

“Your voice counts! You are all invited to the SVP Centre in Chapel Lane, on **Friday 23rd February** at 10.45 am for an informal discussion on Family and Church. Pope Francis has stressed that he wants to hear the views of all Catholics and the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission, having already carried out a short survey, will produce the results along with noting your views on how the Church can better support families. A report will then go to the Archbishop and to the WMoF (World Meeting of Families) which takes place in Dublin in late August.

Accord Marriage Preparation Courses Due to demand marriage preparation courses need to be booked at least 10 months in advance. Book your course online at www.accord-ni.co.uk or phone Kate on 028 38 334781.

Armagh Parish Holy Spirit Prayer Group Life in the Spirit Seminars will take place each Tuesday in the St. Vincent de Paul Conference Centre, Chapel Lane at 8pm

THIS WEEK: 20th Feb - The New Life with Carmel Horan

27th Feb - Receiving God's Gift with Archbishop Eamon Martin

6th Mar - Baptism in the Holy Spirit with Fr. Gerry Campbell

13th Mar - Growth with Patricia Kelly (testimony also from Martin)

20th Mar - Transformation in Christ with Fr. Owen Gorman

Rally to “SAVE THE 8TH” We need you at the most important Rally for Life in Irish History. Be part of it, keep Ireland pro-life! **Saturday 10th March.** A free bus is going from St. Malachy's at 11:30am, Rally starts at 2pm in Dublin. For more info tel 07707106298 or 07596501003.

The SVP Shop, Ogle Street regrets it cannot accept pre-loved donations of furniture until further notice. Thank you for your support.

Cumann Seanchais Ard Mhaca Lecture by Dr Eoin Magennis (Ulster University) on ‘The 1918 South Armagh by-election’ in Cardinal Ó Fiaich Library on **Wed 21st Feb** at 8pm. All welcome.

Mass of Remembrance The Southern Trust is hosting a special service for patients, clients & staff who have died on **Tue 20th Feb** at 7.30pm in Seagoe Parish Centre, Portadown.

Armagh Pioneer Centre Many people abstain from alcohol and take the short term pledge for the duration of Lent. Make your Lenten pledge by contacting Stella—38891002 or Brian—37524853.

The Armagh Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is looking for Doctors and Nurses to join the Pilgrimage Team from 12th to 17th May 2018. Live Registration with IMC/GMC is required. All enquires to the General Secretary, Mr Martin Feeney E secretary4adlh@gmail.com T 30868057

1st Armagh Scout Group will host a Coffee Morning on **Sat 24th Feb** from 10:30am.- 12:30pm in the Scout Den, Lonsdale Rd. All proceeds in aid of Children's Cancer Unit Charity and Veinping Children's Home. Please support us this Saturday.

Women's World Day of Prayer ‘All God's Creation is Very Good!’ **Fri 2nd March.** 8pm. First Armagh Presbyterian Church. Speaker: Rev. Patricia McBride.

Anam Cara is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on **Wed 28th Feb** at 7:30pm in the Armagh City Hotel. This is a free event, open to all bereaved parents. Please RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Tues 27th Feb or call 02895213120.

Trócaire invites you to a production of "Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador" a play by RISE Theatre Company which explores the life and legacy of Bl. Óscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador, who was killed whilst celebrating Mass in 1980 because he chose to challenge those in power and stand up for social justice. This performance will take place in Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre, Dungannon, on **Friday 2nd March** at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 (£7 concession) Ranfurly House - 028 8772 8600 or www.dungannon.ticketsolve.com/shows.



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18th February 2018

First Sunday of Lent Reflection

I recall a conversation I once had with some people on Holy Saturday some years ago. I asked a young man in our company “What did you do for Lent?” He said, “I went for the ashes on Ash Wednesday”. That was it. Nothing else, just the distinctive mark on the forehead. It was marginally better than nothing, I suppose, but I think more is asked of us if we are any way serious about our faith.

The Gospel assigned for Ash Wednesday (Matt 6: 1-6; 16-18) is a telling one with which to begin the season of Lent. It mentions three practices that the early Church always connected with doing penance: almsgiving (to others), prayer (to God) and fasting (to ourselves). If we wish to change the outer aspects of our lives, we must change the inner attitudes of our minds and hearts.

On this first Sunday of Lent, we hear Mark's account of Jesus' first recorded words: “The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe”. In repenting we give up the wrong ways: in believing we take on the right ways. We repent by voluntarily giving up some pleasure – food, alcohol, entertainment, gossip, television, facebook etc. We believe by taking on more prayer, daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, spiritual reading, maybe a retreat etc.

