

Parish Groups Quick Reference Contact List

Name	Contact Name	Telephone Number
3 rd World Group	Eddie Mc Veigh	028 9077 2953
Altar Servers	Briege Smith	028 9028 8622
Altar Society	Chris Moley	028 9077 7414
Apostolic Workers	Chris Moley	028 9077 7414
Bereavement Group	Bernie Rooney	028 9077 4833
Blackbird Theatre Company	Maura O'Reilly	028 9036 9429
Bowling Club	Frank Mc Goldrick	028 9077 0576
Children's Liturgy Group	Fr Gerard Cassidy	028 9077 4833
Finance Committee	Fr Gerard Cassidy	028 9077 4833
Friend's of St Gerard's	Paul McKeown	028 9077 2981
Friendship Club	Mary B Kelly	028 9077 6931
G.I.F.T.	Liam McKinney	028 9077 7775
Hall Committee	Bobby McCann	028 9059 6439

Liturgy Group	Eleanor Alexander	028 9077 1114
Music		028 9077 4833
Our Lady of Lourdes (Park Lodge) School	Ciaran O'Grady	028 9037 0686
Prayer Group	Jim Corr	028 9077 9496
Preparation for Baptism	Emily McAteer / Lyla Mulvenna	028 9077 4833
S.P.R.E.D.	Margaret McCausland	9077 5429
Name	Contact Name	Telephone Number
St Joseph's Young Priests Society	Emily McAteer Teresa Gallagher	028 9077 8459 028 9029 5082
St Vincent de Paul	Donnach O'Neill	028 9077 4833
Stepping Stones (Nursery School)	Tracey McNeill	028 9077 5258
Youth Ministry Group	Fr Brendan Mulhall	028 9077 4833

WEEKDAYS :

Monday	9.30a.m.		
Tuesday	9.30a.m.		
Wednesday	9.30a.m.		
Thursday	9.30a.m.	Novena Mass	7.30p.m.
Friday	9.30a.m.	1 st Friday	7.30p.m.

WEEKENDS :

Saturday	9.30a.m.	Vigil	6.30p.m.
Sunday	9.30a.m.	11.30a.m.	7.00p.m.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 5.30p.m. – 6.30p.m. or by arrangement

BAPTISMS :

Sunday 12.15p.m.

Please contact the Parochial House two weeks prior to Baptism.

Name of Group : Friends of St Gerard's

Contact Person : Paul McKeown

Tel No. : 028 9077 2981

Target Group : The Church Community

Venue : By Arrangement

Time : By Arrangement

Function of Group :

“Friends of St Gerard’s” was organised to raise funds to help reduce the parish debt (e.g. re-furbishing the church and community centre, painting and roofing)

Funds are raised through golf competitions, Nights at the Races, Dances etc., and the generosity of parishioners.

Each year people from the parish, who are ill and unable to afford the fare, are given the opportunity to go to Lourdes with the Down & Connor Diocese pilgrimage. “Friends of St Gerard’s” would be delighted to welcome new ideas for fund-raising and ‘New Blood’ for the group.

Name of Group : S P R E D

Contact Person : Margaret Mc Causland

Tel No. : 028 9077 5429

Target Age Group : Over 21 years

Venue : Room above Sacristy

Time : Wednesday with friends 7.30pm

Alternate Weeks : Volunteers 8.00pm

Function of the Group :

A Special Religious Education Division group has been operating in our Church for some time now. The purpose of SPRED is to enable a group of friends, some with different types of disability, to join together to express their faith and to help them understand the Gospel through activities, stories, reflection and prayer.

SPRED believes that the Church will be all the richer through the inclusion of parishioners with learning difficulties.

The group meets fortnightly to share in art, craft and other simple activities, which quiet the mind and heart to listen to the Word of God around a particular theme later that evening. We end each session by sharing a small friendship meal together.

In the intervening week the volunteers meet to prepare the following week's meeting. Three volunteers from the "core" team – a leader, a parish representative and a volunteer plan the activities. Each of the other volunteers bonds with a "special" friend to enhance a feeling of belonging,

warmth and friendship.

S.P.R.E.D. is not a Prayer Group. It is a faith group meeting to share our experience of God as we have met Him in our lives and the experience of enabling the growth of our faith and belief in God. We volunteers agree that our journey of faith with our S.P.R.E.D. friends constantly develops our own faith and education.

Our S.P.R.E.D. 21+ age group was set in 1987, as agreed with the Parish Priest. S.P.R.E.D. movement also has 5 to 10 years, 11 to 16 years, and 17 to 21 years groups, which are never mixed.

S.P.R.E.D. volunteers are given ample training, so no one should allow a feeling of lack of ability or experience to prevent them from seizing the opportunity to join.

