

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Armagh

17th December 2023

Mass Times

St Patrick's Cathedral

Monday - Saturday: 10am
Sunday Vigil: 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

Confessions in St Malachy's Church on Saturdays @ 12 noon.

Parish Contacts

Parochial House: 028 3752 2802

Emergency Phone: 07596899031

- **Fr Barry Matthews, Adm**
E: barrymatthews@gmail.com
- **Fr Emmanuel Fasakin, MSP, CC**
E: emmafash725@yahoo.com
- **Fr David Nugent, CC**
E: frdavidnugent@gmail.com
- **Deacon Paul Mallon,**
E: paul.mallon@tudublin.ie
- **Deacon Eunan McCreesh,**
E: eunan.mccreesh@gmail.com

Parish Office

Cathedral Gate Lodge, 41a Cathedral Rd.
Tel: 028 3752 2813
Opening Hours: Mon - Friday: 10am-3pm

- **Caroline Caherty, Finance Manager**
armaghparishfinance@gmail.com
 - **Claire Corr, Parish Secretary**
armaghparishoffice@gmail.com
 - **Maura Kelly, Safeguarding**
armaghparishsafeguarding@gmail.com
- St Patrick's Cathedral: 028 3752 2638**
Sacristans: Roger Duggan & Kieran Kelly
- St Malachy's Church: 028 3751 0516**
Sacristan: Gary McGuirk

Baptisms & Weddings - to book your baptism or wedding, please contact the Parish Office.

Dear Friends,

This week (Gaudete Sunday) we light the candle of Joy, we remember with great joy the wonderful gift's that we have been given - life itself, family, friends and the material items that offer warmth and comfort. These days are busy days, people are writing and following lists and worrying about the things they don't have (time, money, gifts) - today is an opportunity to be thankful for what you do have and to take stock of what's important. Today instead of planning a shopping trip why not plan an hour with a friend or loved one, why not replace the shopping list with a list of the blessings in your life - why not spend an hour with Jesus, after all "Jesus is the reason for the season".

Whatever you do in these days, do make time to be thankful and to feel God's closeness. In giving gift's please do remember to give the gift of faith this Christmas.

Fr Barry Matthews Adm.

Advent Today is the third Sunday of Advent - we encourage families to make a special effort to keep the Christmas message as central to their preparations as possible.

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. Anniversaries are read out at all Masses on weekday and one Sunday Mass. Months Minds will be remembered at the 12:30pm Mass on Sunday following the Months Mind. We request that you leave your anniversary in as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Visitation Anyone wishing to receive a visit from a Priest or have a house blessing are invited to leave their name, address, postcode and phone number in the Parish Office. Anyone who is aware of a family member, friend or neighbour who is housebound are invited to let the Parish Office know to ensure those most in need are attended to. Family Members are reminded to ensure that their loved ones in Hospital are seen by the Hospital Chaplain on duty and that they receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

Weekly Parish Collection

10th December - £5146 & €115

St Patrick's Cathedral Gift Shop The Cathedral Gift Shop is open each day from 10.30am - 1.30pm and it stocks a wide variety of cards and gifts for special occasions, including traditional Irish crafts and gifts and souvenir booklets on the Cathedral.

St Patrick's Prayer Guild Mass Bouquets and Mass Cards Our new range of Mass Bouquets and Mass Cards are now available in the Cathedral Shop and in the Sacristy of St Malachy's Church after Masses. The 10am Mass each Saturday in the Cathedral is dedicated to St Patrick's intercession and the intentions for these Mass Cards/Bouquets will all be included in this weekly Mass.

Adoration Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues each day in St Malachy's Church. Parishioners are encouraged to drop in, light a candle and offer a prayer. We encourage families to take a little time out to visit.

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for: Rosemary McShane, Jim McGrory, Kevin Heuston, Robert McCann, Neilus Toner and Paddy Hughes

MONTHS MIND

We pray for: Maura Ryan (18th) and Roma Corr (22nd)

May they rest in peace.



The Friends of St Patrick's Cathedral As you are aware there is some major works needed on the Cathedral and the Cathedral steps. We are hoping to move forward in the Spring towards these projects. The Cathedral costs over £200,000 per year to maintain and as such we are hoping that our fundraising efforts will help offset some of this cost. Direct Debit Mandates are available in the Parish Office for anyone wishing to assist in this way. Anyone in a position to assist our fundraising campaign is invited to speak to Fr Barry or Caroline in the Parish Office.

Altar Servers We are currently recruiting new Altar Servers. Forms may have been received through the schools - alternatively parents/guardians can contact the Parish Office.

Missionaries of Charity One hour of prayer, scripture and song before the Blessed Sacrament, every Wednesday from 7-8pm in the Missionaries of Charity House.

