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# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish



www.armaghparish.net

Email: armaghparishoffice@gmail.com

26th November 2023

## 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

### 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 & 3pm in Church of St. Colmcille, Knockaconey & Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran. All Baptisms are booked through the Parish Office.

Funerals are celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral at 11am (Mon-Sat) Please note there are no Sunday funerals.

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

Parish Records 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 to help us keep our records up to date!

### Weekly Parish Collection

12th November; £4771 & €66

19th November: £4660 & €82

### 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 a lovely range of Christmas gifts and cards.

## FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Dear Friends

During November we were encouraged to undertake the "Cathedral Prayer Walk" following in the footsteps of those who have gone before us. The Prayer Walk is an opportunity to take stock - to pause for a moment and look around us to see the beauty that surrounds us and to look up.

Today, the feast day of Christ the King is the last Sunday of the Church year - it is an opportunity to reflect on the year that has been - to hand over the pain and sadness to Christ our King and to thank Him for the blessings. Even those who have had a year where suffering was present will still be able to see the blessings - the light of Christ shining through.

As a community we reflect on our journey together in faith - we reflect upon our shared relationship with God and how we have grown in our relationship over the last year. Maybe an appropriate question would be to ask how we have recognised God in our lives this year? How we have brought others closer to God by our words and actions? Who is God for us in our everyday messiness and toil?

The Prayer Walk - allows us to reflect back on our baptism, it highlights the role of the Saints in our history and tradition, it reminds us of the biblical stories that continue to guide our path, it leads us to the most sacred - the Blessed Sacrament Chapel where we light a candle remembering our loved ones - truly the light of Christ shining from their memory upon us.

We have several icons in our Churches - this year we have the new icon of St Patrick - recently I asked some of the school-children what they think of when they think of an icon - they spoke about football players and musicians - we need to reclaim the 'iconic' nature of the Saints - we need to re-assess who we see as our inspiration and guide on life's journey towards our King.

As a King, Jesus leads us in justice, truth and hope towards a better tomorrow - Jesus leads us to a new and better life however sometimes we fail to follow him. As we end our Church year let us reflect on how we can more closely follow God's plan for our lives and how we can inspire others to renew their relationship with God.

### **150th Year since the Dedication of the Cathedral**

This week we have installed a new shrine in the Cathedral which includes the 'Icon' of St Patrick which was commissioned for the 150th Anniversary of the Cathedral's dedication. Do drop in and say a prayer and light a candle.

**Advent** - Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent - we encourage families to make a special effort to keep the Christmas message as central to their preparations as possible. A tradition has begun over the last few years of reading a chapter of St Luke's Gospel beginning on December 1st - by Christmas Eve you will have read a whole Gospel. Maybe this could be your advent offering

With every blessing

Fr Barry Matthews Adm.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

*We pray for:* Roma Corr, Maura Ryan and Fr Brian White

## MONTHS MIND

*We pray for:* Patricia McCreesh (1st) and Martin Murray (2nd)



### The Friends of St Patrick's Cathedral

A special word of thanks to those who supported our second collection last weekend for the maintenance and upgrade of the Cathedral. £5796 & €93. As you are aware there is some major works needed on the Cathedral and the steps and 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.

### 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 in the Cathedral will be dedicated to St Patrick's intercession and the intentions for these Mass Cards/Bouquets will all be included in this weekly Mass. Christmas Mass Bouquets are now available.

### The Dedication of St. Patrick's Cathedral

Copies of a brief history on the Dedication of St Patrick's Cathedral written by Jack O'Hare are on sale in the Cathedral Gift Shop.

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.

The Legion of Mary invites parishioners to please come and join them in praying a Rosary for Holy Souls especially deceased relatives and friends. This rosary will be in the Cemetery at 3.30pm each Sunday in November.

The Junior Legion of Mary will be praying for Holy Souls in Tullysaran Cemetery this Sun 26th Nov at 3pm. All are welcome to come pray for deceased relatives and friends.

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.

### 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.



8th December An evening of Prayer will be held on Fri 8th Dec in St Patrick's Cathedral to pray for Peace in a troubled world. We will be joined by the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal (Drogheda) who will provide music. Mass at 7:30pm followed by candle-lit prayer vigil and benediction. All are welcome - do please encourage younger family members to come along.

Knock Shrine All Night Vigil Thursday 7th December. Coach £25. Booking/Info:

Gabrielle - 07933521105/Catherina - 07899 810181

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.

Tickets are available from ticket source for Malachi Cush's concert which takes place on December 15th in the Cathedral. Do book early for what will be a wonderful evening.

Tuesday Evening Lectio - For the next 4 Tuesday's at 7:30pm in St Malachy's we will have a short (30 min) reflection on the following Sunday's Gospel reading - this is a lovely way to prepare in this Advent season.

During November we encourage parishioners and friends of the Parish to undertake the 'Cathedral Prayer Walk' - this is an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of loved ones who handed on the faith to us who have now gone to their eternal reward.

We thank Elilis Fox for her generous donation of £2,047 from her recent concert supporting the Cathedral Fundraising efforts.

Armagh City Choir—Christmas Concert takes place on Friday December 8th at 7:30pm in COI Cathedral—tickets £10 on the door or from choir members.

Anam Cara—the organisation that supports bereaved parents is holding a parent evening in the Armagh City Hotel at 7:15pm on Wednesday 29th November next.

Trocaire - Annual sale of 'Gifts of Change' - these gifts will be available at the back of the churches on the weekend of 9th/10th December. A worthy gift at this time of much conflict in the world.

Youth 2000 - Christmas retreat takes place in Newbridge on December 8th to 10th. Young adults aged 16-35 are invited to attend. [www.youth2000](http://www.youth2000)

Apostolic Work - wish to thank all those who supported their recent sale in Mt St Catherine's School. Thanks to the Scouts and the school and all those who provided goods for the sale. The monies raised have already gone to missionaries in the developing Church as they work to spread the good news. A special word of congratulations to Alice Reilly who takes over as Diocesan President, we wish her every blessing. Special thanks to Ms Jean Hanratty for her sterling work in Apostolic over many years.

St Joseph's Young Priest Society, Next meeting takes place in SVP Centre, Chapel Lane on Wednesday 6th December at 8pm

### The Cathedrals Partnership Advent Event

takes place on Thursday December 7th in the Marketplace Theatre. The guest speaker will be Alan McBride who lost his wife and father-in-law in the Shankill road bombing. Music on the evening will be provided by the Richill WI choir. Tickets are available from the Marketplace Theatre.

Stanton Pregnancy Care - Coffee Morning - On Saturday next, December 2nd there will be a coffee morning in the Synod Hall for Stanton Health. A charity aimed at promoting the value of life in all its stages.

Mary's Meals—'Double the love' campaign begins—all donations received until Jan 22nd are doubled.

Southern Area Hospice—Annual Light up a life ceremony takes place on Friday 1st December at 10am in the Mid-Ulster

Lislea Community Bingo—Sunday at 4pm in the Community Hall. Proceeds to help Madden Families. All Welcome

150th Anniversary of the Dedication— as we draw to a close this special year we thank God for the blessings bestowed on our Parish—we thank the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the year so special and those who attended the many events that took place.

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Dedication of St Patrick's Cathedral, we give thanks for the years of faith, hope and love that has been expressed within it.

Renew within our Cathedral your spirit of generosity, as we seek to follow in your footsteps and as we strive to do your will.

Teach us to love as you love and to listen as you listen.

Enlighten our minds and hearts so that we may see your

plan and as we continue to journey in faith, following in the footsteps of Patrick, your Apostle.

Renew our Cathedral Church so that it may be

a place of grace for all,  
a place of growth for the young,  
a place of refreshment for the old,  
a place of renewal for families,  
a place of healing for the broken,  
a place of joy for the sorrowful,  
a place of forgiveness for the sinner,  
a place of strength for the virtuous  
and a place of welcome for those who have been away.

We make our prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, in union with the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever,