St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Armagh



www.armaghparish.net

Mass Times

St Patrick's Cathedral

Monday - Saturday: 10am Sunday Vigil: 6.30pm Sunday: 11am, 12.30pm & 5.30pm

St Malachy's Church

Tuesday - Friday: 8am Mon, Wed & Fri: 7:30pm Tues & Thurs: Prayer Service - 7:30pm Sunday: 8am & 9.30am

Church of the Immaculate Conception

Sunday: 10am

St Colmcille's Church Saturday: 6pm

Confessions in St Malachy's Church on Saturdays @ 12 noon.

Parish Contacts

Parochial House: 028 3752 2802 Emergency Phone: 07596 899 031

- Fr Barry Matthews, Adm E: barrynmatthews@gmail.com
- Fr Emmanuel Fasakin, MSP, CC E: emmafash725@yahoo.com
- Fr David Nugent, CC E: frdavidnugent@gmail.com
- Fr James Adawai, SMMM, CC E: jfaustin84@gmail.com
- **Deacon Paul Mallon** E: paul.mallon@tudublin.ie
- **Deacon Eunan McCreesh** E: eunan.mccreesh@gmail.com

Parish Office

Cathedral Gate Lodge, 41a Cathedral Rd. Tel: 028 3752 2813 Opening Hours: Mon - Friday: 10am-3pm

- Caroline Caherty, Finance Manager armaghparishfinance@gmail.com
- Claire Corr, Parish Secretary armaghparishoffice@gmail.com
- Thecla Brolly, Parish Safeguarding Tel: 07895 460 797 armaghparishsafeguarding@gmail.com

Sacristans: Roger Duggan, Gary McGuirk & Kieran Kelly

St Patrick's Cathedral: 028 3752 2638 St Malachy's Church: 028 3751 0516

Baptisms & Weddings - to book your baptism or wedding, please contact the Parish Office.

SVP Helpline: 07733 482604

Dear Friends,

Gaudete Sunday - today we celebrate and rejoice at the impending coming of Jesus Christ. Today we follow the tradition of blessing the 'Baby Jesus' or 'Bambinelli' figure from our home crib. Advent is a time of solemn preparation as we prepare our homes and our hearts to welcome Jesus anew on Christmas Day.

Today is an opportunity to reflect on that preparation - like St John the Baptist invites the early Christians, in today's Gospel we are called to look outward, ensuring that we share what we have with others and treat people with respect and fairness always. Christmas is a time where we are called to focus on the needs of others - we give gifts and alms, we reach out in friendship, all this in Christian hope.

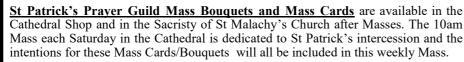
St Paul in the second reading notes how we should pray - if there is something we need - thank God for it! This is a call to trust - to trust God who walks with us every step of the journey through life. Trust, like prayer, is sometimes easier than other times - when we worry or are anxious, fearful or feeling isolated we can tend to wonder where God is - Advent is a time to recognise God all around us, in our friends and families, in our community and in all the blessings we receive. Advent reminds us that like Mary every time we receive the Eucharist with worthy souls, we too become the tabernacle of Jesus.

This Christmas please keep the message of Jesus' coming central to your celebrations. "Jesus is the reason for the Season!" I want to again invite you to join the faith community firstly this evening (Sunday) for our Cathedral Carol Service with the Cathedral Choir and the childrens choir 'Jubilus' and of course on Saturday next, December 21st after 10am Mass for our Parish social and draw. Please spread the word.

> Wishing you a blessed week, Fr Barry Matthews Adm.

Anniversaries & Month's Mind Masses 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. Anniversaries are read out at all Masses on weekday or one Sunday Mass. Months Minds will be remembered at the 12:30pm Mass on Sunday following the Months Mind. We request that you leave your anniversary in as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

St Patrick's Cathedral Gift Shop The Cathedral Gift Shop is open each day from 10.30am - 1.30pm and it stocks a lovely variety of cards and gifts for special occasions, including traditional Irish crafts and gifts and souvenir booklets on the Cathedral. We are now stocking a large selection of Christmas Cribs, gift items and Christmas Mass Bouquets. Beautiful Christmas Prayer Guild Cards are now in stock ideal for sending abroad. Give the gift of Faith this Christmas. Christmas Mass Bouquets are available in the Sacristy of St Malachy's Church



Visitation Anyone wishing to receive a visit from a Priest or have a house blessing are invited to leave their contact details in the Parish Office. Anyone who is aware of a family member, friend or neighbour who is housebound are invited to let the Parish Office know to ensure those most in need are attended to. Family Members are reminded to ensure that their loved ones in Hospital are seen by the Hospital Chaplain on duty and that they receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

Weekly Collection £5721 & €110.80

RECENTLY DECEASED

We pray for: Peter McCrory. Theresa McKillion, Moira Fitzpatrick, Malachy Lennon and John Haughey.

