

Armagh Holy Spirit Prayer Group invite you to a 'Day of Renewal' led by Fr Peter Okpetu, on the feast of the Baptism of our Lord on **Sunday 13th January** 2019 (9.30am-4pm) at the new SVP Centre Chapel lane, Armagh. Our theme is Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." All welcome. Please note, that following our Christmas break, prayer group meetings recommence on **Tues 15th January** at SVP Centre Chapel Lane @ 8pm.

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.

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.

Medjugorje Monthly Prayer Meeting in Sacred Heart Convent on **Tues. 8th Jan.** at 8.15pm.

Gael Linn is delighted to host the internationally renowned Dr. Thomas H Bak to deliver a public talk on the significant health benefits of learning an additional language irrespective of age - Tuesday **8th January** in Charlemont Arms Hotel 8 p.m. RSVP reamonn@gael-linn.ie

St. Pio's Prayer Group next gathering on **Thurs 10th Jan** in St. Malachy's Church at 7:30pm. St Pio Relic available after Mass. All welcome.

Craigavon Samaritans Volunteer Information Evening **Wed 16th Jan** in the Craigavon Branch, 162 Thomas Street, Portadown. This event aims to provide individuals with an opportunity to find out more about who we are, what we do and how they can get involved. Our volunteers are vital to enable us to; increase our capacity, raise awareness, raise funds and be available 24 hours a day to provide emotional support to those in distress and at risk of suicide.

World Youth Day Panama To mark the close of World Youth Day 2019, a special Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Martin in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sunday 27 January** at 5.30pm. Young people from across the diocese are invited to join in this special celebration of faith.

'Choose Life' Prayer

Prayer for Ireland to consecrate yourselves, your homes and our country to the heart of Mary the Mother of God:

Lord Jesus, you are the source and lover of life. Reawaken in us respect for every human life. Help us to see in each child the marvellous work of our Creator.

Open our hearts to welcome every child as a unique and wonderful gift.

Guide the work of doctors, nurses and midwives. May the life of a mother and her baby in the womb be equally cherished and respected. Help those who make our laws to uphold the uniqueness and sacredness of every human life, from the first moment of conception to natural death.

Give us wisdom and generosity to build a society that cares for all. Together with Mary, your Mother, in whose womb you took on our human nature, Help us to choose life in every decision we take. We ask this in the joyful hope of eternal life with you, and in the communion of the Blessed Trinity. Amen.

Our Lady of Knock, pray for us. All the Saints of Ireland, pray for us.



Na Piarsaigh Óg Lotto: 1/18/19/23. Next week's Jackpot £1950

Abbey Lotto:

St Colmcilles GAC Lotto: 9/17/20/24 Next week's Jackpot is £2950

Tullysaran Lotto:

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

The Epiphany of the Lord

Dear Parishioners

The Feast of the Epiphany is the end of Christmas in many of our homes, the last of the trees and decorations are taken down, yet in the Church year, the Epiphany marks the middle of the Christmas season. Wise men from the East come to Bethlehem to pay homage to the King of the Jews. Tradition depicts the Magi as three men, who follow a star, dressed in the robes of kings, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Other than the star and the gifts, little is told of them in the Gospel, yet hints are given. In Greek they are "Magoi" for they are connected to magic. In the ancient world, "magicians" read the stars to discover the truth about God, hence, the Magi follow the star to Bethlehem and their gifts tell of the baby they have come to worship.

Gold was the traditional gift presented to the new King of the Jews. The title "King of the Jews" in relation to Jesus is that also asked of him by Pilate and by which the soldiers mock him. It is the description which hangs above His Cross. Gold is a gift for a king, but this king's kingdom is not of this world. Frankincense used in the worship of God indicates that the baby is God. Frankincense represents the divine, it is the smell associated with sacredness in God's presence. The wise men acknowledge through this gift that the baby before them is God, he is Christ the Lord. Myrrh was used in oil to anoint kings and corpses. It is a strange gift for a new baby, but it foreshadows that which awaits this new infant in the years ahead – trial, torture and execution.

The Magi point us to the Passion of Christ, but they are not harbingers of bad news; they are filled with delight upon discovering the child. The wise men, rather than ending Christmas, herald great joy, that they, who were not of the chosen people rejoice in God's love.

As we celebrate this special feast, we can't but admire the faithful and determined journey that these Wise Men set out on, a journey which involved many risks. The Wise Men represent people of all cultures and faiths who make such journeys in search of God. We often look for signs in our own lives, especially when we are looking for answers. Let us have the courage to move out of our comfort zones in search of Jesus, just as the Wise Men did. They had no idea of what awaited them, but the Gospel speaks of their delight and joy when they arrived to that place.

