

Contact Numbers

Parish Office - 37522813
Parochial House - 37522802
Emergencies - 07596899031
St. Malachy's - 37510516
Cathedral - 37522638
SVP Help Line - 07733482604

St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish

Archdiocese of Armagh

www.armaghparish.net

Email: armaghparishoffice@gmail.com

4th December 2022

Mass Times

St Patrick's Cathedral

Monday - Saturday: 10am

Saturday: 6.30pm

Sunday: 11am, 12.30pm & 5.30pm

St Malachy's Church

Tues - Fri: 8am

Mon, Wed & Fri: 7:30pm

Tues & Thurs: Prayer Service - 7:30pm

Sundays: 8am & 9.30am

Church of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday: 7:30pm

St Colmcille's Church

Sunday: 10am

Please be aware of the importance of sanitising when entering any of our Churches & please respect Social Distancing in our Churches at all times.

Face coverings/Masks in Churches

Everyone is asked to wear a face covering/mask when attending Mass or when visiting any of the Churches in our Parish.

Reception of Communion continues to be by hand only. Should people wish to receive the Eucharist on the tongue, they can purchase a pyx in which the Eucharist can be placed.

Anniversaries & Month's Mind Masses should be left in the Parish Office **no later than 12noon on the Thursday of the week before the anniversary is due to be remembered, this includes Saturday Anniversaries.** You can leave anniversaries in as early as you wish, but anniversaries left in after this time are considered **late**, & therefore there is **no guarantee** that they will be read out at Mass. We request that you leave your anniversary in as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Parish Office Open Mon-Fri 10am-3pm tel. 02837522813.

Baptisms Saturdays at 5.30pm in St Malachy's Church. All Baptisms are booked through the Parish Office. **Please note due to restrictions, a maximum of 12 people are allowed to attend with each child being baptised.**

Funerals are celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral at 11am (Mon-Sat) Please note there are no Sunday funerals. Funerals are strictly Private/Family celebrations & can be viewed on St Patrick's Cathedral Webcam.

Confessions in St Malachy's Church on Saturdays @ 12 noon. Confessions also on the Thursday before the first Friday of each month in St Malachy's Church @ 12noon.

Safeguarding Contact Maura 07895460797/armaghparishsafeguarding@gmail.com

Weekly Parish Collection

20 November - £4505 and €94

27 November - £4535 & €155.80

The Priests Dues Collection is being taken up at all Masses on 31 Dec/1 Jan.

Home visits If there is anyone who is seriously ill &/or confined to their home or if anyone would like to receive a home visit or a house blessing from please leave details at the Parish Office.

Parish Records Help us keep our system up to date by letting us know your change of address! If you have changed address in the last couple of years or are planning to do so in the near future, please contact Claire in the Parish Office.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection

Dear Parishioners,

John the Baptist grabs our attention in today's Gospel, as he appears in the desert in his garment of camel hair, eating locusts and wild honey. As he preaches a message of repentance, crowds of people gather round him, being baptised and confessing their sins. He's a peculiar mixture of signs and messages, even to the people of the time who were on the lookout for a prophetic figure.

Sometimes a person's lifestyle can offer an even more powerful witness than their words. John's basic diet and dress suggest a lifestyle that is simple and radical and it challenged the norms of the day. He reminds us of another man who catches our attention with his simple lifestyle. Pope Francis continues to challenge us by many of the decisions that he makes and especially by his very moderate and simple lifestyle and we continue to be challenged by the great witness that he gives.