MONTHS MIND

We pray for: Ann Darling (21st)

May they rest in peace.

Advent Reflections On each of the four Sundays of Advent you are invited to join in St Malachy's Church at 7pm for an hour of Christmas Vigil Masses Adoration & prayer reflecting on the figures in the crib. This is a St Patrick's Cathedral - 6:30pm & 11pm lovely opportunity to reflect on how you too can be part of the St Colmcille's Church - 6pm nativity story in our world today.

Christmas Food Hampers Thank you to everyone who have contributed so generously towards our Christmas Hamper Appeal. The hampers will be distributed through our outreach partners this week to individuals and families within the community. This is a wonderful initiative and one that is based on the Gospel value of sharing what we have to make a more equal society. Your contribution will make an important difference to someone this Christmas.

The Fundraising Campaign The campaign to raise much needed St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am funds for the renovation of the Cathedral is ongoing - thanks to all those who have supported us to date. Anyone who is in a position to support the fundraising please contact Fr Barry. Maybe it is an opportunity to remember a loved one who has died by making a gift St Malachy's Church - 7:30pm - Mass of the Angels in their name.



Eucharistic Adoration takes place each day in St Malachy's Church from after Mass (8:30am weekdays) until evening (7pm weekdays - 5pm weekend). Please sign Sunday 29th December - Feast of the Holy Family the attendance sheet in the Church & encourage family & friends to engage with this special apostolate. Adoration Normal Sunday Schedule including Vigil Masses from 7-10pm each Tuesday in the Adoration Chapel.

Prayer for Vocations O Jesus, send labourers into your fields, which are awaiting holy apostles, saintly priests, heroic missionaries and dedicated sisters and brothers. Enkindle in the hearts of men and women the spark of a vocation. Grant that Christian families may desire to give your Church, helpers in the work of tomorrow. Amen.

Christmas Book Willie Nugent's new Christmas book "Maisie Wednesday 1st January - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Comes to the Rescue" is now on sale in a number of local shops including the Cathedral Gift Shop. See local press and Armagh I for details. Entire proceeds for charity.



Christmas Draw Tickets are £10 each or 3 for £20 and Armagh Parish Penitential Service for Christmas will take place on Parish Office, Parish Shop, the Sacristies of the Churches and on the Parish Website. Anyone with Confessions on Saturday 15th & 22nd December in St Malachy's outstanding tickets, please return to the Parish Church at 12noon-3pm.

Parish Christmas Social All are welcome to join us for Mass at 10am on Saturday 21st December followed by refreshments in the Synod Hall. Music by Westenders Ukulele Group. Parish Draw Winners will be drawn!

St Colmcille's Church Christmas Get-Together All are welcome to join on Saturday 21st December for our Christmas Get-Together in Lord Jesus, Knockaconey. Beginning at 4pm in St. Colmcille's GFC with Master of both the light and the darkness, Christmas Carols and refreshments, followed by a Carol Service at 5:30pm and Holy Mass at 6pm in St. Colmcille's Church.

December at 12noon and will reopen on Thursday 2nd January at 10am. Any anniversaries that fall within this time should be submitted to the Parish Office no later than Thursday 19th December.

Anam Cara the organisation that supports bereaved parents will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Wed 18th Dec at 7.30pm in kingdom. the Armagh City Hotel. This event is free and open to all bereaved We whose hearts are heavy seek parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of the joy of your presence. their death, or how recent their death was. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie

are on display in the Synod Hall and can be viewed before and after

Christmas Schedule

Church of the Immaculate Conception - 7:30pm St Malachy's Church - 8:30pm

Christmas Day

St Patrick's Cathedral - 11am & 12:30pm St. Malachy's Church - 8am & 9:30am Church of the Immaculate Conception - 10am St. Colmcille's Church - 10am



St Stephen's Day - Thursday 26th December

Friday 27th December

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

Saturday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Innocents

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

and Opening of Jubilee of Hope at 11am

Monday 30th December

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am St Malachy's Church - 7:30pm

Tuesday 31st December

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am (No prayer service in St Malachy's Church)

St Patrick's Cathedral - 11am

Confessions for Christmas

the 1st prize is £5,000. Tickets are available in the Tuesday 17th December at 7:30pm in St. Malachy's Church.

Do This in Memory Programme will take place at the 6:30pm Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) for all P4 Pupils and their parents.

Prayer for Advent

send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many

long for the complete joy of your

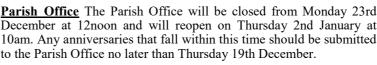
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.







Christmas Cribs Thanks to all those who donated cribs. The cribs our weekend Masses.