Names, contact numbers and further information can be found on the notice board at the back of the Church.

Name of Group : Children's Liturgy Group

Contact Person : Parochial House

Tel No. : 028 9077 4833

Target Age Group : Primary School Children
(P2 – P5)

Venue : Room above Sacristy

Time : Each Sunday 11.30am Mass

Function of the Group :

To make Mass more enjoyable, interesting and relevant to children (P2 – P5)

To present a simplified version of the Readings and Gospel of the day.

To practically involve children in appropriate activities.

Name of Group : Bowling Club

Contact Person : Frank McGoldrick

Tel No. : 028 9077 0576

Target Group : All parishioners

Venue : Community Centre

Time : Tuesdays 7.00 – 10.00pm
Wednesdays – Matches only

Function of the Group :

We have members of all ages, both male and female.

There are bowls available for new members or for anyone who would like to try the game before joining the club.

New members are more than welcome. If interested, contact the Secretary whose name is above.

Name of Group : Altar Society
Contact Person : Chris Moley
Tel No. : 9077 7414
Target Group : All parishioners
Venue : St Gerard's Church
Time : When necessary

Function of the Group :

St Gerard's Altar Society has, at present, eight members. We are responsible for ordering the flowers to decorate the Altars. Usually we work in pairs, decorating the Altars every two weeks and making sure that the flowers are kept fresh in between times.

At Easter and Christmas, a combined effort from the whole team ensures that the Church looks its' best.

Each year, a different member holds the post of President and we are always looking for new members. If you would like to join us, you will be more than welcome.

Name of Group : Apostolic Workers
Contact Person : Chris Moley
Tel No. : 9077 7414
Target Group : All Ages
Venue : Room above Sacristy
Time : 8.15pm – 1st Thursday in month

Function of the Group :

The members of the Apostolic Group work to raise funds locally to help missionaries all over the world. They also provide everything essential for human life among the poorest of the poor in missionary countries.

Our main fundraising event is the annual church door collection. The goods on display – such as Mass kits, sacred vessels and technological aids – are just some of the items needed on the missions. We depend on our benefactors to sponsor or contribute towards the purchase of these items.

We are anxious for new members and are open to new ideas for raising money for the missions. We are grateful for all the help we have received in the past and ask for your continued prayers and support.

Name of Group : Parish Finance Group
Contact Person : Fr. Gerard Cassidy CSsR
Tel No. : 028 9077 4833
Venue : Parochial House
Time : Twice yearly

Function of the Group :

The Parish Finance Committee meets in March and November to monitor, advise and review the Parish finances.

Members:

Fr. Gerard Cassidy	Chairman
Fr. P. McLaughlin	
Fr. B. Mulhall	
Mr D O'Neill	
Mr H. Donnelly	
Mr T. Kearney	
Mr E. Donaghy	
Mr D. McAteer	
Miss K. Mannion	Secretary

Name of Group : Stepping Stones
Pre-School Playgroup

Contact Person : Tracey Mc Neill

Tel No. : 9077 5258

Target Group : 3+ years of age

Venue : Community Centre

Time : 9.15 a.m. to 1.15 p.m.

Function of the Group :

Stepping Stones Pre-School Playgroup was established 15 years ago and offers a worthwhile service to our children within the parish and to the wider community.

The Playgroup caters for children from three years to school age and provides an appropriate curriculum which follows the curricular guidance for pre-school education promoting learning in the areas of:

- Personal, social, and emotional development.
- Physical development
- Creative/aesthetic development
- Early mathematical experiences
- Early experiences in Science & Technology
- Knowledge and appreciation of the environment

The playgroup leader and assistants are all highly qualified and highly motivated to fulfil our aims and help our children learn and develop in all areas. We hope that our children will leave the playgroup feeling secure and happy and ready to explore the world around them with enthusiasm and confidence.

For more information, contact the playgroup where any of our staff will be happy to assist.

Name of Group : Liturgy Group

Contact Person : Eleanor Alexander

Tel No. : 9077 1114

Target Group : Parish Congregation who attend the various services

Venue : Parochial House

Time : 8.00pm on occasional Thursdays (as the need arises)

Function of The Group :

Our function as a group is to organise and reflect on the Liturgy. We do this through open discussion and careful planning. There are a number of booklets and magazines published on the subject of parish liturgy and we refer to those to enhance our own ideas.

The goal of our efforts is to make the Sunday Mass and other services as meaningful as possible for our parishioners.

Name of Group : Baptism Preparation Group
Contact Person : Emily McAteer / L. Mulvenna
Tel No. : 9077 8459 / 9059 6850
Target Group : Parents
Venue : Parochial House
Time : 3rd Monday each month @ 8.00pm

Function of The Group :

To prepare new parents for the sacrament of baptism of the child.