While we mightn't be called to the desert life, we're challenged to examine our values and our relationship with material things – an apt message as we enter what can be a very materialistic season for many. John the Baptist's message can be summed up by the first word that he speaks: repent. The Greek word for "repentance" is metanoia which means a change of heart! On a different note, as we approach the great feast of Christmas, I'm conscious that there has been much debate about drink driving, speed regulations and traffic safety, while television campaigns confront us with horrific images of road carnage and the terrible lifelong consequences of such tragedies. The truth is that each of us has a responsibility to take care on the roads whether we are the cyclist, motorist or pedestrian. In the lead up to Christmas, it might mean slowing down, taking extra time and being courteous to other road users in order to save life. While it is true that some accidents cannot be avoided, it is also true that many can. Let us give a gift this Christmas to somebody, who might not even know we are giving it to them. By taking more care on the roads, let us offer to somebody, maybe even somebody close to us, maybe even to ourselves, the greatest gift of all – the gift of life.

Finally, I want to highlight that this year, the 11pm Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve in St Patrick's Cathedral will be a Eurovision Broadcast. The Mass will be broadcast live across Ireland and across a number of European countries. It's a wonderful privilege to have been given this opportunity, for many people across Europe to be able to join in celebrating the Feast of the Nativity, live from our beautiful Cathedral. It's hoped that a large number of our parishioners will join in person for the Mass, as people join with us via television across Europe. All who are attending the Mass will have to be seated by 10.40pm and the celebration will conclude at 12 midnight.

With every blessing
Rev Peter McAnenly Adm

Mass Times for The Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Thursday 8 December

Vigil Mass on Wednesday 7th in St Malachy's Church at 7.30pm. Masses on Thursday 8th at 8am & 7.30pm in St Malachy's Church & at 10am in St Patrick's Cathedral. Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran on Thursday at 10am and in St Colmcille's, Knockaconey on Thursday at 7.30pm

"Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women"

The Christmas Poinsettia – A gift in memory of a loved one this Christmas!

The Poinsettia is a red or white plant which we often associate with Christmas. The shape of the poinsettia flower and its leaves symbolise the star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red coloured leaves symbolise the blood of Christ and the white leaves represent his purity. As we approach the celebration of Christmas and this season of giving, people might like to offer a gift of a poinsettia in memory of loved ones who have died. Poinsettias can be left at the Sacred Heart Altar in St Malachy's Church, Armagh anytime on Mon 19 – Thurs 22 December and these will be used to help decorate the Church this Christmas.

An Advent Reflection

In this season of waiting..... We await the celebration of the birth of Jesus, We await Christ's second coming, but God waits for us too. God lives today, and so..... Our first challenge is to bring Jesus to life in our own living, to become aware of his presence, the presence of the Spirit within us, prompting us, sustaining us, working through us, waiting for us.

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for: Marie Mallon, Rosemary Graham, Kathleen Darling, Kieran O'Connor, Kathleen Mason, Sean Wilson

MONTHS MIND

We pray



Presentation of St Patrick's Medals Archbishop Martin will present St Patrick's Medals to two parishioners who have given many years of service to St Malachy's Church and to the wider parish and he will present them at the 7.30pm Mass in St Malachy's Church on Wednesday 7 December. We thank both people for the great witness of their lives and for their commitment to the Church over the years.

A **Carol Service** in preparation for Christmas will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Sunday 11 December at 5.00pm. It will be led by St Patrick's Cathedral Choir and there will be an opportunity for congregational singing. Please note the 5.30pm Mass on that evening will be in St Malachy's Church.

"Christmas at the Cathedral" featuring Malachi Cush, Niamh McGlinchey, Karl McGuckin & Andrea Delaney on Friday 16 December at 7.30pm. Tickets available on line and this event will NOT be live streamed.

Confessions in preparation for Christmas
Mon 19 – Friday 23 Dec (after 10am Mass)
Fri 23rd Dec 12noon–3pm in St Malachy's Church. Mon 19 Dec 7.30pm - Parish Penitential Service in St Malachy's Church. A number of priests will be present – no Mass on that evening.

