

ADYC The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place **12th–17th May**. The Armagh Diocesan Youth Commission will be leading young pilgrims, aged 16 – 18, at a reduced rate of €600.00, part of which can be fundraised. For info <http://www.armagharchdiocese.org/lourdes-2018/>

Diocesan Trip to Knock will take place on **Sunday 27th May 2018**. Further details to follow.

Medjugorje Monthly Prayer Meeting in Sacred Heart Convent on Tues. 9th Jan. at 8.15pm.

Retrouvaille – A Lifeline for Married Couples Do you want to improve the communication with your spouse? Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you hurt, frustrated or angry with your spouse? Does talking about it only make it worse? The Retrouvaille programme can help marriages at all stages. Next programme starts **2nd – 4th February 2018**. For information contact Tony & Anne (01) 495 3536, Mike & Anne (01) 450 0922, text or call 086 413 5440, or email iinfo@retrouvaille.ie or visit www.retrouvaille.ie.

A Mass for ‘Healing of the Family Tree’ will be celebrated by Fr Gerry Campbell at Armagh Holy Spirit Prayer Group on **Tuesday 16th January** at 8pm in the new SVP Centre, Chapel Lane (just off Ogle Street). All welcome to join us

Safe Church

Archbishop Eamon Martin and Archbishop Richard Clarke have entered into an initiative to raise awareness of **Domestic Violence and Abuse** and to provide a response within the church community.

It is appropriate that this is being launched on **‘White Ribbon Sunday’** which is an internationally designated day set aside to condemn this violence and abuse wherever it takes place. By supporting the **Safe Church Campaign** we pledge never to commit, condone or stay silent about Domestic Violence and Abuse.

Domestic Violence and Abuse occurs right across societies; it knows no boundaries with regard to age, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability.

The Safe Church campaign provides the opportunity for victims to confidentially access information to services available. Church personnel have received training to assist in directing victims towards available resources.

****REMINDER ****

Regarding Parishioners Entering a Church Sacristy

We would like to remind all parishioners of the necessity for ANYONE entering a sacristy in the Parish to sign the relevant book, with their name, time of entering and time of leaving. This is an important part of our safeguarding policies & procedures and we urge you to comply with this request. In the event of anyone refusing to sign the appropriate book, the sacristans have the authority to request the parishioner to leave the sacristy. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

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

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.



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 T 07895 460797
SVP Shop T 07518909929

7th January 2018

The Baptism of the Lord

Reflection

There are few of us who can recall the day of our Baptism. In the early Church, however, it was usually adults who were baptised. This followed a period of intense preparation which began during Lent and ended with the baptism of the new Christian at the great festival of Easter. When you attend the baptism of an infant today, you will see how its symbols contain all of the most important elements that explain and express what being a follower of Christ means.

At the beginning of the ceremony, we have the anointing with oil of catechumens on the child's breast. In the sports arenas of the ancient world, oil was used liberally by wrestlers and athletes to keep their bodies supple and to help them slip through the grasp of their opponents. Using oil in baptism reminds us of God's power and strength which we share and the support of God's help, to enable us escape the clutches of whatever evil things might hurt or enslave us on our journey through life. The oil is a power-filled symbol of God's partnership with the new Christian: "I have taken you by the hand ..." says the Lord.

The most readily understood symbol of baptism is water. We know that we could not survive without this precious gift which brings new life to the earth and freshens and cleanses us in so many ways. We are also aware of the destructive power of stormy waters and the devastation of heavy floods. The waters of baptism remind us not only of its fertile and cleansing powers, but of the mastery of God over life's turbulent and dangerous moments. We need only recall Jesus standing with outstretched hands over the angry waves saying, "Be still!" or reflect on the words of today's responsorial psalm: "The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of the waters...the voice of the Lord full of power...the Lord enthroned on the waters".

Towards the end of the ceremony, we use the oil of chrism, a reminder of the oil used to anoint prophets, priests and kings of old. It signified their authority and holiness. The newly baptised person is given grace to be a priest, a bringer of God to others, a prophet, one who speaks the Word of God especially in matters of justice; and finally a royal person, one who is very special, not because of royal blood, but because of what St Peter says to Cornelius in today's second reading: "The truth I have come to realise is that God does not have favourites". By virtue of our baptism, we are adopted as children of God and we are called to carry on the work of his Son, the beloved.

May the Lord enable us to be faithful to our baptismal commitments and witness to Gospel values in everything we do and say.

With every blessing
Rev P McAnenly Adm

RECENTLY DECEASED: Rose-ann Rooney, Maura McGleenan, Mary Donaghy, Johnny Poland, Rosie McKeown & Jim Grimley.
MONTHS MIND: Mary Dotters (10th) and Kitty Donnelly (11th)



Na Piarsaigh Óg Lotto: 6/8/9/14 One winner. Next weeks Jackpot £1100
Abbey Lotto: 17/24/27/28 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £2800
Tullysaran Lotto: 8/9/15/22 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot £2000
St Colmcilles GAC Lotto: 10/12/20/21 No winner. Next weeks Jackpot is £3950

Weekly collection 24.12.17 amounted to £7605.85 & €236.39

Hungry & Needy Collection 25.12.17 amounted to £22008.00 & €707.11

Weekly collection 02.01.18 amounted to £6070.52 & €105.85

The Priests Dues collection is being taken up at all Masses this weekend.