The course consists of one meeting lasting approx. 1 hour. Parents expecting their first child are obliged to attend the course. It is recommended that the course be completed, if possible, prior to the birth of the child.

In order to attend one of the courses, please contact the parish office – 9077 4833 – or one of the priests to register.

<u>Name of Group :</u>	Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School
<u>Principal :</u>	Mr. C. O'Grady
<u>Tel No. :</u>	9037 0686
<u>Venue :</u>	Park Lodge 700 Antrim Road
<u>Web Site :</u>	www.parklodgeps.co.uk

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School (known locally as Park Lodge) is a co-educational Catholic Maintained School, primarily serving the children of St Gerard's Parish.

Traditionally, the school has drawn pupils from all parts of Belfast, in particular the Antrim Road and Glengormley areas.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School has a reputation for high academic and sporting performance.

Name of Group : Altar Servers
Contact Person : Breige Smith
Tel No. : 9028 8622
Target Group : Boys & Girls 8years & older
Venue : St Gerard's Chapel
Time : By arrangement

Function of The Group :

The function of the group is to help boys and girls play a more active part in the liturgy.

St Gerard's dedicated altar boys and girls have served the parish well over the years. We thank God for them and pray they continue their work for many years to come.

Like all children, they grow up and move on, so we are always keen to welcome new members to join the group.

Frequency of Meetings: Approx. 4 times per year.

Name of Group : Church Music Group
Contact Person : Parochial House
Tel No. : 9077 4833
Target Group : Males & Females 15 + years
Venue : St Gerard's Church
Time : Practice after Novena –
Thursday Nights

Function of The Group :

St Gerard's Parish has a senior Choir, which leads the congregation at 11.30am Mass each Sunday and on special occasions. They sing in unison and four-part. New members are always welcome.

The parish also has a Youth Ensemble, which gathers and performs for special occasions. The target age range for this group is 11 to 22 years and participants should be grade IV standard and above.

Other parishioners contribute to music in the church both for Masses and other church ceremonies.

For further information about the church music please contact either of the above nominated people.

Name of Group :

G.I.F.T.

Contact Person :

Liam McKinney

Tel No. :

9077 7775

Target Group :

Forms 1& 2 Secondary Level

Venue :

St Gerard's Community Centre

Time :

Sundays 12.30 to 1.45pm
(5 week programme)

Function of The Group :

Faith development in action.

Name of Group : The Prayer Group
Contact Person : Jim Corr
Tel No. : 9077 9496
Target Group : All parishioners
Venue : Room above sacristy
Time : Monday @ 8.00pm

Function of The Group :

To foster a deeper faith, by an acknowledgement and a personal experience, of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, leading to a fuller understanding today of God's Word in sacred scripture.

The Prayer Group movement is one of the many present day responses to the prayer by Pope John XXIII for a "New Pentecost" which he made at the start of Vatican II. Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II have given their blessings. Pope Paul called it "a chance for the world and a chance for the Church".

The Prayer Group is committed to the authority and teachings of the church and exists to pray – on a continuous basis – for all aspects of parish life. If requested, it is always available to pray for any particular situation or need.

Name of Group : St Gerard's Friendship Club

Contact Person : Mary B. Kelly

Tel No. : 9077 6931

Target Group : Adults aged 60+

Venue : St Gerard's Community Centre

Time : Tuesdays 12noon to 2.00pm
(closed Easter week, Christmas fortnight, July & August)

Function of The Group :

The Friendship Club meets on a weekly basis to provide the older members of the community with a change of scene. Here they can share thoughts, memories, laughs and concerns.

The club is run by a group of dedicated voluntary workers who all bring different abilities. We run ballots and fairs to raise funds and the support of the St Vincent de Paul Group is essential to the successful running of the club.

Activities during our meetings can cover Keep-fit, Dancing, Board games, Card playing, Bingo and Quizzes. Each meeting begins with a welcoming "cuppa" and a nourishing lunch is on offer for those who want it.

Seasonal occasions are celebrated with extra "treats". Outings are also undertaken and the highlight of the year is the 3Day visit to Knock which provides time for both spiritual renewal and relaxation.

Our deceased members are always remembered in the Annual Memorial Service. They are also remembered by the Rowan Tree planted in the Prayer Garden.

The club is always anxious for new blood, male and female, which can bring new interests and greater variety.

Name of Group : St Gerard's Branch

Contact Person : Emily Mc Ateer Teresa Gallagher

Tel No. : 9077 8459 9029 5028

Target Group : All parishioners

Venue : Room above Sacristy

Time : Last Saturday of month @ 9.30am

Function of The Group :

St Gerard's branch was formed in 1988 out of the existing Vocations Group which had been in the parish for approx 20 years. St Joseph's Young Priests Society was formed in 1895 with the main aim of supporting students for the priesthood in Ireland.

