

Armagh Parish Holy Spirit Prayer Group meet on Tues at 8pm at SVP Centre for prayer & praise.

Armagh Cathedrals Partnership Advent Celebration An evening of Advent Meditation in music, prose, poetry & prayer will take place in The Market Place Theatre on Tues 11 Dec at 8pm with guest speaker Mr Francis Campbell, former British Ambassador to the Holy See. A Guest Choir & Traditional Group will be present on the evening. Admission: free, but booking is essential. To book tel. Market Place Theatre on 028 37521821.

St. Pio's Prayer Group next gathering on **Thurs 13th Dec** in St. Malachy's Church at 7:30pm. St Pio Relic available after Mass. All welcome.

St Joseph's Young Priests Society - ***please note change of date for next meeting*** Branch meeting on **Mon 10 Dec.** in St Vincent de Paul Centre, Chapel Lane immediately following 7.30 pm Mass in St Malachy's Church. All welcome.

Charity Christmas Fun Bingo in the Pearse Og Club **Sunday 9th Dec.** Admission £3 per book. Prizes inc. Turkey vouchers, hampers...etc. Entertainment & a special visit from Santa! Proceeds to Children's Orphanage & Sister Muriel, Medugorje.

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.

Mullacreevie Community Association need help with decorating their outdoor crib for the Christmas Season. Anyone willing to help or provide ideas, or donate large figurines, should contact Anne 07544426229

Mary's Meals wish to thank parishioners for the fantastic response to our Talks on 18th November. We are extremely appreciative of your ongoing support. Our Dobbin St base will be closed in December & January and 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.

Southern Area Hospice Annual Light up a Life Illumination Ceremony Dedicate a light on our tree this Christmas for Southern Area Hospice Services – **Tuesday 11th December** in The Palace Demesne, Armagh at 11am and all are welcome!

Big Buds Out of School Club in Mt. St. Catherine's P.S. 2pm-5.30pm. £2.50 per hour per child If interested can you call 02837511003, between the hours 2pm-5pm Mon-Fri.

Medjugorje Monthly Prayer Meeting in Sacred Heart Convent on **Tues 11th Dec** at 8.30pm.

Back on Track is a programme which supports children with additional educational needs (stage 1-3 of SEN Code of Practice) in primary schools in your area. We are looking for retired teachers or people who have experience in working with children to provide 1:1 support specifically in literacy and numeracy, on a voluntary basis. One morning per week (2-3 hours) is required for a minimum of 15 weeks and full induction will be provided. Please contact Kate at Sólás on 02890 247600, or email progs@solasbt7.com for further details and information pack.

St. Patrick's Primary School would like to extend an invitation to all prospective pupils (due to start primary school in September 2019) and their parents to our OPEN DAY which will take place on **Tuesday 11th December 2018**, commencing at 1.30pm with a performance of our Nativity Play by present Primary 1 children, followed by an opportunity to visit our Foundation Stage classrooms and meet with staff.

Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Unit next session will take place in St. Mark's Church, Crozier Hall on **Thurs 20th & Friday 21st Dec** 1:30pm-4pm & 5.15pm-8pm.

Anam Cara Armagh, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 19th of December at 7:20pm in the Armagh City Hotel, . This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not.

 **Na Piarsaigh Óg Lotto: 12/14/18/23.** Next week's Jackpot £1650
Abbey Lotto: 12/14/17/19. Next week's Jackpot is £1650
St Colmcilles GAC Lotto: 2/5/11/18 Next week's Jackpot is £2700
Tullysaran Lotto: 10/12/16/22 Next week's Jackpot £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

Second Sunday of Advent

Reflection

Dear Parishioners,

Reflecting on his Christmas childhood, the Monaghan poet Patrick Kavanagh calls to mind beautiful images that he associated with this holy season: "Mass going feet crunched the water-ice on the potholes". At this time of year, I think many people are inclined to reminisce on childhood and touch on memories that are often tinged with sadness. Older people will sometimes compare the simplicity of the past with the extravagance of the present.

