

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Armagh

24th 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,

The 1992 song "Love Changes Everything" is relevant today as we light the candle of 'Love' on our Advent Wreath. The lyrics that love changes 'how we live and how we die' are so true to today's reflection. The coming of Jesus absolutely changes how we live and what's more Jesus' birth opens to each of us a new birth, a new opportunity - everlasting life.

Christmas should change our lives - Christmas is a time to express the love that God has placed within us with those whom we are close to. The Christmas story is not about expensive gifts or fancy dinners - the Christmas story is about love. The love of God for His Children, the love of humanity for our God.

Today in the midst of the last minute lists - take a moment to love God, take a moment to invite God into your home this Christmas and do reach out to someone who you might have lost contact with, a simple text or phone call.

Love Changes Everything - Let Jesus' love change you this Christmas - renew your relationship with Him and invite him into your heart in a special way to make you an instrument of His love for others.

Fr Barry Matthews Adm.

Advent Today is the fourth 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

17th December -

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: Paul McGuinness, Leontia Loughran, Kathleen McNally,
Harry McGinn, John Hamill, Rosemary McShane,
Jim McGrory and Kevin Heuston



MONTHS MIND

We pray for: Paddy Hughes (27th), Robert McCann (28th) and Neilus Toner (29th)

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. We encourage families to visit the Nativity Scene's / Cribs in each of our four Churches and offer a prayer and light a candle.

800 Years of the Crib This year marks the 800th anniversary of the Crib first created by St Francis to get a sense of the sacred moment of Jesus' birth. Parishioners are encouraged to 'Tag' the parish on your social media posts with pictures of your Crib.

Coeliac Hosts From today, 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.

Trocaire Gifts A note of thanks to all who so generously and kindly contributed to the recent Trocaire Gift Sale - £2377 was raised. This money will help alleviate the needs of so many suffering families in countries where war and climate change are causing so much loss and hardship.

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 O 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.

St Patrick's Festival Concert Tickets for Phil Coulter's St Patrick's Festival Concert, which takes place in the Cathedral on Mothers Day (10th March) are now available in the Cathedral Gift Shop and also online at ticketsource.co.uk. This promises to be a wonderful moment here in the Cathedral.

Car Parking During these busy days we ask you to park with care and consideration for other Church users. We ask you to follow the advice and instructions of our stewards during busy periods.

St Malachy's Altar Society Thanks to Joe Quinn, Linenhall St, who donated the Christmas Tree for St. Malachy's Church this year.

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 will resume 9th Jan with Mass in the Synod Hall at 8pm. All welcome.

College Farm Nursery School would like to invite you to our Open Afternoon on Tues 16th Jan 2024 from 4pm - 6pm. This is an opportunity to have a look around our school, meet the staff and ask any questions that you might have. We look forward to seeing you! www.collegefarmnurseryschool.com

Christmas in Armagh Parish

Christmas Vigil Masses

St Patrick's Cathedral - 6pm & 11pm
St. Colmcille's Church - 7pm
Church of the Immaculate Conception - 7:30pm
St Malachy's Church - 8pm

Christmas Day

St Patrick's Cathedral - 11am & 12:30pm
St Malachy's Church - 8am & 9:30am
Church of the Immaculate Conception - 10am
St Colmcille's Church - 10am

Tues 26th Dec - Feast of St Stephen

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am
Wed 27th Dec - Feast of St John
St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am
St Malachy's Church - 7:30pm

Thursday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Innocents

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am
St Malachy's Church - Mass of the Holy Innocents 7:30pm

Friday 29th December

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am
St Malachy's Church - 7:30pm

Saturday 30th December

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

Sunday 31st December

Feast of the Holy Family
Masses as per normal schedule,
including Vigil Masses.

