

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Armagh

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

Parish Contacts

Parochial House: 028 3752 2802

Emergency Phone: 07596899031

- **Fr Barry Matthews, Adm**
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 - **Fr Emmanuel Fasakin, MSP, CC**
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 - **Fr David Nugent, CC**
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 - **Deacon Paul Mallon,**
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 - **Deacon Eunan McCreesh,**
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- Parish Office**
Cathedral Gate Lodge, 41a Cathedral Rd.
Tel: 028 3752 2813
Opening Hours: Mon - Friday: 10am-3pm
- **Caroline Caherty, Finance Manager**
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 - **Claire Corr, Parish Secretary**
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 - **Maura Kelly, Safeguarding**
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St Patrick's Cathedral: 028 3752 2638
Sacristans: Roger Duggan & Kieran Kelly

St Malachy's Church: 028 3751 0516
Sacristan: Gary McGuirk

Dear Friends,

Today marks the beginning of a new Church Year, it is a time of the year where we start to look forward with expectant joy to the season that is coming. The Gospel today invites us to "Stay Awake" - we are invited to reawaken the Joy of God's presence within us and to renew our commitment to being aware of the needs of the world around us. Advent is a time to prepare - to prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus - we do so in many ways, by preparing our homes for Christmas, by reaching out to family and friends to share God's joy with them and by engaging with Jesus in a new way through the sacraments. As a child, one of my memories was placing the 'Crib' in the window - having it central in our home, many of us are saddened by the lack of a crib in many homes and buildings and this season we are called to be witnesses to the message that "Jesus is the reason for the Season" - maybe we could gift someone we love a crib.

Please do engage with the beautiful programme of events in the Parish this Advent - please do make your Advent in 2023 a special moment of preparation and joy. The 4 candles of the Advent wreath symbolise, Peace, Hope, Love and Joy - all these gifts come from our relationship with Jesus.

Fr Barry Matthews Adm.

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.

Baptisms & Weddings—All Weddings and Baptisms are booked through the Parish Office.

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

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

26th Nov: £5075 and €126

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for: Robert McCann, Paddy Hughes, Neilus Toner, Roma Corr, Maura Ryan

MONTHS MIND

We pray for: Fr Brian White (8th)

May they rest in peace.



December 8th - The Feast of the Immaculate - A special evening of Prayer and Hymns takes place in St Patrick's Cathedral. Mass at 7:30pm followed by Adoration and Candle Lit Vigil accompanied by the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal (Drogheda) - concluding at 10pm with Benediction. Confessions available throughout the evening.

Please do make a special effort to join what promises to be a sacred moment of Prayer and Preparation for Christmas through the intercession of Our Lady on this important feast day.

Mass in Tullysaran—Church of the Immaculate Conception—Friday December 8th at 7:30pm. MM of Fr Brian White.

The Friends of St Patrick's Cathedral

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.

The Parish office will be closed on Friday December 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Do This in Memory The next Do This In Memory Mass takes place in St Patrick's Cathedral on Sat 3rd December. All P4 Children and their families are invited and encouraged to attend.

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.

JPII Awards Any young person wishing to become involved in parish ministry i.e. Reader of the Word or Eucharistic Minister is asked to leave their name in the Parish Office or speak to Fr Barry

Read a Gospel in as month—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. Why not start today and make up for the lost day's.

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. Tickets are available from the Marketplace Theatre.

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.

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

Our new Shrine to St Patrick has been set up in the Sacred Heart Chapel - do drop over and light a candle and offer a prayer at this sacred space

Monday December 4th - St Malachy's Church will be closed until 6:00pm in order that essential maintenance can be carried out.

Monday December 11th - the 10am Mass will be transferred to St Malachy's Church to facilitate the recording of the Archbishop's Joint Christmas Message. The Cathedral will be closed until 1pm.

Cathedral Choir Christmas Carol Service—Carol Service takes place in the Cathedral on December 17th at 5:30pm—Mass that evening is transferred to St Malachy's.

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.

St Vincent De Paul hold their Annual Christmas Collection this weekend—we thank you for your continued generosity—donations can also be left in the SVP shop in Scotch Street.

School's Singing Project - A special Advent Mass will take place in the Cathedral on Thursday next (Dec 7th) at 11:30am. Parishioners are encouraged to attend. Children from 4 Parish school's will be involved—Mt St Catherines, St Malachy's, Tullysaran & St Patrick's PS.



Prayer of Blessing for the Crib -

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy and love.
Lord, bless all who look upon this crib;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Prayer of Blessing of the Christmas Tree—Loving God, Creator of everything that is good - creator of the world around us and of trees, bless with your abundant grace this, our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colourful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen.