

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Armagh

www.armaghparish.net



Mass Times
St Patrick's Cathedral
 Monday - Saturday: 10am
 Sunday Vigil: 6.30pm
 Sunday: 11am, 12.30pm & 5.30pm
St Malachy's Church
 Tuesday - Friday: 8am
 Mon, Wed & Fri: 7:30pm
 Tues & Thurs: Prayer Service - 7:30pm
 Sunday: 8am & 9.30am
Church of the Immaculate Conception
 Sunday: 10am
St Colmcille's Church
 Saturday: 6pm
Confessions in St Malachy's Church on Saturdays @ 12 noon.

Parish Contacts
Parochial House: 028 3752 2802
Emergency Phone: 07596 899 031
 • **Fr Barry Matthews, Adm**
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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**
 armaghparishfinance@gmail.com
 • **Claire Corr, Parish Secretary**
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 • **Thecla Brolly, Parish Safeguarding**
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Sacristans: Roger Duggan, Gary McGuirk & Kieran Kelly
St Patrick's Cathedral: 028 3752 2638
St Malachy's Church: 028 3751 0516
Baptisms & Weddings - to book your baptism or wedding, please contact the Parish Office.
SVP Helpline: 07733 482604

Dear Friends,
 A voice cries in the wilderness "Prepare a way for the Lord" - this weekend's Gospel presents an invitation to each of us in our Christian Mission. We are each called to open our hearts and our homes to making a space for Jesus this Christmas. Advent is a time where we prepare - a beautiful time of the year where we begin to prepare our homes, we begin to think about how we can spend precious and quality time with those whom we love - we begin to think about the ritual of Christmas, Confession, Mass, Carol Service etc.

Christmas is our moment to reflect on the impact of Jesus' birth, how is our world changed by the message of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love? How are we changed by these gifts of faith. this weekend we offer a special prayer at all Masses for Peace - the second candle on our Advent Wreath is the Peace candle. One of my first acts on becoming Adm. here in the Parish was to introduce the Peace Candle central on our Sanctuary in the Cathedral - I feel this is an important reminder of our need to pray daily for peace in all the areas of war, violence and persecution in our world.

Last Sunday, we experienced a protest during the most sacred moment of our Mass, people carrying placards and flags entered the Cathedral during the distribution of Holy Communion. In my words following the Closing Prayer of the Mass I spoke of the need to respect the values of our faith community and our right to worship without fear of protest or interruption. Those of you who know me know that I pray at every Mass for peace, you know that I am horrified by the destruction of human life - every human life is sacred. The Church leaders have a role to play in speaking to our political representatives on matters that affect each of us, however, I feel that Mass is not the time for such interventions. I am conscious of those who were present last weekend - each of us carrying our own crosses and worries and I know some were anxious during the protest, please know that you have been in my prayers this week.

Wishing you a blessed week,
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 or 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.

St Patrick's Cathedral Gift Shop. The Cathedral Gift Shop is open each day from 10.30am - 1.30pm and it stocks a lovely variety of cards and gifts for special occasions, including traditional Irish crafts and gifts and souvenir booklets on the Cathedral. We are now stocking a large selection of Christmas Cribs, gift items and Christmas Mass Bouquets. Beautiful Christmas Prayer Guild Cards are now in stock - ideal for sending abroad. Give the gift of Faith this Christmas. Christmas Mass Bouquets are available in the Sacristy of St Malachy's Church



St Patrick's Prayer Guild Mass Bouquets and Mass Cards are 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.

Visitation Anyone wishing to receive a visit from a Priest or have a house blessing are invited to leave their contact details 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 Collection - £5901 & €166.50

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for: Theresa McKillion, Moira Fitzpatrick, Malachy Lennon, Ann Darling and John Haughey.



MONTHS MIND

We pray for: Martin O'Neill (10th) and Ursula Corvan (13th)

May they rest in peace.

Advent Reflections On each of the four Sundays of Advent you are invited to join in St Malachy's Church at 7pm for an hour of Adoration & prayer reflecting on the figures in the crib. This is a lovely opportunity to reflect on how you too can be part of the nativity story in our world today.

