

What are you planning for Lent? Armagh Parish Holy Spirit Prayer Group are running Life in the Spirit Seminars at 8pm each Tues between **14th Feb-4th April** in the SVP Centre. In the Seminar you can take steps which will allow Jesus Christ to establish, restore or deepen a relationship with you. We welcome you to join us.

Divine Mercy Conference RDS Dublin, **Sat 25th Feb.** Speakers, Adoration, confessions & Mass, healing service. For info & booking for coach contact Catherina 02887784188 /07899810181.

Family Care Adoption Services is seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children. For info **T:** 028 71 368592. Monday to Friday 9 – 1 p.m www.familycaresociety.co.uk

Alone Again, Separated or Widowed? Beginning Experience helps people work through their grief to be healed and free to live again. A Beginning Experience weekend programme is scheduled to take place from **24th-26th Feb.** Contact **Cora 07934 871 718**

Lenten Retreat Days in Dromantine. Dromantine is offering two retreat days during Lent. These will provide an opportunity to reflect & pray in the peaceful environment of Dromantine on important themes of Lent, and to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. Dates: **Sat 11th March.** - Led by Fr. Des Corrigan, SMA or **Sat 1st April** – Led by Fr. Aodhán McCrystal, SMA. Time 10 AM -5 PM. Cost: £25 including lunch, teas/coffee. All are welcome. Bookings to: (028)30821964.

Lent 2017 Prayer Group will commence week beginning **Mon 27 Feb** at 10:30am. Anyone interested in joining should contact the Parish Office at 37522813

Women's World Day of Prayer will be held this year in St. Mark's Parish Church Armagh at 8pm **Fri 3rd March.** All welcome.

Cycle Against Suicide Armagh Spin-Off starts off at St. Patrick's Grammar School, Armagh **Sat 25th Feb** from 8:30am. Contact Conal 07775512171 or see www.cycleagainstsucide.com

Medjugorje Pilgrimage from Belfast. **2nd August** for 7 nights. £579. Contact Anthony 07753406356 for more information.

Anam Cara the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its next monthly Parent Evening on **Wed 22nd Feb** from 7:30pm to 9pm in Armagh City Hotel. This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether the death was recent or not.

Winners of the Lislea draw were Pauline Donnelly, Abbey Park £100; 2nd prize Maura Murphy £50. Congratulations to both. Anyone wishing to join the 2017/18 monthly draw, please contact any Lislea Committee member, t. 3751 8817.

Sale of hand crafted articles Hand crafted olive wood articles (Crosses, Rosary Beads, Nativity Cribs and Statues) will be on sale after Masses in St Patrick's Cathedral & St Malachy's Church on the weekend of **Sat 25th & Sun 26th Feb.** All proceeds from the sale of the articles will help support Christians in the Holy Land.

Cantabelles This new and exciting vocal ensemble combine rich harmonies and sumptuous vocals to old classic and the more modern hymns. They will present a selection of uplifting liturgical pieces including St Patrick's Breastplate, How great Thou art, Hail glorious St Patrick, Ag Criost and Siol and many more. The evening which will reflect the life and mission of St Patrick will be presented in the beautiful transept of St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 10th March at 8pm. Tickets are limited for this unique event and they are available from Armagh Parish Office (028 37522813) or alternatively online through the Market Place Theatre, Armagh.

Permanent Diaconate: Do you feel called to serve as a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Armagh? Contact Fr Brian White at 0035342 9322244 or speak with your local priest.



Na Piarasigh Óga Lotto: 3/16/19/21 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £2100

Abbey Lotto: 4/8/16/27 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £2450

Tullysaran Lotto: 1/4/20/23 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £950

St Colmcilles GAC Lotto: 2/13/21/22 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot is £1650



www.armaghparish.net

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19th February 2017

7th Sunday of the Year

The teaching in today's Gospel isn't easy; it can be difficult enough to love our friends and members of our own families, but "to love our enemies, to pray for those who persecute us and to turn the other cheek" is a huge challenge. It goes against our natural instincts and it goes against everything that Jesus was taught as a child. With the people of his day, it was very clearly "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". The Jewish system of justice was arbitrary and ruthless as we witness in gospel stories where women were stoned to death or men found guilty of other crimes were tortured and crucified as a public spectacle. The teaching of Jesus is clearly opposed to all of that.

