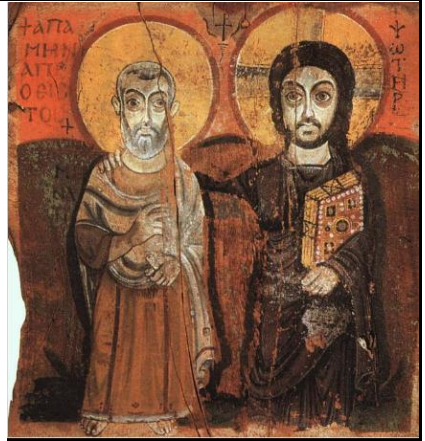


# Parish Of Antrim



## Volunteering Opportunities Guide 2026



### Introduction

Antrim Parish is a thriving Catholic parish community based around our three Churches of St. Comgall's on Castle Street, St.

Joseph's on the Greystone Road and St. MacNlssius', on the Fernisky Road, Tannaghmore.

While a lot of activity centres around our worship in these three consecrated buildings through Masses and other Church-based services, there is also a plethora of activity which happens in the context of living out our spiritual calling through help for young people and those in need for reasons of poverty, advanced age or infirmity.

To preserve and grow our Church services requires volunteers to read the Word of God, to assist with Holy Communion, to provide music, to prepare the altar flowers etc;

Additionally, volunteers are necessary to maintain and expand the many other activities which fall under the parish remit, such as Youth Provision, Playgroups, Hospitality, Saint Vincent de Paul Society and many others.

This booklet has been prepared to give you a brief, informative guide to the various groups and their needs and requirements, in the hope that you will be inspired to contribute to one or more of them. Many hands make light work and with many volunteers the load on individuals becomes lighter!

Thank you for reading through the booklet and for contemplating volunteering.

May God Bless You.

*The Encouragers Team*

## Ministers of the Word

Volunteering as a Minister of the Word (reader) enables you to actively partake in the mass by delivering liturgy readings (Bible readings/Prayers of the Faithful etc). Each Church has a Co-ordinator who issues a rota.

See Mass times at the back of this booklet. With the current number of volunteers each person reads on one weekend every 2 months (St Josephs/St MacNissius) or 1 month per year (St. Comgalls), with the understanding that we help at short notice in covering for readers who may become unavailable. The liturgy team are very co-operative in supporting each other e.g. covering for readers who may become unavailable and reading at times of special religious ceremony like the Easter and Christmas services.

Training will be given as required, including how to prepare for the liturgy in advance, and can include observation of existing readers, meetings with readers in church at quiet times and practice readings.

Time commitment	Generally around 2.5 hours once per 2 months
Is a reduced time commitment available	Yes
Is a taster session available	Yes
Will full training be given	Yes
Contact Person- St. Josephs	Pat Cullen
Contact Person – St. MacNissius	Anne Lavery
Contact Person – St Comgalls	Frances Doole
Contact the above named or:	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# Eucharistic Ministry

Ministers of Holy Communion help parishioners receive Holy Communion on a regular basis. This can involve distributing Communion in Church at Sunday Mass, funerals and other planned services and taking Communion to the sick in their own home or in a care setting.

The time commitment varies, depending on the number of calls and the number of parishioners requiring Communion.

Essential training and support will be provided. A reverence for the Sacred Host is needed. Having your own transport is advantageous when visiting care homes or private houses.

As it takes a bit of time to adapt to the role a minimum three years commitment would be preferable. A full role would be preferable but if volunteers feel they can only serve in Church or only after Mass, or in the home or nursing home, then that can be accommodated as that will still be helpful.

Mass times are listed at the back of this booklet.

Time commitment	1-3 hours on a rota Sunday
Is a reduced time commitment available	Yes.
Is a taster session available	Not really possible but a simulation can be held
Will full training be given	Yes
Contact Person – St. Comgalls	Owen Donaghy
Contact Person- St. MacNissius	Siobhan Martin
Contact Person – St. Josephs	Sean McIlmunn
Contact the above named or:	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# St Comgalls Youth Club

Volunteers are very welcome within the Youth Club to ensure that we can safely open. We have many female volunteers and more are welcome but male volunteers are particularly welcome.

We operate 6.30-9pm on a Friday and Saturday evening. With enough volunteers you will be able to attend once a month or less.

As you can imagine this is a dynamic and sometimes challenging environment but it is also an incredibly rewarding activity!

Full training will be given. AccessNI clearance will need to be arranged. Volunteers would help with and eventually hopefully facilitate activities during the evening.



