

Parish Contributions As we come to the end of this year, we thank parishoners for their financial contributions over the past year. We remind all who haven't registered in the Parish to make contact with the Parish Office in the new year. We also wish to remind tax payers who haven't already signed up to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme to please do.

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.

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 for priesthood and the 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.

Rosary Rally for Faith and Life at Merrion Square, Dublin, on 1st January 2019 at 12.00 noon. For further information email: rosaryrallyforireland@gmail.com

The Annual St. Stephen's Day Walk leaves Ballymacnab Hall at 10am and goes around the beautiful Seaghan Dam approx 3K. Everyone welcome.

Ballymacnab Football and Camogie Clubs are hosting a 'Santa Hat Walk/Run' around Seaghan Dam on **Sunday 30th December @10am.**

Lislea News Congratulations to the winners of the Lislea Monthly Draw: 1st Prize of £100 to Tony Corr and 2nd Prize of £50 to Chris Corr.

Saint Catherine's College, Armagh. OPEN NIGHT – Monday 21st January 2019. First Session (4.00pm – 6.00pm) for local schools including Our Lady's PS Tullysaran, Bunscoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Bunscoil Eoin Baiste and Bunscoil Naomh Proinsias. Second Session (6.30pm – 8.30pm) for all other schools including Bunscoil an Iúir and Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa.

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.



Na Piarsaigh Óg Lotto: 5/15/22/27. Next week's Jackpot £1850
Abbey Lotto: 2/5/13/17. Next week's Jackpot is £1750
St Colmcilles GAC Lotto: 8/15/23/24 Next week's Jackpot is £2850
Tullysaran Lotto: 3/4/12/16 Next week's Jackpot is £2000

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Parishioners

Two weeks ago (8th December) we celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the fact that Our Lady was kept free from all sin from the first moment of her existence. This wonderful event is really the immediate preparation for salvation - Mary is being made ready by God to receive Christ on behalf of the whole world. Totally free from sin, she is completely open to receiving God's gift, there is no trace of resistance or lack of appreciation for the coming Saviour. Through Mary, salvation comes into our world and is received fully and completely on our behalf.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, the focus is once again on Mary, eagerly ready to welcome, on behalf of all humanity, Gods great gift of salvation.

The Gospel today is the lovely story of The Visitation - Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? At first it's the excitement that comes through. Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can. Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women. We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months, as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin.

Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage. "Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then". Christmas time offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult.

These last days before Christmas can be hectic for many people but in the midst of all, it's important not to lose sight of what it is that we're preparing for. I often think that the fourth Sunday of Advent is the perfect time for some time out and so, let's find some peace and quiet and some time to reflect and pray. On behalf of all the priests of the parish, I wish all our parishioners a very happy and holy Christmas. We thank you sincerely for your support and kindness, demonstrated in so many ways; we value above all your fidelity and commitment. May the Lord bless your homes and families and may he give you peace and joy this Christmas time.

With every blessing, Rev Peter McAnenly, Adm.

A Prayer for the family as they gather on Christmas Day

Loving God, on this Christmas Day, we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit together at table for our Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and friends, those who are lonely, those who are sick or away from home at this time of year. We pray that all our departed loved ones may sit now at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days to come. We pray as always through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for loved ones away from home this Christmas time

Loving God, we pray for those whom we love, but who are absent from us this Christmas time. Keep them safe from all harm, evil and danger. Bless them with peace, laughter, wisdom, love and joy. Grant that we may be reunited in the fullness of love. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Colette Clarke, Ann Smyth, Ann Henry & Winnie Conlon

MONTH'S MIND

Catherine Morgan (27th), Pat McKee (29th) & Patsy Duffy (4th)

January 1st - Anniversary of Cardinal Cahal B Daly



Weekly Collection amounted to £ 6389.13 & €100.38

The Hungry and Needy Collection will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Day.
The Priests Dues Collection will be taken up at all Masses on the weekend of Sat 5/Sun 6 January.

