



# 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.

**St Patrick's Cathedral: 028 3752 2638**  
**St Malachy's Church: 028 3751 0516**

**Sacristans:** Roger Duggan, Gary McGuirk  
& Jimmy McKee

## Parish Contacts

**Parochial House: 028 3752 2802**  
**Emergency Phone: 07596 899 031**

- **Fr Barry Matthews, Adm**  
E: barrymatthews@gmail.com
- **Fr David Nugent, CC**  
E: frdavidnugent@gmail.com
- **Fr James Adawai, SMMM, CC**  
E: jfaustin84@gmail.com
- **Fr Giacomo Taffi, CC**  
E: taffi94@gmail.com
- **Deacon Paul Mallon**  
E: paul.mallon@tudublin.ie
- **Deacon Eunan McCreesh**  
E: eunan.mccreesh@gmail.com
- **Deacon Gabriel Neal**  
E: gabrielneal366@gmail.com

## Parish Office

Cathedral Gate Lodge, 41a Cathedral Rd.  
Tel: 028 3752 2813  
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri: 10am-3pm

- **Caroline Caherty, Finance Manager**  
armaghparishfinance@gmail.com
- **Claire Corr, Parish Secretary**  
armaghparishoffice@gmail.com
- **Thecla Brolly & Moneena Delaney**  
**Parish Safeguarding Reps**  
armaghparishsafeguarding@gmail.com

## Baptisms & Weddings

To book a baptism or wedding,  
please contact the Parish Office.

[www.armaghparish.net](http://www.armaghparish.net)

**SVP Helpline:** 07733 482604

Dear Friends,

One of my favourite childhood Christmas memories is the annual visit to the cribs in the local churches around Dundalk. My family and I would set out together, sometimes on foot, visiting church after church to admire and compare the crib scenes. From each church, we would bring home a small piece of straw for our own crib, a simple ritual that became part of our pilgrimage. Along the way, we would inevitably stop in to visit aunts and uncles, where treats were plentiful and festive joy was always in full supply.

This time of year naturally stirs a sense of nostalgia as we look back and remember, and hopefully those memories bring with them feelings of happiness and joy. This Sunday, as we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath, we are reminded that while we may have grown a little older, the traditions that grounded us and shaped our childhoods remain deeply relevant. More than that, they are life-giving, not only for us but for the communities in which we live.

Jesus came into the world to bring hope, peace and joy, and most importantly to remind us that we are loved unconditionally. Unconditional love is something we experience only rarely, yet when we do, we recognise it immediately. This week invites us to pause and acknowledge the love God has planted in our hearts, and to understand that when we receive love and when we share it, we reflect God's love in the world around us — in our homes, our families and our wider community.

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, this life-giving moment can easily be overshadowed by the noise of wrapping paper, busy roads and long queues. Yet we are being invited to recognise that unconditional love has entered our world, and that through Christ we are promised eternal life. Today, take a moment to reflect on how we can bear witness to the love of Jesus by handing on the gift of faith, especially to those who may have drifted away from the practice of faith.

*With every blessing, 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.

**Archdiocese of Armagh, Congress on Youth, Family & Faith 2026** More information on [www.armaghprays.com](http://www.armaghprays.com). Please keep the congress in your prayers and encourage others to have their say.

## Weekly Collection

£6660 & €235.18

## RECENTLY DECEASED

*We pray for:* Brigitte Hamlett, Maritta Quinn, Tony Donnelly, Mary O'Connor, Frank Somers and Fionnuala Watters.

## MONTHS MIND

*We pray this week for:* Brian Tennyson, Pat Daly, Briega Daly and Mary Claire Daly.

*May they rest in peace*



**Parish Young Adult Group (LEAP)** The next gathering of LEAP will take place on 6th January at 8pm in the Parochial Hall.

**Armagh Parish Holy Spirit Prayer Group** welcome you to join us at the Synod Hall on Tues evenings from 8-9.30pm to experience spiritual growth & community. Rosary at 7.45pm. All welcome.

**Parish Office** The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 23rd December at 12noon and will reopen on Friday 2nd January at 10am.

## 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 - Friday 26th December

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

### Saturday 27th December – Feast of St. John

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am & 6:30pm

### Sunday 28th December (Feast of the Holy Innocents)

Normal Sunday Schedule including Vigil Masses

### Monday 29th December

St Patrick's Cathedral – 10am  
St Malachy's Church – 7:30pm – Mass of the Angels

### Tuesday 30th December

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

### Wednesday 31st December

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am  
St Malachy's Church – 7:30pm  
– Mass of Thanksgiving

*Please note there will be no  
Prayer Service on 30th Dec &  
1st Jan in St Malachy's Church*

### Thursday 1st January - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

St Patrick's Cathedral - 11am

### Sunday 4th January – Normal Mass Schedule

St Patrick's Cathedral – 5:30pm – Closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope

**Please note there will be no 8am Mass from Friday 26th December. It will resume on Tuesday 6th January.**

**Mass of the Angels** As part of our preparation for our Mass of the Angels on Monday 29th December at 7:30pm in St Malachy's Church, a basket will be placed 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.

**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.

**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.

**Armagh St Patrick's Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** would like to thank all those who gave so generously to our annual Christmas Appeal. The amount collected for Armagh was £7,790.

## 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.

