

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

19th February 2023

Lenten Mass Times (begins Wed 22nd Feb)

St Patrick's Cathedral

Monday - Saturday: 10am

Saturday: 6.30pm

Sunday: 11am, 12.30pm & 5.30pm

St Malachy's Church

Mon - Fri: 7am

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.

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

5th February: £4620 & €78

12th February: £5145 & €122

Irish Bishops Conference: £1870 & €33

The Order of Malta will take up their annual Church door collection at all Masses on 25/26 February. The Priests Dues Collection will be taken up at all Masses on 4/5 March.

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.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection

Dear Parishioners,

The teaching in today's Gospel isn't easy; it can be difficult enough to love our friends and members of our own families, but "to love our enemies, to pray for those who persecute us and to turn the other cheek" is a huge challenge. It goes against our natural instincts and it goes against everything that Jesus was taught as a child. With the people of his day, it was very clearly "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". The Jewish system of justice was arbitrary and ruthless as we witness in gospel stories where women were stoned to death or men found guilty of other crimes were tortured and crucified as a public spectacle. The teaching of Jesus is clearly opposed to all of that.

Yet Christianity doesn't ask us to be doormats so that people can walk over us; it doesn't ask us to be wimps. Through the power of God's Spirit within us, we're asked to become strong and brave, because it requires great strength of character and great single-minded resolve to forgive those who hurt us, or to turn the other cheek to those who offend us. Today Jesus asks us "to offer no resistance to the wicked man, to pray for those who persecute you and to love your enemies". We must never forget that by ourselves and of ourselves, we just don't have what it takes to do what Jesus asks. There are times when the hurts are too deep, and the experience is too recent, to be able even to consider forgiveness. That's why we often pray that the Holy Spirit will "enkindle within us the fire of divine love" and to give us a willingness to want to forgive. When it comes to forgiveness, this is one area where we really need the Spirit to enter and to act. It requires a heart which we may not yet possess to be able to forgive and forget.

The truth is that when I do forgive someone, both of us are set free and it's important to keep in mind that there's a wonderful freedom in having a forgiving heart.

On a different note, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday is Temperance Sunday and it's a good time to reflect on our lifestyle, our social activities, the way we spend money, the habits of indulgence and the various addictions that can take hold of our lives. Perhaps it's a good time to think about a few terms that nowadays might be considered unpopular and even old fashioned eg self-denial, personal sacrifice, abstinence, self-discipline and penance. On Temperance Sunday, we're encouraged to think about the importance of being temperate in all things, not just in relation to our consumption of food and drink. Today we acknowledge in a special way the members of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association and we thank them particularly for their fidelity and for the example of their lives.

With every blessing
Rev P McAnenly Adm

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday 22 February

The beginning of Lent and a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all Masses.

Ash Wednesday Mass Times:

St. Malachy's Church: 7am & 7:30pm

St. Patrick's Cathedral: 10am & 11:30am

Church of the Immaculate Conception: 7:30pm

St. Colmcille's Church: 7:30pm

The Way of the Cross in St Malachy's Church at 7pm.

Lent is a time of renewal and new beginnings. It's a time for us to enter into the sufferings and death of Jesus, before celebrating the joy and hope of Easter. It's a time for us to reflect in a special way on God's Word. Jesus tells us in the Gospel on the first Sunday of Lent that God's words are nourishing – man doesn't live on bread alone.

Our focus shouldn't just be on earthly things. Lent reminds us that there is more to life than the physical world. We're all guilty of getting caught up in the practicalities of life; it's only natural to work and rush and plan and worry. Lent offers us an opportunity to reflect on what's really important. The sacrifices we make or the extra effort we put into becoming better people during Lent are all part of the spiritual journey.

Trocaire Boxes are now available at the back of Churches in the Parish. Please take one and help support the work of Trocaire.