While recognising that there is something seasonal about exchanging presents, a lot of people today dislike the commercialism and materialism that has almost smothered the real meaning of what we are celebrating. At the same time, we realise that many people in our world are barely able to live because they don't have the basic necessities of adequate food or clean water. In the face of such realities, we can feel guilty and helpless. Perhaps Trocaire's Global Gift Plan could very well be the answer: instead of giving someone what they don't want or don't need, you could consider giving a specially designed Gift Certificate. Starting from £9, Global Gifts include chicks, water, education, a fishing boat or a house. When you buy a Trocaire Gift, a family or community overseas will receive the gift you have purchased. Trocaire will then send you a Gift Certificate and Christmas Card which you can sign personally before passing it on. For more details contact Trocaire free phone 0800 912 1200 or visit www.trocaire.org

Another significant feature of this lovely season is the sound of Christmas Carols; the timeless quality of these beautiful hymns reminds us of the wonder and simplicity of the Incarnation – the fact that God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to live among us. Next Sunday we will have our annual Parish Carol Service in St Patrick's Cathedral at 5pm and I encourage parishioners to make a special effort to attend. There are other special evenings of Christmas music and carols taking place in the coming days in our parish as we continue our preparations for Christmas. In the meantime, we continue our Advent journey in joyful hope, trusting that the Lord will come to each of us in a personal way at this time.

With every blessing
Rev P McAnenly Adm

An Advent Prayer

In this season of waiting...we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we await Christ's second coming, but God waits for us too. God lives today and so...our first challenge is to bring Jesus to life in our own living, to become aware of His presence, the presence of the Spirit within us, prompting us, sustaining us, working through us, waiting for us.

Lord, when I am prideful, grant me humility. When I am blind, grant me sight. When I am troubled, grant me peace. When I am afraid, help me to be brave. All this, so my expectant heart can give birth to joy when You arrive, AMEN.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Patsy Duffy, Pat McKee and Catherine Morgan

MONTH'S MIND

Nancy Valley (14th) and Bernadette Thomas (15th)



Weekly Collection amounted to £7003.79 & €249.75

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 to cover: Tuesday at 9pm, Friday at 11pm, & Sunday at 11pm. Please contact Nora 37525265

Parish Carol Service in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sun 16th Dec** at 5pm. All families are encouraged to attend. The 5.30pm Mass will be celebrated in St Malachy's Church. **We encourage all children to bring along a gift to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Present Appeal.**

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

Annual St Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection will be taken up at all Masses in the parish this weekend.

Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning for Parish Volunteers: Church collectors, counters, flower arrangers, members of PPC, Finance Committee, Baptism Team, Shop Staff, Ministers of Word and Eucharist, Choirs, Soloists and anyone who is involved in ministry within our Parish - The Synod Hall on Monday 10 December at 10.30am.

Christmas Office Opening Hours The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas from 1pm on Friday 21 Dec and will reopen on **Monday 31 Dec**. The Office will also be closed on Tuesday 1 Jan. There will be no bulletin on the weekend of Sat 29/Sun 30 Dec. All notices for the Christmas/New Year period must be received by Claire at the Parish Office no later than 12noon on Wednesday 19 December.

Parish Pastoral Council publish new Children's Prayer Book! A lovely new Prayer Book "Children Pray with Me" has been produced by Armagh Parish Pastoral Council and it contains a variety of traditional prayers and prayers that we are familiar with as well as many new ones. It's hoped that children and families will use the Prayer Book regularly. Copies are now on sale in Armagh Cathedral Gift Shop. The Prayer Book costs £2.50 and it would be a lovely gift for children this Christmas.

An Hour of Prayer for Life in St Malachy's Church on **Wednesday 12th December** from 8pm to 9pm (following 7.30pm Mass)

Folk Mass in St. Malachy's Church at 12noon on **Sunday 9th December.**

Christmas at Cathedral Gift Shop A large selection of Parish Christmas Cards, cribs, ornaments & beautiful gifts are now on sale in the Cathedral Gift Shop. Call in to view the range and purchase some gifts this Christmas!

Do this in Memory the next Do this in Memory celebration will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sat 15 Dec** for all P4 Pupils and their parents.

JOB VACANCY

St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Armagh wishes to recruit a part-time Parish Groundsman—20 hours per week. A job description and job application is available from the Parish Office, Cathedral Gate Lodge, 41a Cathedral Road, Armagh, BT61 7QX. Telephone 028 3752 2813. Closing date for applications is **Friday 14th December 2018** at 12.00noon.