Weekly Collections/Gift Aid Thanks to all who have been continuing to support their parish financially through these very challenging times. Many people have set up a Direct Debit or Standing Order recently. Weekly Parish Envelopes that aren't given at weekend Masses can also be left through the letterbox of the Parish Office. Please continue to do what you can to help support our parish. Anyone who wishes to set up a Direct Debit or Standing Order can contact Caroline at the Parish Office. Thanks also to all who avail of the Gift Aid Scheme but we are keen to increase the number of contributors within the parish. Gift Aid means that for every £1 given through the envelope collection, the parish can claim an additional 25 pence from the Inland Revenue, as long as you pay Income Tax and sign a declaration form, permitting the parish to claim. Gift Aid forms can be accessed on the parish website or by contacting the Parish Office.

Do this in Memory Programme The next gathering for all P4 Pupils & their parents will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral on Sat 10th Dec at 6.30pm.

First Friday Holy Hour The next Holy Hour will take place in St Malachy's Church on Friday 6 January from 8 – 9pm.

Let's talk about faith! Fr Emmanuel is hosting a number of gatherings, to help people reflect on different aspects of their faith. The evenings include a period of Exposition in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and some reflection on different themes. Venue -- St Vincent de Paul Centre, Chapel Lane from 7.30pm – 8.30pm. The next gathering is on Thursday 15 December and the theme is "How is salvation possible".

Confirmation Ceremonies 2023 The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in Armagh Parish on the weekend of Sat 27/ Sun 28 May 2023.

Vocations Are you called to be "A herald's voice in the desert" preparing the way of the Lord in the hearts of His people? If you think God is calling you to priesthood, call Fr Barry Matthews (Vocations Director) or any priest.

St Joseph's Young Priests Society The Society have invited Fr Colm Hagan from the Parish of Drumcree & who was ordained priest in June, to celebrate the 7.30pm Mass in St Malachy's Church on Wed 14 Dec at 7.30pm. Fr Colm served in our parish for a year prior to Ordination and we look forward to welcoming him to St Malachy's Church on the evening

Prayer for Vocations O Jesus, send labourers into your fields, which are awaiting holy apostles, saintly priests, heroic missionaries and dedicated sisters and brothers. Enkindle in the hearts of men and women the spark of a vocation. Grant that Christian families may desire to give your Church, helpers in the work of tomorrow. Amen.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection The Society is taking up its annual Christmas Church Door Collection at all Masses in the parish this weekend. Please help support the work of the Society as best you can.

Eurovision Broadcast from St Patrick's Cathedral The 11pm Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral on Christmas Eve will be a Eurovision Broadcast. It will be broadcast live on RTE Television across Ireland & it will also be broadcast across a number of European countries. It's a great privilege to be able to broadcast from our Cathedral this year & it's hoped that large numbers of people will join in person for this special celebration. All attending MUST be seated by 10.40pm on the evening & the Mass will conclude at 12 midnight.

Armagh Cathedrals Partnership Advent Celebration will take place in The Market Place Theatre on Tues 13th Dec at 7.30pm. The guest speaker will be Dr Heather Morris, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland. She was recently appointed an Ecumenical Canon in St Patrick's COI Cathedral, Armagh. This promises to be a special evening of music, poetry & song as we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. All tickets for the event are now gone.

Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning for Parish Volunteers Church Stewards, counters, flower arrangers, members of PPC, Finance Committee, Shop Staff, Ministers of Word & Eucharist, Do this in Memory Coordinators, Choirs, Soloists, Sacristans and anyone who is involved in ministry within our Parish are invited to the Synod Hall on Wed 14 Dec from 10.30am – 12noon. All Parish Volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Matt Talbot Prayer Society A life freed from addiction & filled with the Holy Spirit. Matt Talbot was freed from addiction through Mass, Adoration & the Rosary. The Matt Talbot Prayer Society prays daily & specifically for those enrolled to be freed from addictions through Matt Talbot's intercession. Mass is celebrated on the first Monday of each month in St Malachy's Church, Armagh at 7.30pm for those struggling with an addiction. The next celebration will be on Mon 5th Dec. If you would like to enrol a name in the Matt Talbot Society please visit the website www.matttalbotprayersociety.com

Centenary of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran To mark the close of the centenary year of the Church, Bishop Michael Router will celebrate Mass in the Church on Thurs 8th Dec (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) at 10am. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Router on his first visit to Tullysaran.