Christmas Food Hampers The Parish is continuing to prepare food hampers for Christmas to those who may need them. Anyone interested in donating are asked to leave items from the following list to be included in the hampers - Tea / Coffee, Sugar, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Beans/ Peas, Cereal / Porridge, Tins of Sweets, Tinned Custard/ Rice, Biscuits - in the sacristies or at the Parish Office.

Thanks to all who have contributed towards our appeal to date. We are continuing to collect items up until Sun 15th Dec & will distribute through our outreach partners from that date. This is a wonderful initiative and one that is based on the Gospel value of sharing what we have to make a more equal society. Your contribution will make an important difference.

The Fundraising Campaign The campaign to raise much needed funds for the renovation of the Cathedral is ongoing - thanks to all those who have supported us to date. Anyone who is in a position to support the fundraising please contact Fr Barry. Maybe it is an opportunity to remember a loved one who has died by making a gift in their name.



Eucharistic Adoration takes place each day in St Malachy's Church from after Mass (8:30am weekdays) until evening (7pm weekdays - 5pm weekend). Please sign the attendance sheet in the Church & encourage family & friends to engage with this special apostolate. Adoration from 7-10pm each Tuesday in the Adoration Chapel.

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.



Christmas Book Willie Nugent's new Christmas book "Maisie Comes to the Rescue" is now on sale in a number of local shops including the Cathedral Gift Shop. See local press and Armagh I for details. Entire proceeds for charity.



Christmas Draw Tickets are £10 each or 3 for £20 and the 1st prize is £5,000. Tickets are available in the Parish Office, Parish Shop, the Sacristies of the Churches and from ticket sellers. Anyone interested in selling tickets please contact Caroline in the Parish Office.

Parish Christmas Social All are welcome to join us for Mass at 10am on Saturday 21st December followed by refreshments in the Synod Hall. Music by Westenders Ukulele Group. Parish Draw Winners will be drawn!

Bambinelli Sunday On Sunday 15th December, the third Sunday of Advent, we light the Joy Candle. This is Gaudete Sunday - where we begin to reflect on the joy that comes from our relationship with Jesus. We encourage parishioners, especially families, to bring the infant Jesus figure from their crib at home to be blessed at Mass. This is a lovely tradition begun in Rome by St Pope John Paul II.

St Colmcille's Church Christmas Get-Together All are welcome to join on Saturday 21st December for our Christmas Get-Together in Knockaconey. Beginning at 4pm in St. Colmcille's GFC with Christmas Carols and refreshments, followed by a Carol Service at 5:30pm and Holy Mass at 6pm in St. Colmcille's Church

Anam Cara the organisation that supports bereaved parents will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Wed 18th Dec at 7.30pm 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 how recent their death was. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie

Lectio Divina Sr Mary Roe continues to lead Lectio Divina in preparation for Christmas in the SVP Centre on Wednesday 11th Dec and 18th Dec at 2:30pm. All welcome!

Legion of Mary The Legion of Mary invite their Auxiliary members and friends to refreshments in the Synod Hall after 10am Mass on Saturday 14th of December.

New speakers in the Cathedral Four new state of the art speakers have been installed in St Patrick's Cathedral. The system has been given a complete overhaul so we hope that you will notice the difference. We thank you for your continued generosity which enables us to invest in our Church buildings.

Christmas Schedule

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



St Stephen's Day—Thursday 26th December
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

Friday 27th December
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am
 St Malachy's Church - 7:30pm - Mass of the Angels

Saturday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Innocents
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

Sunday 29th December - Feast of the Holy Family and Opening of Jubilee of Hope at 11am
 Normal Sunday Schedule including Vigil Masses

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

Tuesday 31st December
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am
 (No prayer service in St Malachy's Church)

Wednesday 1st January - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 11am

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me a channel of your peace,
 that where there is hatred, I may bring love;
 that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;
 that where there is discord, I may bring harmony;
 that where there is error, I may bring truth;
 that where there is doubt, I may bring faith;
 that where there is despair, I may bring hope;
 that where there are shadows, I may bring light; that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.
 Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted;
 to understand, than to be understood;
 to love, than to be loved.
 For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.
 It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.
 It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen.