Church Collectors in St Patrick's Cathedral

In recent weeks there have been areas of St Patrick's Cathedral where the weekly collection hasn't been taken up. It's important that the weekly collection is taken up at all Masses. Anyone who is willing to help with taking up the collection in the Cathedral, at any of the Masses is asked to contact the Parish Office. All help/support will be greatly appreciated.

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

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.

Adoration Chapel Adorers needed to cover:
Mon: 8am; Wed: 11pm; Fri: 11pm; Sat: 5pm. Please contact Nora 37525265

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

Floral Society New members required to help with the floral arrangements in our Parish Churches. Anyone interested in assisting with this Parish Ministry is asked to contact Claire in the Parish Office.

AIFREANN NA GAELIGE: Léifear an chéad Aifreann eile, sa bhliain úr, Dé Sathairn 13ú Eanáir. **IRISH MASS:** The first Irish Mass after the Christmas Break will be on Saturday 13th January.

Home Visits/House Blessings. Should anyone

wish to arrange for one of the priests of the parish to visit their home or should anyone wish to arrange a House Blessing, please leave details at Parish Office so that the visit can be arranged.

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

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.

Parish Records Help us keep our system up-to-date by letting us know your change of address! If you've changed your address in the last year or are planning to soon, please call Claire in the Parish Office on 37522813

JOY Youth Group has restarted after the Christmas break. All young people aged 16-30 are welcome to join each Thursday at 7pm in the Cathedral Gate Lodge.

The Do this in Memory Programme continues for all Primary Four Pupils and their parents in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sat 13 Jan** at 7pm. Further dates for the programme: 10th Feb, 3rd March, 24th March, 14th April and 2nd June.

World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on **Sunday 14th January.**



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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, TULLYSARAN

ALL Baptisms & Weddings in Tullysaran must be booked in advance at Parish Office

Novena Mass The Novena Mass in Tullysaran will resume on Monday 8 January 2018.

Children's Liturgy Group will resume on Sunday 14th January 2018.

Parish Baptism Team In this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we thank the members of the Parish Baptism Team for the wonderful service they provide in our Parish. All parents who have a child for Baptism must do the Parish Baptism Course which takes place on the first Monday or the third Wednesday of each month in The Synod Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved with the Parish Baptism Team Ministry is asked to contact the Parish Office.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place from 18 – 25 January. The theme chosen for this year is: "That all may be free". Throughout the Christian world, people of different denominations come together during this special week for conferences, prayer services and 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 and our Ecumenical Service will take place in St Patrick's COI Cathedral, Armagh on Wednesday 24 January at 7.30pm. The guest preacher will be Fr Kieran McDermott, Administrator of St Mary's Pro Cathedral, Dublin. 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.

World Meeting of Families 2018 Whilst celebrations will be taking place without our own Parish in the coming months to prepare for the WMOF18, the main celebration will be taking place in Dublin from **Thurs 23rd—Sun 26th August**. Registration is important! If you wish to take part in WMOF2018 please register on www.worldmeeting2018.ie. This will assure you admission to the main celebrations in Dublin in 2018.

Charles Wood Summer School will take place from **Sunday 12th August - Saturday 18th August 2018.**

Parish Trip This years Parish Trip will take place from Monday 4th June - Thursday 7th June. Further details will be advertised soon.

Confirmation Dates

Saturday 19 May @ 2pm

St Malachy's PS

St Patrick's PS

Saints & Scholars PS

Sunday 20 May @ 2pm

Christian Brothers PS

Mt St Catherine's PS

Our Lady's PS

Friday 16th March @ 3pm

CBS Irish Medium

Dates of First Penance

St Patrick's PS - Wed 14 March @ 6pm

St Malachy's PS- Tues 27 Feb @ 6pm

Mt St Catherine's PS-Tues 6 March @ 7pm

CBS PS - Thurs 8 March @ 6pm

Tullysaran PS - Tues 13 March @ 7pm

Saints & Scholars PS - Wed 7 March @ 6pm

Important Dates for 2018

First Communion

Mt. St. Catherine's PS—Sun 29th April @ 11am

CBS Irish Medium - Sat 5th May @ 10am

CBS English Medium - Sat 5th May @ 11:30am

Our Lady's PS - Sun 6th May @ 10am

Saints & Scholars PS - Sat 12th May @ 11am

St. Malachy's PS - Sun 13th May @ 10am

St. Patrick's PS—Sun 13th May @ 11am

Blessing of the Graves 2018

Saturday 2 June Tullysaran Old Cemetery

Sunday 3 June Tullysaran New Cemetery

Friday 8 June Knockaconey

Sunday 24 June Armagh

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.