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for: Colette Terris, Harry Murray, John Campbell, Rita Cullen,
Deacon Martin Barlow, Michael Ward, Maura Donaghy,
Michael Mallon

MONTHS MIND

We pray for: Anne Brannigan (19th) and Pat Girvan (25th)



Prayer Vigil for Peace in Ukraine On Friday 24th Feb, Archbishop Martin & Archbishop McDowell will lead a Prayer Vigil outside the Library in Market St, Armagh at 1pm to pray for peace in Ukraine. One year on from the beginning of the war, people are encouraged to gather & pray for an end to the ongoing conflict there.

150th anniversary of the Dedication of St Patrick's Cathedral This year is a very special year in the history of our Parish as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Dedication of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh by Dr Daniel McGittigan, former Archbishop of Armagh on 24 August 1873. Over twenty 20,000 people gathered on & around the hill on that historic occasion. We thank God for our Cathedral Church & for the great house of prayer that it is & we look forward to marking this special milestone in the year ahead.

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Dedication of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh this year, all P6 & P7 Pupils in the different Primary Schools in our parish have been invited to take part in research/projects focused on the Cathedral. Pupils have been invited to research some aspect of the Cathedral. They can focus on the history of the building or a particular aspect of the building.

First Friday Friday 3rd March is the first Friday of the month. The sick and housebound will be visited in the previous days. There will be a Holy Hour in St Malachy's Church on Friday 3rd from 8 – 9pm. Confessions in St Malachy's Church on Thursday 2nd at 12noon.

Armagh Parish Holy Spirit Prayer Group – New Life in the Spirit Seminars People are encouraged to join to help deepen their faith & to grow in knowledge & love of God. Archbishop Martin will speak on Wed 22nd February on "Salvation" & Louise Magennis will speak on Wed 1st March on "The new Life". We pray for the speakers and all who will take part, that the Lord may touch the hearts of all.

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 & some reflection on different themes. Venue: St Vincent de Paul Centre, Chapel Lane 7.30pm – 8.30pm. The next gatherings are on Thursday 23 Feb Theme: "What is the Immaculate Conception" & Thurs 23rd March Theme: "Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation".

Special Meeting for all Ministers of Eucharist will take place in Mt St Catherine's PS on Tues 21st Feb at 7.30pm. All Ministers of Eucharist are asked to make a special effort to attend. The meeting will be facilitated by Deacon Philip Carder who ministers in the Parish of Lower Killeavy. A special invitation is extended to all those who were Ministers of the Eucharist to the Sick & Housebound prior to the Covid Pandemic.

Special Meeting for all Ministers of Word will take place in Mount St Catherine's PS, Armagh on Tuesday 28 February at 7.30pm. All Ministers of Word (readers) are asked to make a special effort to attend. The meeting will be facilitated by Deacon Kevin Devine who ministers in the Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Lurgan.

Fatima Pilgrimage 2023 Led by Archbishop Eamon Martin from 20 July for 7 nights - £799 per person. All bookings through Joe Walsh Tours at 0808 1890468 or 01-2410800 (ROI)

Sisters of St Elizabeth: Display of Crafts The Sisters of St Elizabeth convent was founded in 1999 on the outskirts of Minsk. They provide spiritual & social help to the sick & to those who are suffering. They work

closely with young orphans & with those who are socially disadvantaged. To help support their work they produce different arts & crafts. There will be a display of their fine crafts after Masses in St Patrick's Cathedral and St Malachy's Church on Thurs 9th & Friday 10th March. Please help support the Sisters in the good work that they do.

At Home with Patrick – Past, Present & Future Armagh Cathedrals Partnership invite you to a special evening of music, story, poetry and prayer to celebrate St Patrick in The Market Place Theatre on Tues 14th March at 7:30pm. The guest speaker will be the Reverend Henry Hull who is the Church of Ireland Dean of Down. He's responsible for St Patrick's Grave and also pilgrimage events in Downpatrick. This promises to be a very special evening as we celebrate the St Patrick's Festival in Armagh and light refreshments will be served afterwards. Booking essential through the Market Place Theatre.

