

Children's Christmas Mass A special Children's Mass will take place in St. Patrick's Cathedral on **Christmas Eve at 6pm**. Children from different schools within the Parish will be involved in this celebration and the children's choir from Mount St. Catherine's Primary School have kindly agreed to provide the music on the evening. We encourage children and their families throughout the Parish to join for what promises to be a special evening as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour! All attending this Mass are asked to wear their Christmas jumpers!

Parish of Kilmore The Parochial House at Mullavilly in the Parish of Kilmore is available to rent. If you are interested please contact the Parish Priest, Father Oliver Brennan at 028 3887 1661

Armagh Parish Holy Spirit Prayer Group meet on Tues at 8pm at SVP Centre for prayer & praise.

Christmas Charity CD Two songs written by Willie Nugent and performed by Dublin singer Larry Hogan have been released on a CD "Christmas Time in Armagh" and "The Market down at the Shambles" in aid of "The Friends of the Cancer Centre City Hospital Belfast" and "The Royal Hospital for Sick Children Belfast". Check local press for details.

Mary's Meals are extremely appreciative of your ongoing support. Our Dobbin St base will be closed in December & January & the baskets in the churches removed but we will replace them when we reopen again in February. Wishing each and every one of you the blessings of the Christmas season and our heartfelt gratitude again.

Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Unit next session will take place in St. Mark's Church, Crozier Hall on **Thurs 20th & Friday 21st Dec** 1:30pm-4pm & 5.15pm-8pm.

Anam Cara Armagh, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 19th of December at 7:20pm 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 whether their death was recent or not.

Action on Hearing Loss Hearing Aid and Information Session next session is in Armagh City Library on **Monday 17th December** between 11am & 1pm. Drop in for advice with managing, maintaining and cleaning your hearing aid. We have information about hearing loss, equipment and other services which can help. Batteries for NHS aids can be picked up and a hearing check for people without hearing aids is available. For further information or to request a visit please contact Clare O'Neill 07407732106/02837464 444

Justice & Peace Commission Fr Gerry O'Hanlon SJ will give a talk on his recent book, "The Quiet Revolution of Pope Francis: A Synodal Catholic Church in Ireland?" in the Ó Fiaich Library, Armagh, on **Saturday 19th January** from 10am – 1pm. All are welcome.

Open Night St Malachy's Primary School, "A Digital School of Distinction" invite all prospective pupils and their parents to our OPEN NIGHT on **Thursday 10th January** from 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm. Prospective parents and children welcome to view the school and meet the staff.

Celebration for Students in Formation Archbishop Eamon Martin will celebrate the annual gathering for students in formation, priesthood and permanent diaconate on **Friday 4th January** in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 11am. We remember in prayer the men from our diocese who are in formation at this time. We pray for them and all priests and deacons. We continue to pray more men in our diocese will answer God's call and give their life in service of the Church.

An Advent Prayer God our Father, we ask you to bless us as we gather today. We ask you to renew each one of us by the coming feast of the birth of your Son. You show us the splendour of your glory in Jesus' coming among us. Give to us true faith and love to celebrate the great mystery of God made man. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN



Na Piarsaigh Óg Lotto: 1/2/16/20. Next week's Jackpot £1800
Abbey Lotto: 3/6/12/25. Next week's Jackpot is £1700
St Colmcilles GAC Lotto: 3/4/11/20 Next week's Jackpot is £2800
Tullysaran Lotto:

St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish

Archdiocese of Armagh

www.armaghparish.net

Email: armaghparish@btconnect.com

Parish Office - 37522813
St. Malachy's - 37510516
Cathedral - 37522638
SVP Help Line - 07733482604
SVP Shop - 07518909929
Safeguarding - 07895460797

Third Sunday of Advent

Reflection

Today, the third Sunday of Advent, is known as "Gaudete Sunday" or "Rejoice Sunday" and we rejoice because the Lord is near. Great excitement is building in the days immediately before Christmas and especially amongst children, as our celebration is at hand. The rose coloured candle is lit on the Advent wreath to symbolise our joy and today's readings bring out that sense of joyful anticipation of the Lord's coming. That sense of rejoicing at what is to come is characteristic of our faith. As we look towards the Nativity of the Lord as a reason to celebrate, we recognise in it the fact that God not only keeps his promises, but he surpasses them. In particular, he wishes to make himself part of our lives and transform them.

