plan the funeral liturgy and assist on the day of the funeral. This is a beautiful ministry that allows us to walk alongside those during the time of their great loss, and afterwards as they navigate their grief journey. We are hoping to expand this ministry to include longer term grief support options.

Advent Giving Tree

As part of parish outreach to families who need a little extra help at Christmas, our Advent Giving tree encourages the purchase and donation of gifts, fuel cards, vouchers etc. These gifts are distributed via the St. Vincent De Paul. Those involved in this ministry would prepare the gift tags that hang on the tree, set the tree up in the Cathedral, and monitor it daily, securing donations appropriately and assist with onward delivery to St. Vincent de Paul.

Cathedral Tour Ministry

Our beautiful Cathedral is approaching its bi-centennial (2029) and is rooted in a rich history that our tour team brings alive for parishioners and visitors. Learn about the foundation, building, enhancements, and craftsmanship that took place over the years. By sharing with visitors help them understand this worship space and spark a desire among the present and future generations to preserve and protect this beautiful building.

Outreach and Pastoral Care Ministries

The Knights of St. Columbanus

The Knights of Columbanus is a lay order comprising men aged 21 and above, who convene for prayer and charitable endeavours with the overarching mission to "Restore all things in Christ." The organisation actively engages in distributing rosary beads and prayer books to primary schools, providing financial support for local post-primary school retreats, and assisting individuals preparing for a religious life. In addition to their work in the RCIA programme, the Knights of Columbanus also coordinate the veneration of relics, throughout cathedrals and churches in Ireland.

The organisation places special emphasis on youth involvement, maintaining a Council of Associate Knights for individuals aged 16 to 21. This youth council, led by peers in a similar age bracket, fosters strong friendships in faith and collaborates with the main council, CK10 Newry.

The Legion of Mary

Founded in Dublin in 1921 by Frank Duff, the Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic organisation focused on spiritual growth through prayer. Members, called Legionaries, engage in apostolic work like visiting the sick and elderly, and evangelising in the community. Emphasising a strong prayer life, including daily Rosary recitation and Mass attendance, the Legion operates globally under local bishops' approval, contributing to the Church's mission by nurturing members' spiritual well-being. The Newry Legion of Mary group meets every Monday at 3pm in the Parish Centre.

St. Vincent de Paul (SVP)

There are two conferences of St. Vincent de Paul in Newry parish, St. Joseph's Conference at Mill St. and St. Brigid's Conference at St. Brigid's church. SVP operates discreetly to provide material and financial assistance to those experiencing financial difficulties. Your financial donations support this ongoing work. Volunteers are also most welcome. Serving with SVP involves full initial training and a commitment to attend weekly meetings and household visitations to discuss and deliver assistance.

Prayer Ministries

Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each weekday and Saturday after the 10:30am mass for Eucharistic Adoration, until 9pm on weekdays and 5:30pm on Saturdays. You are invited to come and spend time in adoration, perhaps spend a 'Holy Hour' praying for your intentions, the needs of your family, of our parish and our world.

Parish Prayer Circle

This ministry began when we were in the throes of the pandemic as a valuable means through which parishioners could feel connected by praying for one another and sharing prayer intentions. The Prayer Circle remains active with prayer requests submitted via email and subsequently shared for all participants to add to their prayer lists. All requests and intentions remain confidential and no names are shared. To join this ministry as a prayer participant, and/or to submit prayer intentions - [please email mlshields@btinternet.com](mailto:mlshields@btinternet.com)

Daily Rosary - Cathedral

Monday - Saturday 10:00am

Divine Mercy Devotion and Mass - Cathedral

Fridays at 3:00pm

Weekly Rosary - St. Mary's Church

Thursdays at 7:00pm

Once per month this will be followed by benediction and the relic of St. Pio will also be present.

St. Peregrine's Novena - St. Brigid's Church

Fridays at 7:30pm

For Reflection

We hope you have enjoyed learning about the various ministries at work at Newry Cathedral Parish, and you have begun to give some thought to where you might like to serve.

Sometimes we can be tempted to say 'somebody needs to set up a committee for...'; 'Someone ought to take care of ...' 'Why does nobody think to do ...?'. If you find yourself saying something similar, bear in mind this little story:

A story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

~ Author Unknown

We remember...

“Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth, but yours.”

~ St. Teresa of Avila

Enquiry Form

If you are interested in learning more about any of the groups and ministries outlined in this directory, we ask you to [click here](#) and complete an enquiry form which will be sent to the leader of the group(s) you are interested in and they will contact you as soon as possible.