

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**
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
- **Thecla Brolly, Parish Safeguarding**
Tel: 07895 460 797
armaghparishsafeguarding@gmail.com

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,

The 4th Sunday of Advent is a special day as we take a step back - lots done and often more to do. Today is a perfect opportunity to take stock of our preparations to date and seek to focus on the coming of Jesus this Christmas. If your advent hasn't been a particularly spiritual experience then today is a day to rectify that - set aside some time to simply be present with Jesus.

Today we light the 'Love' Candle on the Advent Wreath - it now joins Hope, Peace and Joy in marking our journey towards a new relationship with Jesus in whose gift these blessings come. Today as we come closer to Christmas Day, maybe we should ask God for the courage to be more loving - as witnesses to His love in the world - Jesus, fragile and in need of our care, came as the personification of Love. Love identifies in many different ways - sometimes it's through simply being present with someone, sometimes it's through the generosity of others, sometimes it comes through that word 'Sorry' - whatever way 'God's Love' identifies itself in your life today - be aware of it as a gift from God.

This time of the year is a difficult time for many people - so often people find that Christmas brings feelings of sadness and reminders of the loss of loved ones or the passing of time. Please be kind to neighbours and friends this Christmas - remembering that they might find Christmas difficult from a material and commercial viewpoint while still quietly celebrating Christ's birth. and do remember "Jesus is the Reason for the Season"

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.

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
£5735 & €88.85

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for: Kieran McBride, Anthony McGuinness, Peter McCrory and Theresa McKillion.

MONTHS MIND

We pray for: Malachy Lennon (22nd), John Haughey (23rd),

May they rest in peace.



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

Confessions for Christmas

Armagh Parish Penitential Service for Christmas will take place on Tuesday 17th December at 7:30pm in St. Malachy's Church. Confessions also on Saturday 22nd December in St Malachy's Church at 12noon-3pm.

Mass of the Angels As part of our preparation for our Mass of the Angels on Friday 27th December at 7:30pm in St Malachy's Church., a basket has been left by the crib in St Malachy's. Anyone who has experienced the loss of a child are invited to write down the name of the child and place it in the basket which will be placed on the altar and prayed for at that Mass.

Do This in Memory Programme will take place at the 6:30pm Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) for all P4 Pupils and their parents.

Normal schedule of confessions and Baptisms will resume on Saturday January 4th.

Parish Office The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 23rd December at 12noon and will reopen on Thursday 2nd January at 10am. Any anniversaries that fall within this time should be submitted to the Parish Office no later than Thursday 19th December.

Parish Draw Many congratulations to all our prize winners in our Parish Draw yesterday (Saturday). We thank each person who entered the draw. The funds raised will go towards our continued outreach projects. Special thanks to our Volunteer draw team, sellers and distributors and to the businesses who supported the prizes.

Jubilee of Hope On Sunday 29th December, Feast of the Holy Family we welcome the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Luis Mariano Montemayor, to the Cathedral for the 11am Mass as we celebrate the opening of the "Jubilee Year of Hope". We encourage all



parishioners to make a special effort to join for this Mass as we begin this wonderful year of celebration.

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.



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.



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.

Archdiocese of Armagh Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place on Monday 5th May 2025 to Saturday 10th May 2025. Anyone interested either as Pilgrim or Assisted Pilgrim (sick person) please contact Ann 07736415305. Also Armagh City & District Lourdes Committee wish to thank all our parishioners, local sponsors and business for their continued support. It is all greatly appreciated.

St Malachy's Primary School invite parents and children starting school in September 2025 to our Open Day on Tuesday 7th January 2025 from 2pm - 4pm.

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.

A Prayer for the family as they gather on Christmas Day

Loving God, on this Christmas Day, we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit together at table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and friends, those who are lonely, those who are sick or away from home at this time of year. We pray that all our departed loved ones may sit now at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days to come. We pray as always through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for loved ones away from home this Christmas time

Loving God, we pray for those whom we love, but who are absent from us this Christmas time. Keep them safe from all harm, evil and danger. Bless them with peace, laughter, wisdom, love and joy. Grant that we may be reunited in the fullness of love. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