In his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis issues a warning that might resonate with us as we continue our Advent journey. Caught up in consumerism he says, it is easy for us to forget what is truly important. In the lead up to Christmas, we often get caught up in a flurry of interests and concerns. Much of the joy of Christmas comes from giving to others, but there is so much focus on material goods and spending money that it can be difficult to remember the Good News at the heart of the season. It can be so easy to be distracted by the bright lights and advertising.

The third Sunday of Advent is the perfect time to recapture some of the "quiet joy" that Pope Francis talks about. "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus" he tells us. It's this personal encounter with Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, God becoming man, the Good News announced by John the Baptist in today's Gospel.

On Gaudete Sunday, the children of Rome mark the approach of Christmas with a special celebration. Since the time of Pope Pius XII they have gathered in St Peter's Square to recite the Angelus with the Pope. They bring "Bambinelli" or baby Jesus figures from their family crib with them which are blessed and brought home. The custom is a reminder that our Advent preparation is about making space for Christ in our lives and in our homes. This weekend and we have invited the children of our parish to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to either the 7pm Vigil Mass or to the Carol Service at 5pm in St Patrick's Cathedral to be blessed. It's suggested that following the blessing, the young people will take their "Bambinelli" home and place it in a gift box, wrap it up and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift for the family to open at Christmas. The baby Jesus figure will be placed then in the crib and there will be a special blessing of the Nativity for the whole family.

With every blessing
Rev P McAnenly Adm

Advent Prayer

Almighty God, now that the birthday of your Son as man is drawing near, we pray that your eternal Word, who took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and came to dwell among us, will show your unworthy people the greatness of his love and mercy, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever, Amen.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Ann Smyth, Ann Henry, Winnie Conlon, Patsy Duffy,
Pat McKee and Catherine Morgan

MONTH'S MIND

Sean Toner (19th)



Weekly Collection amounted to £6797.16 & €191.25
The Hungry and Needy Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Day.

Anniversary Requests

All Anniversaries & Month's Minds 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.** You can leave anniversaries in as early as you wish, but anniversaries left in after this time are considered **late**, and therefore there is **no guarantee** that they will be read out at Mass. We request that you leave your anniversary in as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Parish Safeguarding Reps are Aileen & Maura. Contact: 07895460797 or email at armaghparishsafeguarding@gmail.com

Baptism Course All parents of children being baptised in the parish **must attend** a short course before the baptism. For info & booking contact the Parish Office.

Adoration Chapel Adorers needed: Fri at 11pm, & Sun at 11pm. Please contact Nora 37525265

Parish Carol Service in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sun 16th Dec** at 5pm. The 5.30pm Mass will be celebrated in St Malachy's Church. **We encourage all children to bring along a gift to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Present Appeal.** Bambinelli's will be blessed at this celebration.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) meet each **Tues @ 7pm** in the Synod Hall. **New members welcome.**

Christmas Office Opening Hours The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas from 1pm on Friday 21 Dec and will reopen **on Monday 31 Dec.** The Office will also be closed on Tues 1 Jan. There will be no bulletin on the weekend of Sat 29/Sun 30 Dec. All notices for the Christmas/New Year period must be received by Claire at the Parish Office no later than 12noon on Wednesday 19 December.

Parish Pastoral Council A lovely new Prayer Book "Children Pray with Me" has been produced by Armagh Parish Pastoral Council. It contains a variety of traditional prayers and as well as many new ones. It's hoped that children & families will use the Prayer Book regularly. Copies are on sale in Armagh Cathedral Gift Shop. The Prayer Book costs £2.50 and it would be a lovely gift for children this Christmas.

Christmas at Cathedral Gift Shop A large selection of Christmas items & beautiful gifts are on sale in the Cathedral Gift Shop.

Safe Church Award St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Armagh recently received a "SAFE CHURCH" Award in the workplace charter of Domestic Violence. The Award was presented by the Chairperson of ONUS to Aileen Oates and Maura Kelly who represented the parish at the awards ceremony in Craigavon.

Aifreann na Gaeilge - Sos na Nollag: Léifear an chéad Aifreann eile ar **12ú lé de Mhí Eanáir 2019.** **Irish Mass** - Christmas Break: The next Irish Mass will be celebrated on **Sat 12th January 2019.**

All notices for the upcoming Bulletin must be submitted no later than Tuesday at 5pm - please send them to armaghparish@btconnect.com or leave in the Parish Office. Due to a high volume of requests we cannot guarantee that notices submitted will be published in the Parish Bulletin.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, TULLYSARAN

Mass There is no Novena Mass on Monday.

Children's Liturgy Group The Children's Liturgy Group continues at 10am Mass every Sunday in the Community Centre, where the Liturgy of Word is suitably adapted to suit children. All primary school children are welcome. All leaders have been vetted.

