

What are you planning for Lent? Armagh Parish Holy Spirit Prayer Group are running Life in the Spirit Seminars at 8pm each Tues until **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.

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

22ND March -- Lent: A time to Reflect -- Sr Kathleen
 29th March -- Lent: A time to Renew -- Sr Nora
 5TH April -- Lent: A time to Give -- Rev M Mc Elmeel
 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.
****Please note the change in dates of Sr. Nora & Rev. McElmeel's talks**

Vision Programme Benburb Priory **Sun 2nd April** 9.30am-5pm. The programme is a journey of transformation using the Beatitudes to discover who we really are and our attitude to life. Cost £25. Contact Eilish on 07759690405 or Benburb Priory.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 7nights from Belfast **2nd August** £579. Contact Anthony 07753406356
Apostolic Work Easter Sale & Coffee Morning will take place on **Sat 1st April** in Mt. St. Catherine's P.S. 10am-12noon. Adm £1.50(adults) & 50p(children) inc. refreshments... Cake, jam, plants, gifts, knitted goods - plus lucky dip & raffle. Please come & support the Missions.

24 hours for the Lord in Armagh Parish!

For the 4th year, Pope Francis has asked that parishes organise a special time for Prayer & Confessions during the Season of Lent. He has suggested that parishes organise **24 hours for the Lord on Fri 24th & Sat 25th March**. The 24 hours for the Lord will take place in **St Malachy's Church from 12noon-12 midnight on the Friday & from 5am – 5pm on the Saturday**. There will be special times of prayer and reflection and opportunities for Confessions during the 24 hours. People are encouraged to make a special effort in this season of Lent to celebrate the love and mercy of God.

Friday 24 March

12noon Midday Prayer
 3pm Way of the Cross
 7pm Evening Prayer and Benediction
 7.30pm Mass
 10pm Night Prayer
 12midnight Rosary

Saturday 25 March

5am Rosary
 7am Morning Prayer
 12noon Midday Prayer
 3pm Way of the Cross
 4:30pm Evening Prayer & Benediction
 5pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
 Ends

Throughout this time the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in St Malachy's Church. The Adoration chapel will be closed during these 24 hours! Confessions will be heard after Mass on the Friday evening until 10pm and on the Saturday from 11am – 3pm.

Lent has traditionally been known as a time for fasting, a time to tame one's body so that we may concentrate on higher things. The three spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting & almsgiving go hand in hand & the Church invites us to practise all three at this time of year. Pope Francis reminds us that our fasting must never become superficial. He reminds us that Lent is a good time for penance and self denial and our Lenten activities must enrich others. He also challenges us by saying that if we're going to fast from anything, we must fast from indifference towards others. As part of our special 24 hours, we might challenge ourselves to fast from something for those hours as a special offering to the Lord!



Na Piarasigh Óga Lotto: 3/10/17/25 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £2300
Abbey Lotto: 7/14/18/26 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £2650
Tullysaran Lotto: 4/8/9/12 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £1050
St Colmcilles GAC Lotto: 12/15/16/23 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot is £1800



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 St Malachy's T 3751 0516
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 SVP Help Line T 07733482604

19th March 2017

3rd Sunday of Lent

Reflection

The Gospel on the third Sunday of Lent offers us one of the most powerful stories in the New Testament – the story of the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. At first the woman appears to have no time for him, and his simple request for a drink of water is met with a sharp reply: "Why are you a Jew asking me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" Without losing his composure, Jesus continues the conversation, absorbs the woman's anger and makes the startling statement that he could provide her with living water, which would quench her thirst for all time. As the conversation continues, it becomes obvious that there is a misunderstanding – the woman doesn't appreciate that Jesus is referring to the deep spiritual thirst within the human heart that can only be quenched and satisfied by the living waters of grace. He encourages her to reflect on the significant events of her life and as she begins to unburden her soul, she gets in touch with her inner emptiness, her sense of shame and separation. Slowly she comes to realise that she is thirsting for God, seeking forgiveness and longing for God's presence and peace. Once she's released from her guilt and comes to recognise the gift Jesus has to offer, she rushes back to the town to tell others the good news of what she has experienced.

We can learn many lessons from the Samaritan woman who was no saint by any earthly standards, but she was sincere and honest of heart in telling her story. As we journey through life in our search for happiness and love, we can drink at the wells of power, pleasure and prestige, only to discover that there still remains a great uneasiness. Trying to quench a spiritual thirst with material things is like trying to satisfy a physical thirst with salt and water. The more we drink, the thirstier we become. When we enter into the depths of our hearts, we find that there is a tremendous desire, an inner ache within us that only the love of God can satisfy. It is part of our nature to crave for the unending, the unchanging and the eternal. As St Augustine put it some time ago, "Lord, our hearts are restless and they will find no rest until they rest in you".

With every blessing
 P McAnenly Adm

PRAYER

Life-giving God, grant me peace of mind and calm my troubled heart. My soul is like a turbulent sea. I can't seem to find my balance so I worry and constantly stumble. Give me the clarity of mind and strength of heart to walk the path you lay out for me. I trust your love, my God, and know that you will heal this stress. Draw me close to you today. Amen

"But whoever drinks the water I give, will never be thirsty."