Parish Shop— Advent Opening Hours—As well as the normal Mon-Sat hours the Parish Shop will be open each Sunday in Advent following the 11am Mass until the beginning of the 12:30pm Mass. Christmas Mass Bouquets and a large selection of Christmas items are available in the Parish shop. Do please drop in for a browse. A new Leather Cover Mass Enrolment Card is now available and would act as a lovely gift for those away from Armagh this year.

Volunteers As a Parish community we are always delighted to welcome new volunteers to our various outreaches. As we look forward to the new year we are conscious of the initiatives that will begin to take place. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact the Parish Office or any of the Priests/Deacons.

Church Doors During the winter months we are asking parishioners to help us conserve energy and keep the heat inside the Churches. We ask that you would close the manual doors tightly after you enter (automatic doors will close themselves). We have also closed half of the main doors in St Malachy's Church & St Patrick's Cathedral and hope this makes some impact. Thank you for your help and support

New Crib Scene You will notice that our Crib in St Patrick's Cathedral has moved to the front of the sanctuary. Many people who join us on the webcam have mentioned that they would like to see the crib. The symbolism of the crib is as follows: the curved structure represents the arms of God embracing the world. The star is held by the arms over the infant Jesus' manger and is a solid oak creation reflective of the oak trees around the Cathedral. The curved back of the floor space represents the earth and how Jesus is present in the world. The lighting is designed to reflect the fact that Jesus is the light of the world. We are so thankful to John Devine (Teacher in St Patrick's Grammar School) and Philip Callaghan who constructed the structure for this years crib.

Coeliac Hosts From the 24th December, coeliac hosts will be available from the main celebrant at every Mass in St. Malachy's Church and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Parishioners will no longer be required to contact the sacristans.

Anam Cara Armagh the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wed 20th Dec at 7:15pm in the Armagh City Hotel. This event is free and 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. We also offer an online support service. Contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 028 95213120 for any queries.

Poinsettia Plants Parishioners are invited to leave a Poinsettia Plant in any of the Parish Churches in memory of a loved one. This tradition has become very popular over the last number of years.

Annual Carol Service The Cathedral Choir will host their Annual Carol Service at 5:30pm this afternoon (Sunday). Archbishop Eamon will preside over what is sure to be a special afternoon of music and prayer. All are welcome.

Confessions for Christmas A Penitential Service will take place on Tuesday evening at 7:30pm in St Malachy's Church, a number of Priests will be available on the evening and prayers and reflections will be prayed throughout the service. Confessions will be available after the 10am Mass during the week and also from 11am to 2pm on Saturday. All are welcome.

The Nativity Scenes are now in place in all our Churches. These are beautiful scenes. Special thanks to all involved in the installations. The tradition of Visiting the cribs after Christmas Day is long standing and we do encourage families to make the little "pilgrimage" around the cribs to light a candle and offer a prayer.

Trocaire Gifts Geraldine Turley, our Trocaire rep in the parish, wishes to thank all those who generously supported the Christmas gifts in St. Patrick's Cathedral & St Malachy's Church. This weekend she will be selling the Trocaire gifts in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran and St Colmcille's Church, Knockaconey.

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule remains as normal in St Malachy's Church, the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran and St Colmcille's Church, Knockaconey, however the 12:30pm and 5:30pm Masses in St Patrick's Cathedral are cancelled. A full schedule of Christmas Mass times are available at the back of the Church and also on the Parish website.

Mass of the Angels On Thursday 28th December (Feast of the Holy Innocents) at 7:30pm in St Malachy's Church, a special Mass will be held to remember those babies who died. Anyone affected by the loss of a child - miscarriage, stillborn or who died young - are invited to remember their child on the evening. Parents who lost a child at any age are invited, as is anyone who wishes to pray for and support those who mourn.

Commemorative Books on Cardinal Ó Fiaich To mark the centenary of Cardinal Ó Fiaich's birth a small number of commemorative books have been published and can be purchased from the Cardinal Ó Fiaich Library & Archive. All proceeds will go to the library. For details contact the library on 028 3752 2981.

Adoptive Parents Needed Urgently There are currently more children waiting to be adopted in Northern Ireland than families approved to adopt and there is an urgent need for new families to come forward. All sorts of people from all walks of life can be considered for adoption. If you think you could offer a child or children a new life in a family of their own and would like an informal chat to discuss this and to find out more about adoption contact: :email@familycareadoption.org or telephone 028 9069 113. www.familycareadoption.com. We are waiting to hear from you!

Found A silver bracelet has been found outside College Farm Nursery School at the beginning of December. If you think this is yours, please contact 02837518276.

Holy Spirit Prayer Group Christmas Thanksgiving Mass at 8pm on Wed 20th Dec in Benburb Priory, followed by Healing Service. On Fri 22nd & Sat 24th Dec, confessions will be available at Benburb Priory 2-4pm. All welcome. The Holy Spirit Prayer Group will resume 9th Jan with Mass in the Synod Hall at 8pm. All welcome.