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: Friday at 11pm, Saturday at 8pm & Sunday at 11pm. Please contact Nora 37525265 if you can commit to a time.

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 Fri 21 Dec & will reopen **on Mon 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.

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.

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.**

First Friday Fri 4th Jan is the first Friday of the month. The sick and housebound will be visited in the days beforehand. Confessions in St Malachy's Church on **Thurs 3rd Jan** at 12noon. A Holy Hour and Benediction in St Malachy's on **Fri 4 Jan** from 8-9pm.

Feast of Mary the Mother of God and World Day of Prayer for Peace on Tues 1st Jan. Mass will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral at 11am. This will be the only Mass in the Parish on that day. Please join to ask God's blessing on all of us in the new year ahead.

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Armagh Annual Church Door Collection amounted to £7,685. Thank you to all who donated.

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

There will be NO 8am Mass in St Malachy's for the next fortnight. The 8am Mass will resume on Tues 8th Jan. There will be NO Confessions in the Parish on Sat 29 Dec.

Do this in Memory The next Do this in Memory celebration will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sat 26th Jan** at 7pm.

Parish Records Please help us to keep our system up to date by letting us know your change of address! If you have moved house in the last year or are planning to soon, please call Claire in the Parish Office.

Feast of the Epiphany: Sunday 6 Jan 2019 Masses will be at the usual times.

Home Visits/First Friday calls If there is anyone who is seriously ill and/or confined to their home & would like to receive a home visit from one of the priests, please leave details at Parish Office so that the visit can be arranged.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, TULLYSARAN

Novena Mass will resume on **Monday 7 January**

1st Anniversary Mass of Rose Ann Rooney will take place on **Wed 2nd Jan** at 7:30pm.

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.

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.

Archdiocese of Armagh Pilgrimage to Lourdes is on the **16th-21st of May 2019.** 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

Trocaire Trocaire wishes to thank the people of the Parish of Armagh for their generous support shown at this years Gifts Sale. The money raised will make a real and lasting difference to communities in need throughout the developing world.

Feast of the Holy Family: Sunday 30 December - A Gift from the manger

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we pray that Jesus, Mary and Joseph will inspire all our homes and families. On that day, we invite you to take a little gift from the manger in and place it in your home – may it be a source of blessing for your family. Little envelopes containing pieces of straw & a prayer will be placed beside the crib in each of the Churches on that day. You might like to place the straw in your wallet or purse & carry it with you during the coming year. Or you might like to take one of the little gifts for someone who is sick or housebound, reminding all of us that they're part of our family of faith. Having celebrated the World Meeting of Families a few months ago, we pray: *God our Father, we want to live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in peace with you and with one another. Give us the courage and strength to live each day and to face the troubles and challenges of life. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen. Mary, mother and guide, pray for us. Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.* **On Sun 30th Dec, a special prayer card and family candle will be made available to all families at 12noon Mass in St. Malachy's. Throughout the Christmas season we encourage families to visit the crib in any of our Churches & pray the Holy Family of Nazareth will intercede for all our families in the year to come.**

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!

Celebration for all the newly baptised All children who have been baptised into our Parish Community over the past year are invited to a special celebration in St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday **13 Jan** at 11am. We encourage all parents who have had a child baptised within the Parish over the past year to bring their child along for a special blessing and to receive a special gift.

Commissioning of new Parish Pastoral Council Archbishop Martin will commission our new PPC at the 7pm Vigil Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sat 5th Jan.** We ask God's blessing on the work of the new PPC for the coming term. The next meeting of the PPC will take place on **Wednesday 9 January** at 8pm.

Christian Unity Week As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity an interdenominational Service will be held in St Patrick's RC Cathedral on **Wed 23rd Jan** at 7.30pm. The guest preacher will be the Right Revd Kenneth Good, Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. All are welcome.

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.