Yet Christianity doesn't ask us to be doormats so that people can walk over us; it doesn't ask us to be wimps. Through the power of God's Spirit within us, we're asked to become strong and brave, because it requires great strength of character and great single-minded resolve to forgive those who hurt us, or to turn the other cheek to those who offend us. Today Jesus asks us "to offer no resistance to the wicked man, to pray for those who persecute you and to love your enemies". We must never forget that by ourselves and of ourselves, we just don't have what it takes to do what Jesus asks. There are times when the hurts are too deep, and the experience is too recent, to be able even to consider forgiveness. That's why we often pray that the Holy Spirit will "enkindle within us the fire of divine love" and to give us a willingness to want to forgive. When it comes to forgiveness, this is one area where we really need the Spirit to enter and to act. It requires a heart which we may not yet possess to be able to forgive and forget.

The truth is that when I do forgive someone, both of us are set free and it's important to keep in mind that there's a wonderful freedom in having a forgiving heart.

With every blessing
Rev P McAnenly Adm

Dates of First Penance 2017

St Patrick's Primary School	Thursday 23 March @ 6pm
St Malachy's Primary School	Wednesday 15 March @ 6pm
Mt St Catherine's Primary School	Wednesday 8 March @ 7pm
CBS Primary School	Thursday 9 March @ 6pm
Tullysaran Primary School	Tuesday 21 March @ 7pm
Saints & Scholars Primary School	Tuesday 7 March @ 6pm

RECENTLY DECEASED: Daniel Patrick McGlinchey, Margaret Lennon, James Smith, Gerry Kelly, Eileen Speering, Phil Sheridan, Gerald Fitzpatrick, Brigid Corrigan, Jim Kirk, Anthony Digby and Anna Murtagh

MONTHS MIND: Maureen Haugh (22nd), Nora Shaw (22nd) & Timothy Woods (25th)

Weekly collection amounted to £6371.90 & €158.11

The Order of Malta will take up their Annual Church door collection at all Masses this weekend.

Gift Aid Thanks to all who avail of the Gift Aid Scheme. Gift Aid forms can be accessed on the parish website or by contacting the Parish Office.

Parish Safeguarding The contact persons for the Parish are Aileen & Maura, they can be contacted @ armaghparishsafeguarding@gmail.com or 07895 460797.

Sacristy Any visitors to the sacristy of any church in the Parish **must** sign the visitors book.

All requests for prayers and Masses to be arranged through the Parish Office. The list of intentions is sent to the churches on a Friday morning, containing all intentions from the Saturday night vigil Mass until the following Saturday morning. **Only Anniversaries and Month's Minds left in the Parish Office by 12 noon on 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. The course is on the first Monday & third Wednesday of every month. All Baptisms **must be booked through the Parish Office.**

Paypal as a means of GIVING Paypal is a secure and easy way to use an online payment service to Armagh Parish. It's a convenient and secure method of giving to your local Parish/Church and there are no fees involved. To access Paypal, see Armagh Parish Website.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday 1 March The beginning of Lent and a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all Masses. Mass in St Malachy's at 7am and 7.30pm and in the Cathedral at 9.15am and 11am. Mass in Tullysaran at 10am and 7.30pm and in Knockaconey at 7.30pm. Lenten Masses: St Malachy's 7am & 7.30pm (Mon - Fri), St Patrick's Cathedral 10am.

Trocaire Boxes are now available at the back of the Churches.

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.

BBC Radio Broadcast The 10am Mass in St Malachy's Church will be broadcast on the morning of **Sun 26 Feb** on BBC Radio Ulster

Adorers required for Adoration Chapel in St. Malachy's: Thursday's at 4pm & 11pm and Sunday's at 1pm. Contact Nora 02837 525265

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

Missionary of Charity House One hour of prayer, scripture & song before the Blessed Sacrament **every Wed** from 8-9pm

Holy Spirit Prayer Group meet each Tues evening at 8pm in the SVP Centre at Chapel Lane. All welcome!

First Saturday's Devotion In celebration of the 100 years since the appearance of Our Lady in Fatima, on the first Saturday of each month, Confessions will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral at 9.30am, followed by Mass at 10am & recitation of the Rosary immediately after in Our Lady's Chapel. Please come along and join in this act of devotion in this special Jubilee Year.

Annual Ceremony of Light for all P7 pupils & their parents will take place in St. Patrick's Cathedral on **Thurs 2nd March** at 7:30pm. Please note this date as this is an important evening of preparation for the young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

An Hour of Prayer for Victims of Abuse There will be a special hour of prayer for all victims of abuse in St Malachy's Church on **Fri 3 March** from 8 - 9pm. All are encouraged to come along and join in praying for all victims on the evening.