“Repent and believe the Good News”. These words were spoken to us as we received the ashes on Wednesday last. The late Cardinal Heenan, former Archbishop of Westminster, was often quoted as saying that one truth of Catholic teaching which he found most difficult to accept in the depth of his heart was the truth that he was personally, intimately and passionately loved by God. That is the Good News we are all asked to believe and enter into, especially during Lent.

If the man whose only gesture towards Lent was to receive the ashes on Ash Wednesday really took to heart the words that he heard as he received them, then maybe he may have grown a bit as a Christian during the forty days.

I would like to remind all Ministers of the Eucharist in the Parish about the special gathering in The Synod Hall on this Tuesday evening at 8pm. I encourage all Ministers to make a special effort to be present on the evening. I would also like to encourage those who may be free to attend the special Lenten Retreat morning with Sr Anne Lyng on Tuesday 20th February (further details inside). It will be an opportunity to step aside from the busyness of life in this Lenten season, to reflect and to pray and it promises to be a lovely morning.

With every blessing,
Rev P McAnenly Adm

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patsy Fields, Jackie McConville, Baby Donal McAleavey, Oisín Gill, Michael McKenna, Eileen Tierney, Jim Devlin & Mary Quigley
MONTHS MIND: Mary Quigley (18th) & Jim Devlin (23rd)



Na Piarsaigh Óg Lotto: 9/11/17/23 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £1450

Abbey Lotto: 7/9/18/19 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £3050

Tullysaran Lotto: 7/16/19/23 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £2000

St Colmcilles GAC Lotto: 11/14/18/21 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot is £550

Weekly collection amounted to £5954.18 & €128.47.

The Order of Malta are taking up their annual Church door collection at all Masses in the parish this weekend.

World Meeting of Families Collection: another collection will be taken up after Communion at all Masses throughout the country next weekend to help support the World Meeting which is to be hosted in Ireland later this year.

Parish Safeguarding Reps are Aileen & Maura. Contact: tel. 07895 460797 or email at armaghparishsafeguarding@gmail.com

Requests for Prayers/Masses to be arranged in the Parish Office. Only Anniversaries and Month's Minds left in the Parish Office by 12 noon on the Thursday of the week prior to the intention being remembered are guaranteed to be included on the list.

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 to cover:
Mon: 8am; Wed: 11pm; Fri: 11pm; Sat: 5pm.
Please contact Nora 37525265

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

Parish Records Help us keep our system up-to-date by letting us know your change of address! If you've changed your address in the last year or are planning to soon, please call Claire in the Parish Office on 37522813

JOY Youth Group All young people aged 16-30 are welcome to join each Thursday at 7pm in the Cathedral Gate Lodge.

Armagh Parish Trip to Wexford will take place from **Mon 4th - 7th June**. Booking in the Parish Office. Cost: £235 per person sharing, or £310 for a single room. Deposit: £50 (non-refundable) must be paid at time of booking in the Parish Office. **Itinerary available in Parish Office.**

The next **Do this in Memory** celebration for all Primary Four Pupils and their parents will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Saturday 3 March** at 7pm.

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.

The Camino de Santiago de Compostela: 25 September- 2 October

Walk part of The Way of St James for the week, beginning at St Jean Pied-de-Port and we will walk the first part of this ancient route. The route takes pilgrims through stunning countryside, villages and towns and we will also walk past terraced fields, lush forests and beautiful vineyards. Over the course of the week, pilgrims will walk approximately 130 km and on the last day, we will be brought by coach for our walk into the ancient city of Santiago de Compostela where we will have the opportunity to visit the tomb of St James the Apostle. A spiritual director and guide will accompany the group. For further details about the "Camino Experience" at contact the Parish Office. Booking through www.marian.ie

24 hours for the Lord will take place in St Malachy's Church from 12noon to 12 midnight on **Friday 9 March** and from 7am - 7pm on **Saturday 10 March**. It will be an opportunity to take some time, to reflect and to pray in the presence of Jesus Christ during this Lenten Season. More details later.

Novena to St Patrick in St Malachy's Church and in St Patrick's Cathedral from **8 - 17 March**. Novena Prayers will be offered at all Masses during these days and people are encouraged to join in offering this special Novena for their own personal and family intentions.

Daughters of Charity Sr Geraldine Henry DC, of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul offers her sincere thanks for the welcome and generosity received as part of the Parish Promotion Programme during 2017. The contributions from Armagh parishes towards the appeal for their missions in Africa amounted to the totals of £42,660.00 & €40,942.00.