St Patrick's Cathedral Gift Shop The Cathedral Gift Shop is open each day from 10.30am – 1.30pm. It stocks a wide variety of cards & gifts for special occasions, including traditional Irish crafts, gifts, souvenir booklets on the Cathedral, as well as lots of nice cards and gifts as we look towards Christmas!

Parish Property Available for Rent The former St Colmcille's Primary School, Knockaconey, Armagh is currently available for rent. Premises would be suitable for business purposes/storage. Further information from Caroline Caherty at Armagh Parish Office.

ALONE – Provider of Services to Older People Would you be willing to provide companionship or make calls to older people once a week? Alone are seeking volunteers in

this area. Full training & support will be provided. If interested or for more info contact Fiona on 0861366539 or fiona.boyle@alone.ie

Trocaire is looking for people to join their team of Christmas fundraisers, to help respond to the urgent need of poor communities around the world, especially the suffering people of East Africa. Training will be provided. To find out more contact Mark at 028 90908030

Trocaire: Gifts of Love If you want to help make the world a better place this Christmas and to give a gift that shows how much you care, then please give a Trocaire Gift of Love. Gifts are available online at www.trocaire.org/gifts or by phoning 08009121200. **Trocaire Gifts will be on sale after Masses in the Parish on the weekend of 10/11 December.**

Bambinelli Sunday: Sunday 11 December For many years, people have brought their Baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peter's Square on Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) where the Pope has blessed both the people & the figurines before the Angelus. This year, we will celebrate "Bambinelli Sunday" on the weekend of Sat 10/Sun 11 December. All are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to the 6.30pm Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 10th or the 9.30am Mass in St Malachy's or the 11am Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday 11th to be blessed. Families can even make their own "bambinelli" if they want and perhaps one of the children might bring it along for the special blessing. It's suggested that following the blessing, that people take their "bambinelli" home and place it in a gift box, wrap it and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift your family opens at Christmas, when together you place your Baby Jesus figure in the crib and have a home blessing of the Nativity for your whole family.

Open Night Our Lady's Primary School, Tullysaran invites parents and children due to start Reception or P1 in Sept 2023 to our Open Night on Thurs 8th Dec @ 7-8pm.

Anam Cara Armagh the organisation that supports bereaved parents is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wed 14th Dec at 7:15pm in Armagh City Hotel. This event is free & open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Contact info@anamcara.ie for any queries.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society next meeting will be held on Wed 14th Dec in St. Vincent de Paul Centre, Chapel Lane immediately following 7.30 pm Mass in St. Malachy's Church. All are welcome to join with us in praying for Vocations.

Peace Light from Bethlehem The light is being brought from Bethlehem by different Scouting Groups to different parts of the world. It will be brought to St Patrick's Cathedral by our local Scouting Group on Sat 24 December at 11pm Mass. The light from Bethlehem reminds us of the light which came to the stable when He who is the Light of the World was born among us. It's our prayer that this light will be a sign of peace in our communities and here on our land. May the light that shines from the lamp, light up our hearts and the hearts of the people in all the countries to which it's being carried.

The Peace Light Prayer
Light of Bethlehem: burn brightly in our hearts this Christmas. Light of Peace: heal the bitter wounds in our community and show us the path of forgiveness and love. Light of Joy: fill our homes with happiness, cast out the darkness of conflict or worry. Light of Comfort: strengthen the sick, the needy, the prisoners and all those who cannot be home on Christmas Day. Light of Hope: guide our way forward as we begin a New Year. Light of the World: teach us to love you more and more each day. Light of Bethlehem: shine in our lives this Christmas and always. Amen.