Are you thirsting for an understanding of your vocation? If you think Jesus may be inviting you to the priesthood, contact: Fr Peter McAnenly 028 37522802

RECENTLY DECEASED: Paddy McConville, Eileen Hannon, Marie O'Neill, Pat Donnelly, Daniel Schiller & Cardinal Connell
MONTHS MIND: Sean Moore (19th) & Pat Lenagh (19th)

Weekly collection amounted to £6507.88 & € 77.85.

Armagh Scouting Group will take up their Annual Church Door Collection at all Masses this weekend.

Lenten Masses continue each day in St Malachy's Church at 7am & 7:30pm and in St Patrick's Cathedral at 10am.

The 2nd National Collection to help fund the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August 2018 will take place in parishes on the weekend of 1st & 2nd April 2017

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.**

All Baptisms must be paid for in advance in order to secure the booking.

Adorers required for Adoration Chapel in St. Malachy's Sunday's at 1pm. Contact Nora 02837 525265

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) meet each Tues @ 7pm in the Parish Office. All

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.

welcome.

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

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 9.15am, 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.

Church Bells will ring throughout Ireland today at 11am as a gesture of love & peace to refugees & immigrants across the country.

Armagh Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on **Sunday 28th May**. Further details to follow.

Cathedral Gift Shop is now stocking gifts and tokens for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. A number of Fatima items have now been made available as we celebrate this Jubilee Year. Opening hours: **Monday – Saturday: 10.30am – 4.00pm. Sunday: 12 noon – 5.30pm.**

Pope St. John Paul II Awards celebration will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Tuesday 21 March** at 7pm. All are welcome to come along and join in celebrating the achievements of the young people of our diocese.

Armagh Parish Trip June 2017 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. **Only Twin/Double Rooms left!**

Dates of First Penance 2017

We continue to pray for all Primary Four Pupils who are preparing to celebrate their First Penance.

Tullysaran PS Tues 21 March @ 7pm
St Patrick's PS Thurs 30 March @ 6pm

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 Mon 8-10pm Indoor bowls; Tues 4-5pm Irish Dancing; Tues 7-8pm Corebox; Tues 8.15-9pm Spin (fully booked); Wed 10.30am-12 Parent & Toddler Group; Wed 7-8pm Pilates; Thurs 6.30-7.30pm Total Body Workout; Thurs 7.30-8.30pm Music classes; Jiving classes begin 24 March 8-9pm. Running 24 & 31 March & 7&21 April. April Easter Flower-arranging Tues 4th & Wed 12th April 7-8pm. To book a place text 07542509624

Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception each Wednesday at 10am during Lent.

CHURCH OF ST. COLMCILLE, KNOCKACONEY

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

Dear Parishioner,

As we come close to the end of the financial year, it gives me an opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your contribution to the life the Parish in so many ways and especially, for the way in which you have been supporting the parish financially over the past year. As a parish with more than 4,500 families, you will appreciate that the financial demands of the parish are great. There are so many parochial properties to be maintained and the costs associated with the daily running of the parish are considerable and ever – increasing. Unfortunately so many parishioners don't use the parish envelope and many don't contribute at all and that impacts or puts a great strain on others. Each year, approximately 4,500 boxes of envelopes are distributed to the homes in our parish and on average, 890 envelopes are being returned each week.

The parish is constantly updating records and the envelope database. If details need to be corrected at any time, please contact the Parish Office (T 028 37522813) I ask people to please use the weekly envelope you receive as it's much preferable to loose change being placed in the basket. This is also an opportunity to ask parishioners again who have not signed up for the Parish Gift Aid Scheme to consider doing so as soon as possible. If you pay tax and sign a Gift Aid Form, the Parish can claim from the Inland Revenue an additional 25p in every pound on the contributions you make to the Parish throughout the year. The claim can also be made by the Parish to recover tax on your contribution for the previous four years. You must however, pay by envelope or by standing order. Contributions made by parishioners outside the above means cannot be included for Gift Aid purposes. Gift Aid Forms can be received through the parish office or they can be downloaded from the parish website or from the parish facebook page.

Parishioners may also contribute to the Parish by standing order and many people have now committed themselves to this method of payment. You must contact your own bank to establish a standing order and you can also contact Caroline Caherty at the Parish Office regarding the Parish bank account details.

I must say that I am continually impressed by the faith and fidelity of the people within our parish. I thank God for all of that and I hope and pray that as we look forward, that all of us will continue to work even more closely together in helping to build the Kingdom of God among us. As we look ahead, I'm very aware of some of the great challenges that face us in the future.

Again, on behalf of all the priests of the parish, I wish to convey our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support and goodwill which is demonstrated in so many ways and we wish you and your loved ones God's richest blessings at this time.

Yours sincerely
Rev Peter McAnenly Adm

***** Please note - all those who distribute the Parish Envelopes are asked to collect their boxes from the Parish Office between Tues 21st & Thurs 23rd March *****