The Priests in Concert

The Priests are returning to St. Patrick's Cathedral to present their hugely popular Christmas Concert, featuring much loved classics & seasonal songs on Thurs 13th Dec @ 8pm. Tickets are £25 each and are now available to purchase in Armagh Parish Office (Cathedral Gate Lodge) and in Dungannon Parish Office.

As part of the celebration, 'Cantabellas' will return to St. Patrick's Cathedral to support 'The Priests' and will sing a few Christmas Carols on the evening.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, TULLYSARAN

Mass Novena Mass on Monday 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.

*** The Children's Liturgy Group intend to stage a living Nativity at the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. To prepare for this we request as many children as possible to attend on Sunday 16th December. Thank you, The Children's Liturgy Team.

Community Centre Activities / classes this week: Monday: Indoor Bowls 8-10pm; Tuesday: Bootcamp 7-8pm, Spin Class 8.15-9pm; 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 Christmas flower-arranging Fri 14 December @7pm. Text 07542509624 to book a place.

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

CHURCH OF ST. COLMCILLE, KNOCKACONEY

Knockaconey Youth Choir Carol Service on **Sun 23rd Dec.** commencing at 10.30am & concluding before Mass time at 11am.

Peace Light from Bethlehem

The Peace Light will be brought to St Patrick's Cathedral by our local Scouting Group on Sunday 23 December at 11am Mass. The light from Bethlehem reminds us of the light which came to the stable when He who is the Light of the World was born among us. It's our prayer that this light will be a sign of peace in our communities and here on our land. May the light that shines from the lamp, light up our hearts and the hearts of the people in all the countries to which it's being carried.

The Peace Light Prayer Light of Bethlehem: burn brightly in our hearts this Christmas. Light of Peace: heal the bitter wounds in our community and show us the path of forgiveness and love. Light of Joy: fill our homes with happiness – cast out the darkness of conflict or worry. Light of Comfort: strengthen the sick, the needy, the prisoners and all those who cannot be home on Christmas Day. Light of Hope: guide our way forward as we begin a New Year. Light of the World: teach us to love you more and more each day Light of Bethlehem: shine in our lives this Christmas and always. Amen.

Bambinelli Sunday in Armagh Parish For years, people have brought their Baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peter's Square on Gaudete Sunday (3rd Sunday of Advent) where the Pope has blessed both the people & the figurines before the Angelus. This year we will celebrate "Bambinelli Sunday" at the 7pm Vigil Mass on **Sat 15 Dec** & also at the Parish Carol Service on **Sun 16 Dec** in St Patrick's Cathedral. All are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to either celebration to be blessed. Families can even make their own "bambinelli" if they want & bring it along for the blessing. It's suggested that after the blessing people take their "bambinelli" home & place it in a gift box, wrap it & save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift your family opens at Christmas & together you place your Baby Jesus figure in the crib.

The Christmas Poinsettia – A gift in memory of a loved one this Christmas! The Poinsettia is a red or white plant which we often associate with Christmas. The shape of the poinsettia flower and its leaves symbolise the star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red coloured leaves symbolise the blood of Christ and the white leaves represent his purity. As we approach the celebration of Christmas and this season of giving, people might like to offer a gift of a poinsettia in memory of loved ones who have died. Poinsettias can be left at the Sacred Heart Altar in St Malachy's Church, Armagh anytime on **Wed 19 – Fri 21 Dec** and these will be used to help decorate the Church this Christmas.

Archdiocese of Armagh Pilgrimage to Lourdes is on the **16th-21st of May 2019.** We are holding our Christmas draw in the Synod Hall on the **16th of December @ 6pm.** First prize: 2 All Inclusive Tickets to Lourdes and many more Christmas surprises. £1 per ticket or book of 6 £5. Contact Ann for further info 07736415305.

Confessions in preparation for Christmas

Monday 17 – Friday 21 December (after the 10am Mass)

Tuesday 18 – Friday 21 December (after the 7.30pm Mass)

Saturday 22 December 12noon – 3pm in St Malachy's Church

Monday 17 December 7.30pm – Parish Penitential Service in St Malachy's Church and a number of priests will be present – no Mass on that evening.

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.