Records We ask anyone who has moved house recently to please contact the Parish Office to update their records. Or alternatively if you're new to the Parish or think you might not be registered, please contact us so we can register you.

Pioneer Lenten Challenge Many people abstain from alcohol for the duration of Lent. Why not take the short term pledge? Contact your local pioneer centre representatives Stella: 38891002 or Brian 37524853.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, TULLYSARAN

ALL Baptisms & Weddings in Tullysaran must be booked in advance at Parish Office - Novena Mass Monday evening at 7:30pm.

Tullysaran Community Centre Activities this week: Mon 8-10pm: Indoor Bowls; Tues 4-5pm: Irish Dancing; Tues 7-8pm: Corebox; Tues 8.15-9pm: Spin (fully booked); Wed 10.30-12pm: Parent/Toddler Group; Wed 7-8pm: Pilates; Thurs 6.30-7.30pm; Total Body Workout & 7:30-8:30 Traditional Music Classes. **AGM** will take place Sun 19 Feb at 10.45am in Community Centre.

CHURCH OF ST. COLMCILLE, KNOCKACONEY

Bookings All Weddings & Baptisms **must** be booked in advance through the Parish Office 37522813.

Armagh Parish Trip June 2017 Booking Open! Following on from the success of the Parish Trip to Ballina last year, another Parish Trip will take place from **Mon 5th - Thurs 8th June**. Those who travel will be based for the three nights in the 4* Hotel Westport in Co Mayo. During the few days, the trip will include visits to Achill, Clifden, Kylemore Abbey and other places of interest. Further details about the trip and booking at Armagh Parish Office.

Ignatian Guided Retreat for Lent Are you seeking something special in your life? Do you want to deepen your relationship with God? Why not consider taking part in a guided retreat this Lent. You will be given a short scripture passage to meditate upon each week and then will meet with an experience guided to chat about it. The meetings are confidential and no prior knowledge of scripture is required. There are 12 places available. All meetings will take place in Mount St. Catherine's P.S.

Open Information on Tues 21st Feb from 7:30pm-9pm. For more information contact Fr. Brian Lennon at bdlennon@gmail.com or for booking contact the Parish Office.

Armagh Parish Pastoral Council
COFFEE and FAITH
Lenten Programme
Saint Vincent de Paul Centre, Chapel Lane --
11.00am to 12.30am

1st March -- Lent: A time to Pray -- Cardinal Sean Brady
8th March -- Lent: A time to Repent -- Sr Bernadette
15th March -- Lent: A time to Fast -- Fr Peter Kerr
22ND March -- Lent: A time to Reflect -- Sr Kathleen
29th March -- Lent: A time to Give -- Rev M Mc Elmeel
5TH April -- Lent: A time to Renew -- Sr Nora
Come along during the Lenten season and join in a relaxed environment, to reflect on the different themes.
Booking for programme at Armagh Parish Office.

100 years of Fatima: Centennial Statue to visit Armagh!

On 11 Jan this year, Pope Francis blessed six statues of Our Lady of Fatima to be brought to each continent, to appeal for prayer & reparation for world peace & to promote the sanctity of family life in our world. One of the statues blessed on that day will be brought to Armagh on **Fri 3 Mar** by representatives of the Alliance of the two Hearts.

The statue will arrive at the main gates of St Malachy's Church on the Fri evening & there will be a short procession around the Church during which time the Rosary will be prayed. The Statue will be received by Archbishop Eamon Martin at 7.30pm Mass on the evening. There will be a Holy Hour after Mass to pray for healing for victims of abuse and there will be an opportunity for people to come and pray before the statue up until 12midnight.

The Statue will be brought on the Sat morning to St Patrick's Cathedral for the First Saturday Devotions. Confessions at 9.15am, Mass will be celebrated at 10am and the Rosary will be prayed in Our Lady's Chapel after Mass. Representatives of the Alliance of the two Hearts will lead prayers in the Cathedral at midday. There will be an opportunity for people & prayer groups to visit the Cathedral throughout the day to pray before the Centennial Statue.

Archbishop Martin will join for the 7pm Vigil Mass on the Sat evening. Before the end of Mass, homes & families will be consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary & the Sacred Heart of Jesus & people will have an opportunity to enrol in the Brown Scapular. The special Statue will leave St Patrick's Cathedral after the Mass on that evening.