No. of volunteers needed	As many as possible
Time commitment	<2.5hrs per month
Is a reduced time commitment available	Yes
Is a taster session available	Yes
Will full training be given	Yes
Contact Person- Name	Bronagh Maguire
Email_	<a href="mailto:Stcomgallyc.chair@outlook.com">Stcomgallyc.chair@outlook.com</a>
Contact the above named or:	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# St Comgalls Playgroup

Adult volunteers within the Playgroup provide support in the classroom. This is general support, just being there is a benefit and there are plenty of opportunities to help with snack times, general supervision, tidying up etc;

The hours are 9-11:30 daily.

Full training will be given by the Playgroup leader and staff..  
AccessNI clearance will need to be arranged.

The Playgroup is located in the Minor Hall at St. Comgalls.



No. of volunteers needed	1 or 2
Time commitment	9:00-11:30 daily
Is a reduced time commitment available	Yes
Is a taster session available	Yes
Will full training be given	Yes
Contact Person-Name	Shelley McCullough
Email_	<a href="mailto:Stcomgallsplaygroup@gmail.com">Stcomgallsplaygroup@gmail.com</a>
Contact the above named or:	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# St. Vincent de Paul

Volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul get to assess, and provide assistance to, those in need in our community. In the words of our founder Frederic Ozanam “ to sit with people and feel the cold they are feeling” This manifests itself in home visits to assess need and then plan and execute a recovery, often involving collection and delivery of furniture.

The expected time commitment is 1-5 hours per week. AccessNI clearance will be needed. Initial training is provided by SVdP Belfast Office and there is always support from the other members of the team – members will never be on their own !

We would be particularly interested in fostering a Youth Conference where younger members could use their skills in IT, Arts and crafts and music (for example) to embellish social gatherings, like Afternoon Teas and visits to care homes, and to help senior parishioners to improve their phone and laptop skills.

Time commitment	1-5 hours per week
Is a reduced time commitment available	Yes
Will full training be given	Yes- from SVdP HQ Belfast
Contact St. Comgalls	07508549597
Email_	Stcomgall.antrim.svpni.co.uk
Contact - St. Josephs	07738838119
Contact the above or:	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# Altar Society, St. Comgalls

Altar Society volunteers assist with ensuring that the Church Altar is always adorned with fresh flowers.

This involves calling in to the Church one day per week to water flowers, remove faded blooms and add fresh ones as required. Generally this takes 1-2 hours per visit. Ideally, with enough volunteers this will be for 1 month in the year

Induction and mentoring will be provided by one of the existing group. There is no personal expense for the flowers.



Time commitment	2 hrs per week, 1 month per year
Is a reduced time commitment available	Yes
Is a taster session available	Yes
Will full training be given	Yes
Contact Person- Name	Rosemary Maguire
Contact the above named or:	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# Social+Hospitality Committee

The **Social and Hospitality Committee** plays a vital role in building community life within the parish by organising and supporting social events throughout the year. From simple tea and coffee gatherings after Mass to larger celebrations such as Christmas dinners and afternoon teas, the committee helps create welcoming spaces where parishioners can connect and feel at home.

Volunteers can contribute in a variety of ways — helping to generate event ideas, organising activities, setting up and tidying the hall, preparing refreshments, and serving at events. There are also opportunities to support the team without joining the committee formally, through the “extra hands” group.

Time commitments are flexible. Small events may take 2 hours while larger events may take 5 hours, even offering an hour or two of help makes a real difference. Taster sessions are warmly welcomed, and new volunteers are supported and guided throughout.

The more people who get involved, the lighter and more enjoyable the commitment becomes for everyone — and the stronger our parish community grows.

Time commitment	2 hrs (small events), 4-6 hrs (large)
Is a reduced time commitment available	Absolutely
Is a taster session available	Yes
Will full training be given	Yes
Contact Person- Name	Deidre Allen
Contact the above named or:	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# Tea Club, St MacNissius

The Tannaghmore Tea Club runs 4 times per year after 10am Sunday Mass so the time commitment would be 9am-12 midday on those 4 Sundays.

Additional volunteers would help with setting up the tea/coffee and food before mass, pouring the beverages and helping distribute food during the event and cleaning up the dishes and the hall afterwards.

The Tea Club allows parishioners to gather informally after mass in a relaxed environment and have a good chat.



