

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Armagh

31st 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
- **Fr James Adawai, SMMM, CC**  
E: jfaustin84@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,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, this is a special feast where we consecrate our own families and the families in our Parish to the care of the Holy Family of Nazareth. We are of course aware that the Holy Family, perfect as they were, had their own difficulties - Jesus was born in a stable, he went missing, Mary worried. All of our families face worries and difficulties and sometimes we might even ask 'Why Us?' - be sure that whatever challenge you face that God walks with you through it.

As we enter into a New Year and we think about resolutions for the year ahead - let us resolve to know more about Jesus and to grow closer to Him. Let us also resolve to encourage our families to trust God's plan and to stay close to them. The gift of Faith is the greatest gift you can pass on to those you love, it can not be bought or sold and it is most valuable in the darker days that life can bring. We know this because we are thankful for our faith which too was passed on from those who love us.

As we begin 2024, I want to wish you and your families and those you care for every blessing. I want to thank you for your encouragement and support and assure you that I will work tirelessly for the Parish during this year. As I mentioned in September when taking the role as Administrator, my door is always open for your comments and please do let me know if you would like me to visit you in your home.

With every blessing for 2024, May God's light direct your path and may the Good News enliven your steps.

*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.

**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.

**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:* Maureen Lappin, Paul McGuinness, Leontia Loughran, Kathleen McNally, Harry McGinn, John Hamill and Rosemary McShane  
*and all those who have died recently.*

## MONTHS MIND

*We pray for:* Kevin Heuston (5th) & Jim McGrory (6th)

*May they rest in peace.*



## Mass Times

### Monday January 1st

Mass for Peace  
St Patrick's Cathedral - 11am

**Tues 2nd - Fri 5th Jan** - normal Mass schedule, however no 8am Mass

### Friday 5th January

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am and 6pm Mass for Vocations with Diocesan Seminarians  
St Malachy's Church - 7:30pm, followed by Holy Hour

### Saturday 6th January - Feast of the Epiphany

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am  
St Malachy's Church - 9am

**Today is the Feast of the Holy Family** Archbishop Eamon has invited us to reflect on the importance of family and to pray for families. We also reflect on the important work of "Foster Families" and to pray that more families will open their doors to a child who is in need at this time.

**Vigil Masses for the Feast of the Epiphany** On Friday 5th January, we have 2 Vigil Masses for the Feast of the Epiphany, the 1st will be celebrated by Archbishop Eamon at 6pm in the Cathedral. He will be joined by students for the Priesthood in this Diocese. We currently have 20 students studying in Dundalk, Maynooth and Rome. There will also be 7:30pm Mass in St Malachy's Church followed by our Holy Hour.

**Feast of the Epiphany** On Saturday 6th January, the Feast of the Epiphany, there will be 9am Mass in St Malachy's Church for the First Saturday and 10am Mass in the Cathedral.

**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 year's 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** are 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## 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.



## A New Year's Prayer

Holy God, as we enter this New Year, we thank you for your presence with us in all the years of our lives. We have known joy and also sorrow, success and failure, and through it all, you have been with us, the companion on all our journeys. Much of life is fleeting and so we thank you for things that endure - the love of faithful friends, wisdom gained from experience, the reliability of nature and your steadfast love. We thank you for this year which awaits us. Take us by the hand and lead us on. Amen.