St Colmcille's PS, Knockaconey There has been some anti social activity in and around St Colmcille's PS over the last number of months & as a result, considerable damage has been done. No one has permission to be in or around the school at any time. If anyone sees anyone in or around the school in the coming weeks, they are asked to contact the PSNI immediately.

Matt Talbot Prayer Society Monthly Mass will be celebrated on Mon 6 March. All welcome to pray for those with addictions.

Weekly Collections/Gift Aid Thanks to all who continue 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 25p 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 18 March at 6.30pm.

New Parish Website Our new & exciting Parish Website has now been launched. Thanks to all who have been involved in the development of the new site. Visit www.armaghparish.net to keep up to date with all Parish happenings.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society will be held on Wed 1st March in St. Vincent de Paul Centre, immediately following 7.30pm Mass in St. Malachy's Church. All are welcome to join us in praying for Vocations.

St Vincent de Paul St Mary's Conference Tullysaran would like to say a very sincere thanks to the many selfless people of our community who made huge contributions to our Annual Appeal raising the phenomenal sum of £8,795. much of which has already gone to help those in great need at this time.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Jesus asks "Will you watch one hour with me?" Can you spare an hour at the same time once a week to spend at Adoration in St Malachy's Church. If you can join the rota of people who

watch with Jesus and ensure that the Blessed sacrament is not left unattended please contact Margaret 07799867714 or Kevin 07732220632.

Mass on RTE Now - broadcast on this channel on Sun 5 March at 2.15pm.

Vocations Holiness is a gift of God. Open yourself to the gift. When God calls, be ready to respond: "Here I am, send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8) If you think God is calling you to priesthood, call Fr Barry Matthews (Vocations Director) or any priest.

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 Patrick's Cathedral Gift Shop is open each day from 10.30am – 1.30pm stocking a wide variety of cards & gifts for special occasions including traditional Irish crafts & gifts and souvenir booklets on the Cathedral.

Worldwide Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse - Friday 24 February

Heavenly Father, who loves and cares for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable, we entrust to you the lives of the many children and vulnerable adults, who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed. Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for so many broken lives. We pray that within their communities and families they may find understanding and support so that with the help of your grace their wounds may be healed, and they may again know peace.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who shared our weakness in all things but sin, and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever, Amen

Safeguarding in the Archdiocese of Armagh The Archdiocese has a Diocesan Safeguarding Committee which oversees all the safeguarding arrangements in the Archdiocese. In our Parish, we have a Parish Safeguarding Representative whose role is to support the Parish in implementing all best practice in safeguarding policies and arrangements. The Archdiocese has also put arrangements in place to provide support to anyone who has been abused by a member of the Church. As a further response to victims of abuse, the Irish Bishops have designated the first Friday of Lent each year as a special day of prayer for victims and survivors of abuse in the Church.

Anam Cara is a national voluntary support organisation, set up by bereaved parents to provide support & understanding to families who have experienced the death of a son or daughter. A Parent Evening for bereaved parents will take place in Armagh City Hotel on Wed 22 Feb at 7.15pm. For further details contact 028 95213120

Weddings in Armagh Parish

Congratulations to the many couples who celebrated their marriage in the Parish last year and best wishes to those couples who are planning to celebrate their marriage in the Parish in the year ahead. Couples planning to get married in the Parish in 2023/2024 should ensure that they have booked their Church and made contact with their priest to be celebrant on the day. Couples should also ensure that they have booked a Pre Marriage Course with Accord. All enquiries in relation to weddings can be made at Armagh Parish Office.

All notices for the upcoming Bulletin must be submitted in writing no later than Tuesday at 5pm - please send them to armaghparishoffice@gmail.com or leave in the Parish Office. Due to a high volume of requests we cannot guarantee that all notices submitted will be published in the Parish Bulletin. We ask kindly that correct dates & times are provided. Many thanks!