Time commitment	3 hrs, 4 times per year
Is a reduced time commitment available	Yes
Is a taster session available	Yes
Will full training be given	Yes
Contact Person- Name	Colin Maybin
Contact the above named or:	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# Baptismal Team

We would love to welcome volunteers to assist with baptism bookings and preparations.

- With around 100 baptisms per year in the parish, we respond to the initial request for baptism; by sharing information about the Sacrament of Baptism, about the rite of Baptism and about the role of Godparents.
- We gather the information for the official parish records.
- We support parents through preparation for the baptism of their child and, where necessary, we signpost parents to other groups, agencies within the parish/local community.
- We attend baptisms, when possible.

Each baptism booking takes approximately two hours to complete, spread over three sessions. With additional volunteers, you could anticipate one request per 2/3 weeks.

This is a flexible role. Once you have made the initial response to parents, you can control the timing of the other aspects of the preparation programme. It can be carried out at a time that fits in with work or family commitments and best suits you.

We offer a full training programme, including observation and shadowing from beginning to end of process.

Time commitment	2 hours every 2/3 weeks minimum
Is a reduced time commitment available	Yes
Is a taster session available	Yes
Will full training be given	Yes
Contact Person	Kay McGuinness
Contact the above named or:	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# Choirs



Music and singing enriches and enlivens our Worship and each Church has musical groups.

The various Choirs sing at one Mass in their Church each Sunday – 12pm at St. Josephs, 11am at St. Comgalls and 10am at St. MacNissius, with extra Masses and ceremonies at Easter and Christmas. A few rehearsals are usual around these times but not generally through the rest of the year

Any of the groups welcome new members.

**Members of the congregation are welcome to sing along with hymns even if they are not sitting with the choir.**

St. MacNissius, Tannaghmore	Hugh Mallon
St. Josephs	Kate McGuigan
St Comgalls	Brian Hanna
	: Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

# Apostolic Work (Antrim Branch)

Apostolic Work was founded by Agnes McCauley in 1923 in Down & Connor and has been led by committed lay people who have supported Irish Missionaries in their work overseas.

Being open to the ideals of Apostolic Work means supporting missionaries around the world through prayer, fundraising, and practical help. The ability to work within a team is Important as we all work to support each other.

Antrim Apostolic Work will be 100 years old in 2027. We are a small branch made up of 9 people. Ensuring that we have a good volunteer base will mean that we can continue the work of supporting less fortunate people in the Developing World on into the next 100 years.

Time commitment	2-3 hours a month maximum
Is a reduced time commitment available	Yes, absolutely
Is a taster session available	Yes
Will full training be given	Yes, by Antrim Branch members
Contact Person-	Frances Doole
	Return the form to/or contact the Parish Office or any Pastoral Council member

**St. Comgalls**



**St. Josephs**



**St. MacNissius, Tannaghmore**



## Where can I find more information ?

Go to Facebook. Search for 'Parish of Antrim' and you will find testimonials from existing volunteers about their experiences, other information about volunteering and a copy of this booklet.



Alternatively, point your phone camera at the QR code to the left and it will take you to our Facebook page.

General information, bulletins and contact details are available on the Parish website

<https://www.antrimparish.com/>

### **Next - Fill out the 'Expression of Interest' form and:**

Return it to the Parish Office by hand/post

Return to Parish Office by email:

[antrim@downandconnor.org](mailto:antrim@downandconnor.org)

Hand it to the Contact person, if you know them

Return it in the weekly collection

Hand it to a Welcome Team member at the Church door

OR Talk to any existing volunteer, Pastoral Committee member, Welcome Team member or any of our Priests.

### **Mass Times**

#### **Sunday Masses**

St Comgall's, 9am and 11am

St MacNissius', 10am

St Joseph's, Saturday 5.30pm (Vigil), 12 noon

#### **Weekday Masses**

St Comgall's, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am

St Joseph's, Tuesday and Thursday, 10am; Friday 7pm.



PARISH OF  
**ANTRIM**

JOIN US!  
**JOIN US!**  
JOIN US!

## Let's Get Involved!

Serve, Connect & Help Build Our Parish Community

*Our parish is growing and becoming more diverse.  
We warmly welcome everyone, whether you are new to Antrim or  
have been here for years, to become part of the life of our parish community.*

### Why Get Involved?

- Make new friends
- Try something new
- Develop new skills
- Share your gifts and talents
- Help others in the parish community
- Become leaders

**Training and support will be  
provided to all volunteers!**



### Interested in Volunteering?

Contact the Parish Office or speak to a member of the Parish Council

Building Faith • Community • Service