For some years now, this has opened to include many countries of the Third World.

Each student is assured of the prayers of the members of the society and the benefactors – like our parishioners in St Gerard's – who every year in October subscribe generously to their upkeep and education.

St Gerard's Branch Committee meets once a month on the last Saturday, after the Vocations Mass at 9.30am. The meeting lasts about half an hour. During the year there are various events such as Prayer Vigils, usually held in St Malachy's College or St Dominic's and, sometimes, in the parishes. Contact with the various branches in Down & Connor is maintained through quarterly meetings held in St Joseph's Wing of St Malachy's.

There is a little leaflet with a prayer for vocations and these are left on the table in the porch at the 9.30am Mass on the last Saturday of each month. Please take one, or more, home with you and join us in praying daily for all

students and young priests throughout the world.

Anyone who would wish to join us at our meetings and become part of our Branch of the St Joseph's Young Priests Society will be heartily welcomed.

Name of Group : St Gerard's Bereavement Group

Contact Person : Bernie Rooney
(via Parochial House)

Tel No. : 9077 4833

Target Group : All parishioners

Venue : Parochial House

Time : 8.30pm 1st Thursday of Month

Function of The Group :

We are involved in the arrangement of the Liturgy for the annual November Mass for the Bereaved.

We provide relevant literature for the bereaved and constantly update it.

We acknowledge the first anniversary of those who have died in the parish by sending a card to the families.

We introduced the parish Book of Remembrance and update it twice yearly.

We arrange courses and talks on various aspects of bereavement, which are open to all our parishioners.

We offer a ministry of listening, sharing and caring for the bereaved of the parish.

New members are most welcome.

Name of Group : St Gerard's Conference

Contact Person : via Parochial House

Tel No. : 9077 4833

Target Group : Those in need – both within and beyond the parish

Venue : Parochial House

Time : Thursday Nights

Function of The Group :

Members of St Gerard's Conference meet every week to discuss visits of the previous week and to plan our future work.

St Gerard's is a very active Conference taking in local, as well as Regional, duties for the Society. Hospital, Nursing Home and home visitation of the needy, lonely and sick is at the centre of our work, always respecting their confidentiality and dignity.

The financial burden on single parent families and the unemployed means that our work is always ongoing and we would appreciate a call from anyone interested in helping us in any capacity.

Training sessions and our annual Retreat emphasise the spiritual nature of our work and this advancement in our members means that we are better prepared to be Vincentians.

The Catholic Caring Project, run by our Conference, ensures that many children get individual sponsored gifts each Christmas and a number of grocery hampers are distributed to families. We thank the parishioners of St Gerard's for their support.

Services include transport to Mass and holiday breaks. Thrift shops and furniture stores provide low cost clothing and household items at greatly reduced prices.

St Gerard's Friendship Club is run under the auspices of St Vincent de Paul Society, providing all sorts of services for our senior citizens.

New members are most welcome.

Name of Group : Hall Committee
Contact Person : Bobby McCann
Tel No. : 9059 6439
Target Group : All parishioners
Venue : Parochial House
Time : Monthly @ 8.00pm

Function of The Group :

The day to day running of the Community Centre is the responsibility of the Hall Manager – Richard Weiniger.

The committee is responsible for overseeing the running of the community centre with particular responsible for the following issues:

- Use of Hall
- Charging Policy
- Health & Safety
- Maintenance

The committee meets approximately once per month to review the activities that have taken place and to make decisions on new applications for use of the hall. The committee would like to see the hall more widely used and be of benefit to all sections of the parish.

Name of Group : Parish Meditation Group

Contact Person : Parochial House

Tel No. : 9077 4833

Target Group : All parishioners

Venue : Various Venues

Time : Weekly (Tuesday) @ 7.30pm

Function of The Group :

To foster a deeper understanding of all aspects of prayer through meditation.

Name of Group : Parish 3rd World Group

Contact Person : Eddie McVeigh

Tel No. : 028 9077 2953

Target Group : All Parishioners

Venue : St Gerard's Church

Time :

Function of The Group :

The group was formed with the main aim of raising awareness of, and supporting the people of the 3rd World. The group have sponsored Sister Evelyn Flanagan and her work with the Badjao people in the Philippines.

To this end the group organises various fund-raising events including Fair Trade stalls on the 1st Sunday each month, Christmas Hampers and Table Quizzes.

Name of Group : Youth Ministry Group

Contact Person : Fr Brendan Mulhall

Tel No. : 028 9077 4833

Target Group : Year 7 & 8 Students

Venue : St Gerard's Church

Time :

Function of The Group :