*** The Children's Liturgy Group intend to stage a living Nativity at the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. To prepare for this we request as many children as possible to attend on **Sunday 16th December.** Thank you, The Children's Liturgy Team.

Community Centre Activities / classes this week: Monday Indoor Bowls 8-10pm; Tuesday Bootcamp 7-8pm, Spin Class 8.15-9pm; Wednesday Pilates 7-8pm

Fundraiser for #TeamEmily on **Sat 29th Dec.** 20mile Christmas Cycle @12noon, £10. 5KM Run @2pm. Refreshments/Raffle in Community Centre after. More info see [facebook.com/TullysaranTimes](https://www.facebook.com/TullysaranTimes)

CHURCH OF ST. COLMCILLE, KNOCKACONEY

Knockaconey Youth Choir Carol Service on **Sun 23rd Dec.** commencing at 10.30am & concluding before Mass time at 11am.

St Vincent de Paul Collection amounted to £695.60 and €12. Thank you for your generosity.

Grange Ladies would like to thank everyone for their generous donations towards the Winter Clothes Collection.

Peace Light from Bethlehem

The Peace Light will be brought to St Patrick's Cathedral by our local Scouting Group on **Sunday 23 December** at 11am Mass. The light from Bethlehem reminds us of the light which came to the stable when He who is the Light of the World was born among us. It's our prayer that this light will be a sign of peace in our communities and here on our land. May the light that shines from the lamp, light up our hearts and the hearts of the people in all the countries to which it's being carried.

The Christmas Poinsettia – A gift in memory of a loved one this Christmas! The Poinsettia is a red or white plant which we often associate with Christmas. The shape of the poinsettia flower and its leaves symbolise the star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red coloured leaves symbolise the blood of Christ and the white leaves represent his purity. As we approach the celebration of Christmas and this season of giving, people might like to offer a gift of a poinsettia in memory of loved ones who have died. Poinsettias can be left at the Sacred Heart Altar in St Malachy's Church, Armagh anytime on **Wed 19 – Fri 21 Dec** and these will be used to help decorate the Church this Christmas.

Archdiocese of Armagh Pilgrimage to Lourdes is on the **16th-21st of May 2019.** We are holding our Christmas draw in the Synod Hall on the **16th of December @ 6pm.** First prize: 2 All Inclusive Tickets to Lourdes and many more Christmas surprises. £1 per ticket or book of 6 £5. Contact Ann for further info 07736415305. **Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes** will take place from **15-21 May 2019.** Be part of something special. More information contact: armaghyouth@yahoo.co.uk

Support for Trocaire's Christmas Appeal for Yemen and South Sudan People are encouraged to help support Trocaire's Christmas 2018 Appeal which focuses on the plight of those affected by conflict in Yemen, South Sudan and in other countries to enable it to respond to hunger crises, displacement, conflict and human rights abuses. The Irish Bishops recently said: "In this season of Advent, we pray for the millions of people who remain trapped in war around the world and we urge support for Trocaire's Christmas Appeal, to provide life-saving care to the most vulnerable members of our global family".

The Relics of St. Francisco & St. Jacinta Marto of Fatima and the National Statue of Fatima will be available for veneration in the Missionaries of Charity Convent, 19A Cathedral Road, Armagh, BT61 7QX, from 10am-12noon and 3pm-7pm from 12 December until Thursday 28th February.

Parish Celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family takes place on **Sun 30th Dec** at 12noon in St. Malachy's Church. A special family candle and prayer will be distributed to all families at this Mass. Families are encouraged, during this Christmas Season, to visit a crib in the Parish & pray the Holy Family of Nazareth will intercede for all families in the year to come.

Christmas Mass Times

St Patrick's Cathedral

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses:
6.00pm (Children's Mass) & 11.00pm
Christmas Day: 11.00am (no 5.30pm Mass)

St Malachy's Church

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
9pm (Carols from 8.30pm)
Christmas Day 8am, 10am, 12noon

Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 9pm
Christmas Day 10am

St Colmcille's Church, Knockaconey

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 8pm
Christmas Day 10am

Confessions in preparation for Christmas

Monday 17 – Friday 21 December (after the 10am Mass)

Tuesday 18 – Friday 21 December (after the 7.30pm Mass)

Saturday 22 December 12noon – 3pm in St Malachy's Church

Monday 17 December @ 7.30pm - Parish Penitential Service in St Malachy's Church and a number of priests will be present – no Mass on that evening.