

Beginning Experience Coping Programme is a support group for widowed, separated & divorced people. Starting **Sept 7th** for 6 weeks in Armagh Diocesan Pastoral Centre Dundalk. For more info contact Cora 07934871718.

Polish Community Celebration The Polish Community in Armagh are having A Harvest Festival on **Sat 26 August** from 3-7pm in The Shambles Yard. All welcome.

Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage Knock Shrine 2.30p.m. **Sept 10th**. Everybody welcome to honour & thank Grandparents alive & dead for all they have done for us down through the ages. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin - Ballina School Choir - Dana sings 'Our Lady of Knock'.

Armagh City Soccer Team 'Are you interested in playing for Armagh City under 14 soccer team? If so, please contact Kieran Mullan on 07771501524. We are seeking players for all positions and any player born after 2004 is eligible to apply.'

Action on Hearing Loss Hearing Aid & Info Session is in Armagh City Library on **Mon 21st Aug** 11am-1pm. Advice on managing, maintaining & cleaning your hearing aid. Info about hearing loss & other services. Batteries for NHS aids can be collected. A quick hearing check is available for anyone without hearing aids.

NI Blood Transfusion Service Next blood donation session takes place **Mon 21st & Tues 22nd** from 1.30pm-4pm & 5.15pm-8pm in St. Mark's Church, Crozier Hall. All welcome.

Mary's Meals greatly appreciate your support for the backpacks for Malawi. Please continue to place the following items in the baskets in either the Cathedral or St Malachy's: Small towels, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, pencil cases, rulers, copybooks, tennis balls, spoons, flip flops, T-shirts, shorts, dresses or skirts & tops to fit 4-12 year olds. Volunteers always welcome in the old clinic in Dobbin Street, Tues or Thurs 2-4pm. Thank you.

Cathedral Gift Shop Requires Volunteers Would you be willing to offer 2-3 hours a week volunteering in the Cathedral Gift Shop? Anyone interested in getting involved is asked to please contact the Parish Office 02837522813. The Gift Shop is fully stocked with religious items and gifts.

Free Irish language course for all levels 10am - 4pm **Sat 9 Sept** An Ceannáras, Armagh Athletic Grounds Bookings sean@cairdeteo.com 028 3751 5229


SPRED faith sharing group for people with learning difficulties, meets every 2 weeks to share activities, life experiences & a cup of tea. SPRED's aim is to integrate our friends into the liturgical life of the Parish. If you are a parent or guardian of a person aged 18+ who had learning difficulties & would like him/her to join our group, contact Lily 38891484. New faith friends also needed.

Accord NI Marriage Preparation Course The next course scheduled in the Diocese are at Quinn's Corner, Dungannon **12th, 19th & 26th Sept & 7th, 14th & 21st Nov**. Info & Booking tel. 02838334781.

Lost A parishioner has lost a gold bracelet between St. Malachy's and Market St. on Sunday Morning. If found, please contact the Parish Office 02837522813.

Faithcast is the new weekly podcast from catholicnews.ie, the news source for the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. It is published weekly and is available on catholicnews.ie.

Family Care Adoption Services is presently seeking to recruit adoptive families for babies and young children. For a free information pack please contact us at: T:028 71 368592

 **Na Piarsaigh Óga Lotto: 3/12/13/20** No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £3,400
Abbey Lotto: 7/14/19/22 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £1800
Tullysaran Lotto: 1/2/3/23 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £1600
St Colmcilles GAC Lotto: 1/2/4/7 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot is £1800



St Patrick's Cathedral Parish
Archdiocese of Armagh
www.armaghparish.net **Office Tel. 37522813**

Email: armaghparish@btconnect.com
St Malachy's T 3751 0516
Cathedral T 3752 2638
SVP Help Line T 07733482604
Safeguarding T07895 460797

20th August 2017

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection

If it's a test, the Canaanite woman passes with flying colours! Her faith is impressive. When Jesus ignores her initial appeal, she tries again. And when he knocks her back, she replies with a witty retort: "Ah yes, sir; but even house dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table."

I always find this exchange amusing. At first reading, it seems that the woman has got one up on Jesus. He attempted to fob her off and her quick wit has caught him out. We can imagine him chuckling as he concedes "Woman, you have great faith".

But the exchange also makes me wonder: what was Jesus really up to? By the end of the conversation, he's clearly impressed with the woman's faith, her wit and her wisdom. But why the test? Why does he try to fob her off and why the dog reference?

In the Gospels, Jesus often tests his followers. He certainly tests Peter and the other disciples. He challenges them to think, and to come up with the right answers. Perhaps he's testing not only the woman's faith, but also the faith of his disciples'. In using the analogy of a "house-dog", he may well be giving voice to the thoughts of his disciples. They would have little time for this Canaanite woman, a Gentile. They certainly would not have expected her to demonstrate such faith.

Perhaps it was an exchange that would come back to them at a later date as they expanded their mission to the Gentiles. Paul would later talk of God's mercy "to all mankind" and it's a far cry from house-dogs!

One can't but admire the persistence of the woman in today's Gospel. She's a reminder of people we encounter who have great faith and who make a deep impression on us. We might ask ourselves today: when have experiences of rejection in our own lives led to new possibilities? Where are the unfamiliar places that we must go in order to grow, to embrace new life and new experiences?

Prayer for Summer

Let's put ourselves into the hands of the Lord and pray that God will bless us and our families during these wonderful months of summer. May we all help make our homes, places of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only of ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of summertime. Lord God, creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts during these months of summer and vacation days. Grant us refreshment of mind and body. We ask this through Christ our Lord, AMEN

RECENTLY DECEASED: Kevin Scannell.
MONTHS MIND MASSES: John McKenna (24th) & Sarah Lavery (26th)

Weekly collection amounted to £6054.44 & €161.50.