World Day of Prayer & Fasting for Peace in Democratic Republic of Congo & South Sudan

Pope Francis has announced a World Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan to take place on Friday, 23 February. Please consider fasting on this day as an act of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Congo and South Sudan.

Copies of the Pope's Lenten Message available on Parish Facebook Page.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, TULLYSARAN

ALL Baptisms & Weddings in Tullysaran must be booked in advance at Parish Office

Novena Mass Novena Mass on Monday at 7:30pm. & each Wed of Lent at 10am

Children's Liturgy Group continues each Sunday at 10am Mass.

Community Centre Monday Indoor Bowls. 8-10pm; Tuesday baby massage class 10.30-11.30am. Corebox. 7-8pm, Spin Class 8.15-9pm; Wednesday Yoga 7-8pm; Thursday mum & daughter class 6.30-7.30pm, music 7.30-8.30pm, Indoor bowls 8-10pm. Couch to 5K every wed & fri @6.30pm
Tullysaran Community Association AGM Wed 28 Feb @ 7.30pm

Tullysaran Music Classes take place on Thursday evening. Singing 6:30pm-7pm; Tin Whistle 7-7:30pm (Beginners) & 7:30pm-8pm (Intermediate); Fiddle 7:30pm-8:30pm. All welcome.

CHURCH OF ST. COLMCILLE, KNOCKACONEY

Grange Ladies We have football for Senior, U16 & U12 teams this 2018 season, all new players welcome. The 'Ireland Lights Up' walking track will be lit up for the next 6 weeks from 7pm - 9pm

Minor Boys training every Monday night.

Lenten Retreat Day will take place in SVP Centre on **Tues 27 Feb** from 10.30am-1.30pm. It's a day to step aside from the busyness of life, to reflect & pray. Time will be given to reflecting on the gift of family & praying for the protection of family life. The day will be led by Sr Anne Lyng, Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator. Tea/coffee & a light lunch will be provided. Booking at Parish Office

Lenten Evenings of Prayer & Reflection Two evenings will take place for all Ministers of Word & Eucharist in The Synod Hall. The evening for Ministers of Eucharist will take place on **Tues 20 Feb** & the Ministers of Word on **Tue 6 Mar**. Both at 8pm. All involved in these Ministries are invited. Anyone interested in volunteering for these ministries should contact the Parish Office.

Parish Envelopes for 2018 are currently being prepared. Anyone not receiving a box of envelopes & wishing to do should make contact with the Parish Office. It's only by using a Parish Envelope that the Parish can claim Gift Aid on your giving. We encourage all parishioners to register and to use their parish envelope to support their parish community.

Confirmation Pledge At the Ceremony of Light on **Thurs 1 Mar**, all P7 Pupils will have an opportunity to take the Pledge & make the commitment to abstain from alcoholic drink & drugs until they are at least 18 years old. Alcohol & drugs have become a big issue in our society & the decision whether to take alcohol and/or drugs during ones teenage years will have a major influence on the rest of ones life. Alcohol/drugs could be the obstacle to someone achieving their hopes & dreams. During these weeks, members of the local PTAA Group are visiting Primary Schools to encourage young people to seriously consider making this commitment & taking the pledge. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with their child. In becoming a Pioneer, the person is joining a family of like minded young people who have made the decision to say NO to alcohol/drugs until they are 18.

Inviting all Key Stage 2 pupils to join in "Celebrating St Patrick" As we prepare to celebrate the feast of St Patrick, KS2 pupils in our Parish are invited to write a prayer or a poem in honour of St Patrick or design/create a card which reflects the life of St Patrick. The competition is open to all pupils in KS2 in any of the Primary Schools in the Parish of Armagh. There are no restrictions with writing the prayer or the poem or creating the card (it must be original) but entrants must write their name, address, their age and the name of their school on the back of their entry. Pupils are asked to submit their entries to Armagh Parish Office, Cathedral Gate Lodge not later than 12 noon on **Monday 5th March**. The Knights of St Columbanus in the Parish have kindly agreed to sponsor five very special prizes for the five most creative entries and the winners will be presented with their prizes on the eve of St Patrick's Day.

An Evening with Patrick - The Market Place Theatre: Wed 14 Mar 7.30pm Armagh Cathedrals Partnership invite you to an evening of music, story, poetry & prayer to celebrate St Patrick. Guest speaker, Fr Peter McVerry, a native of Newry and Jesuit priest, founded The Peter McVerry Trust (formerly Arrupe Charity), which seeks to address homelessness. During the evening, he will invite us to reflect on the words of St Patrick in his Confession "I am Patrick...utterly worthless in the eyes of many". Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Free but booking essential through The Market Place Theatre.