With every blessing
Rev P McAenly Adm

A New Year's Prayer

Holy God, as we enter this New Year, we thank you for your presence with us in all the years of our lives. We have known joy and also sorrow, success and failure, and through it all, you have been with us, the companion on all our journeys. Much of life is fleeting and so we thank you for things that endure – the love of faithful friends, wisdom gained from experience, the reliability of nature and your steadfast love. We thank you for this year which awaits us. Take us by the hand and lead us on. Amen.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Terry Fox, Thomas Fegan & Colette Clarke

MONTH'S MIND

Winnie Conlon (5th), Ann Henry (7th) and Ann Smyth (8th)



Weekly collection 23rd December 2018 amounted to £ 7149.23 & €120.26
Hungry & Needy collection 25th December 2018 amounted to £ 21,314.90 & €300.33
Weekly collection 30th December 2018 amounted to £ 7465.00 & €198.91
The Priests Dues Collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend.

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 & 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.**

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.**

Christmas/New Year Celebrations

Thanks to all who were involved in planning for the recent Christmas and New Year celebrations within the Parish. Thanks to the Sacristans, Choirs, Musicians, Soloists, Ministers of Word and Eucharist, Altar Servers and all who were involved in various ways. A special word of thanks to those who prepared the Cribs in each of the Churches and all who were involved in the decorating of the Churches so beautifully for the Christmas season. It was wonderful to see such numbers attend the various celebrations over the last few weeks and especially the Children's Celebration in St Patrick's Cathedral on Christmas Eve. Well done to the Choir from Mt St Catherine's Primary School and the Children's Liturgy Group from Tullysaran and indeed all the young people who joined for that lovely celebration. Finally, a word of thanks to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council for their ongoing work and commitment and for all the good work that they do for the benefit of our parish.

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.

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.

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.

Parish Contributions As we begin a new 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. We also wish to remind tax payers who haven't already signed up to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme to please do.

Holy Hour for Life in St. Malachy's Church on **Wed 9th Jan** 8pm-9pm. All welcome.

The Epiphany

"We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage". On the Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the world. On this special day, we ask that the glory of the Lord be revealed to us and to all who seek Jesus. We might think about our own journey. What "star" brought us there? What gifts did we leave there? What gifts were we given there? To celebrate the special feast, Masses will be at the usual Sunday times.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, TULLYSARAN

Novena Mass will resume on **Monday 7 January @ 7:30pm**

Months Mind Mass for Winnie Conlon on 5th January 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. *Thursday* Music- Fiddle 7-8pm- Tin whistle beginner 7-7.30pm, advanced 7.30-8pm. *Friday* Walk the Extra Mile exercise class for all ages & abilities @10.30am.

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

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.

New Parish Pastoral Council Commissioned On Saturday evening, our new Parish Pastoral Council was commissioned by Archbishop Martin at the Vigil Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral. We thank those in our parish who have agreed to serve for the coming term and we wish them well as they move forward, in helping to address many of the pastoral needs in our parish. The members of the new PPC are Maura Kelly (Chairperson), Anne Marie Baxter, Grainne Perry, Art O'Hagan, Patricia Boyle, Sheelagh Melville, Colette Brannigan, Kathy Donnelly, Mary McKenna, Geraldine Turley, Paul Parkes, Caoimhe McKee, Valerie McGeown, Marie McGorman, Sheila Leavy, Gerard McLaughlin and Kieran Kelly. The Mission Statement of the PPC is "**To support and challenge our community, in developing a more inclusive and vibrant parish, reflecting God's message of love, faith, compassion and mercy**".

Christian Unity Week The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place from 18 - 25 January. The theme chosen for this year is: "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" Throughout the Christian world, people of different denominations come together during this special week for conferences, prayer services & social gatherings. As we celebrate the week, we recall how an Episcopalian Franciscan priest from America, Fr Paul Watson, started these gatherings in 1908 by praying for Christian Unity. This year our Ecumenical Service will take place in St Patrick's RC Cathedral on **Wed 23 Jan** at 7.30pm. The guest preacher will be The Right Reverend Kenneth Good, Bishop of Derry & Raphoe. All are welcome to join for the special service.

PRAYER

God our Father, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit ever more deeply into our hearts and minds that we may think thoughts of peace, speak words that build up and do the truth always in love, the truth that sets us free, the truth that gives us hope. AMEN.

Catholic Schools Week From **Sun 27th Jan - Sun 3rd Feb**, we will celebrate Catholic Schools Week by reflecting on the work of our Catholic Schools and the impact they make on our communities. In our parish, we are indebted to all of our schools, which faithfully serve the families of our parish and beyond. We pay tribute to the principals, their teaching colleagues and the ancillary staffs for their commitment to the values of Catholic education and the enormous contribution they make to the life of our community. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2019 is *Celebrating the work of our Catholic Schools!*

Dates of First Penance 2018

St Patrick's Primary School Wednesday 14 March @ 6pm
St Malachy's Primary School Tuesday 27 February @ 6pm
Mt St Catherine's Primary School Tuesday 6 March @ 7pm
CBS Primary School Thursday 8 March @ 6pm
Our Lady's Primary School Tuesday 13 March @ 7pm
Saints & Scholars Primary School Wednesday 7 March @ 6pm