The Priests Dues collection will be taken up at all Masses on the weekend of Sat 2/Sun 3 September

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

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

All 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.

Hospital Visits In the event of a parishioner being in hospital and wishing to receive a visit from one of the priests of the parish, please make contact with the Parish Office.

Adoration Adorers needed to cover:
Wednesday: 11pm and 12midnight
Thursday: 1am & 5am
Please contact Nora 37525265

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

Fatima Devotion Continues Saturday 2nd September: Confessions will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 9.15am, followed by Mass at 10am & recitation of the Rosary immediately after in Our Lady's Chapel. Please join in this act of devotion in this special Jubilee Year.

Gift Aid Thanks to all who avail of the Gift Aid Scheme but we're keen to increase the number of contributors within the parish. Gift Aid means for every £1 given through the envelope collection, the parish can claim an additional 25p from Inland Revenue, as long as you pay Income Tax and sign a declaration form, permitting the parish to claim. Gift Aid forms can be accessed on the parish website or by contacting the Parish Office.

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.

Armagh Parish Holy Spirit Prayer Group welcome you to join us at 8pm on Tuesdays for prayer and praise.

Prayers for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. People across Ireland are invited to pray The Angelus or a decade of The Rosary at 12noon on the 13th of each month for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life.

Payment for Graves in Parish Cemeteries All payments in respect of new graves and re-openings are to be made directly to Armagh Parish Office. It is the practice of Armagh Parish that following the Months Memory of loved ones an invoice is forwarded to the family of the deceased.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time -- Aug 20th "Woman, you have great faith." It takes faith to hear God's call in our lives. And His call takes us on unexpected paths of deeper trust and love. Is God calling you to life as priest? Call Fr Peter McAnenly 028 37522802

Volunteers Needed to assist with the Offertory at 12noon Mass in St. Malachy's Church. Please contact Parish Office.

Thank you from the Daughters of Charity Thanks to all who supported the recent Mission Appeal on behalf of the Daughters of Charity Missions in Africa. The appeal was very successful and all the money donated will go directly to the Sisters in Africa for people are poor & marginalised.

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.

Parish Trip to Lough Derg (One Day Retreat)

Leaving from St. Patrick's Cathedral (back car-park) at 8am on **Saturday 23rd September.** Tea & scones on arrival & a light lunch served. Pilgrims will enjoy a day of prayer, reflection, confessions and the celebration of Mass. Pilgrims are advised to wear warm & waterproof clothing. Bus will return to Armagh at approx. 6pm. Cost: £40 per person. Limited places. Booking at Parish Office.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, TULLYSARAN *ALL Baptisms & Weddings in Tullysaran must be booked in advance at Parish Office*

Charity Car Wash held by the family & friends of Mollie Mullan **9th/10th Sept** on the Carrickaness Rd (Conlon Chicken Houses). All proceeds going to *Shine & Hugs* Charity. Also, a **Cake Sale/Coffee Morning** will take place on **Sun 24th Sept** after Mass in Tullysaran Community Centre.

CHURCH OF ST. COLMCILLE, KNOCKACONEY

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

As we remember all students who received exam results over the past few days, we pray that they may be guided in the choices they now make

Prayer for Guidance Loving God, in baptism you call me to act justly, to love tenderly and walk humbly with you. Strengthen me with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the generosity to respond to your invitation and guide me as I choose my path in life. May it always be one of witness, love and service to you and all whose lives I touch. I ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Prayer for the New School Year Lord, you make all things new, you bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be renewed. Thank you for this New School Year and for all the potential that it holds. Help us in all that we do. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise your glorious name. AMEN.

Children's Liturgy Group

'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these' Mark 10: 13-16



Armagh Parish Pastoral Council will be starting a Children's Liturgy Group in the parish at the beginning of October. We plan to start the programme in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran and then extend it to the other churches later on in the year. A Children's Liturgy is the Liturgy of the Word suitably adapted to make it relevant to the lives and experiences of young children. We invite children from Year 1 to Year 4 to participate. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Claire in the Parish Office (Tel 37522813) leaving your name and number.

Charles Wood Summer School

The Charles Wood Summer School begins in Armagh on **Sunday 20th August.** There will be a sung Mass in St Malachy's Church on **Tues 22nd** and **Thurs 24th Aug** at 7.30pm and in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sat 26th Aug** at 7pm. There will also be an evening of Sacred Music and Song in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Wed 23rd Aug** at 8.15pm. All are welcome to these events. For further details see the Charles Wood Festival Website.

World Meeting of Families 2018 As we look towards celebrating the World Meeting of Families in Ireland in August 2018, there will be a number of events taking place in our parish over the coming months to celebrate the gift of family and ask God's continued blessing on all our homes and families. As well as a special Family Liturgy which will be taking place in Tullysaran Church each Sunday, beginning in the early Autumn, a couple of other events have also been planned. A special celebration will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sunday 8 October** at 5.30pm celebrating the Family of Sport. All sporting clubs and organisations in the parish are being invited to this special celebration and it promises to be an evening of great colour and joy! On the evening of **Tuesday 10 October**, another special celebration will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral at 7pm and it will be an evening when all who are part of the Family of Music Ministry in our diocese will gather to share in an evening of Sacred Music and Song. On the evening, the special hymn which has been commissioned for the World Meeting of Families (A Joy for all the earth) will be learned and there will be a Sung Evening Prayer as part of the celebration. Both of these evenings promise to be unique occasions and very memorable celebrations and further details about both celebrations will be available in due course.