



Merry  
**CHRISTMAS**

## 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.

## Christmas and New Year Mass Times

### 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

### Sun 28th Dec (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 Please note there will be no Prayer Service on 30th Dec & 1st Jan in St Malachy's Church

### 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

### 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.

The Parish Office is closed for the Christmas Break and will reopen on Fri 2nd Jan at 10am.

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

Dear Friends,

On behalf of myself and the entire Parish Team, may I wish you and all whom you love every blessing for Christmas and for the New Year 2026. This season always stirs a sense of nostalgia as we look back not only over the year that has passed, but also over the moments and traditions that have shaped our lives. We remember the customs of our childhood, the people who formed us, and the communities that helped to make us who we are.

Many of the traditions that shaped my own life revolved around the rhythm of the Church's year. As a family, we always looked forward to Christmas—a time to pause and count the blessings God had given us. Over the past few weeks, as we gathered for Carol Services and Nativity Plays, I found myself reminded of what truly matters: spending time with those we love and thanking God for them. The joy found in the simplest of moments brought me back to the humble scene of Bethlehem, where Jesus was born in a cold stable, surrounded by animals, warmed not by comfort but by love. It is often in the small, ordinary moments that we discover the deepest joy.

Throughout this past year, our community has shown once again how deeply it cares for one another. We have prayed together, laughed together, and, at times, cried together. The Sacramental celebrations of the year were moments of great grace—beautiful reminders that God walks with us at every step of our journey. At each Mass, we have united in prayer for peace in our world. We were especially moved by the powerful message from Fr. Gabriel, the Parish Priest of Gaza City, reminding us of the strength that comes from unity in prayer. I ask you to continue to pray for all who suffer, especially the children of Gaza—that the joy of the Infant Jesus may fill their hearts and bring hope where it is most needed.

I also had the great blessing of attending the St Patrick's Festivities in New York on your behalf and this again reminded me that our community does not stop at our Parish border but rather extends throughout the world to all who have a link to St Patrick.

This Jubilee Year of Hope has brought both sorrow and joy. We mourned the passing of our late Holy Father, Pope Francis, and yet soon after rejoiced in the election of Pope Leo XVI, who has already shown himself to be a beacon of hope in his short time as our Holy Father.

Our parish has experienced many moments of grace this year, especially through the wonderful involvement of our young people. Our Parish Youth Group, LEAP, has been a shining example of faith in action—journeying together through the Alpha Programme, supporting the food hampers and clothing appeal, and showing us the powerful impact young people can have in a faith community. Their enthusiasm is echoed in the joyful witness of our Jubilus Choir, the Legion of Mary Youth, our Family Mass teams, and so many of our parishioners and schools. The newly opened section of the Parochial Hall has already become a blessing, providing space for these programmes to grow and flourish.

This Christmas, my prayer for our community is simple: that we may experience the true joy of the season, that we find time to be with those we love, and that we recognise Jesus at the centre of all we do—in our homes, our families, and our parish. May we make a place for Him not only at Christmas but throughout our lives. Let us be courageous in sharing the joy of His birth with those around us.

Once again, on behalf of our Parish Team, I wish you and your loved ones every blessing this Christmas and a renewed joy and peace in 2026.

A very happy and holy Christmas to you all.

Fr Barry Matthews Adm.

## Midnight Mass

### **First reading**

#### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us

and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

#### **R: Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

R.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. R. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. R.

### **Second reading**

#### **A reading from the Letter of St Paul to Titus**

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and

religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Lk2:10-11**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

#### **Gospel**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Word of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



## Dawn Mass

### **First reading**

#### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

This the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look, your saviour comes, the prize of his victory with him, his trophies before him.'

They shall be called 'The Holy People', 'The Lord's Redeemed.' And you shall be called 'The-sought-after', 'City-not-forsaken.'

#### **The Word of the Lord**

Thanks be to God

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

#### **R: This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.**

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, let all the coastlands be glad.

The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory. R.

Light shines forth for the just and joy for the upright of heart. Rejoice, you just, in the Lord; give glory to his holy name. R.

### **Second reading**

#### **A reading from the Letter of St Paul to Titus**

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Lk2:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.

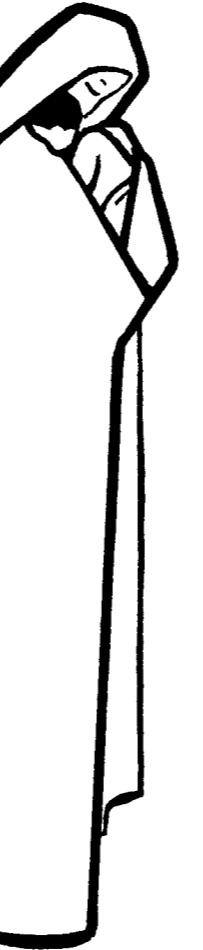
#### **Gospel**

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby

lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



### **The Word of the Lord**

#### **Thanks be to God**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

#### **R: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. R.

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. R.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord, all the earth, ring out your joy. R.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp with the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. R.

### **Second reading**

#### **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews**

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: *You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me.* Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

#### **Gospel**

#### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John.

He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Word of the Lord  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

