

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**
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 • **Deacon Paul Mallon**
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 • **Deacon Eunan McCreesh**
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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**
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 • **Thecla Brolly, Parish Safeguarding**
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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

St Patrick's Prayer Guild Mass Bouquets and Mass Cards are available in the Cathedral Shop and in the Sacristy of St Malachy's Church after Masses. The 10am Mass each Saturday in the Cathedral is dedicated to St Patrick's intercession and the intentions for these Mass Cards/Bouquets will all be included in this weekly Mass.

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 Adoration & prayer reflecting on the figures in the crib. This is a lovely opportunity to reflect on how you too can be part of the 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 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 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 the attendance sheet in the Church & encourage family & friends to engage with this special apostolate. Adoration 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 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 the 1st prize is £5,000. Tickets are available in the Parish Office, Parish Shop, the Sacristies of the Churches and on the Parish Website. **Anyone with outstanding tickets, please return to the Parish Office.**

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 Knockaconey. Beginning at 4pm in St. Colmcille's GFC with Christmas Carols and refreshments, followed by a Carol Service at 5:30pm and Holy Mass at 6pm in St. Colmcille's Church.

Parish Office The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 23rd 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 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 how recent their death was. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie

Christmas Cribs Thanks to all those who donated cribs. The cribs are on display in the Synod Hall and can be viewed before and after our weekend Masses.

Christmas Schedule
Christmas Vigil Masses
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 6:30pm & 11pm
 St Colmcille's Church - 6pm
 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
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

Friday 27th December
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am
 St Malachy's Church - 7:30pm - Mass of the Angels

Saturday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Innocents
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

Sunday 29th December - Feast of the Holy Family and Opening of Jubilee of Hope at 11am
 Normal Sunday Schedule including Vigil Masses

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)

Wednesday 1st January - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 St Patrick's Cathedral - 11am

Confessions for Christmas
 Armagh Parish Penitential Service for Christmas will take place on Tuesday 17th December at 7:30pm in St. Malachy's Church.

Confessions on Saturday 15th & 22nd December in St Malachy's Church at 12noon-3pm.

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
 Lord Jesus,
 Master of both the light and the darkness,
 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 ways
 long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
 We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
 We are your people,
 walking in darkness,
 yet seeking the light.
 To you we say,
 "Come Lord Jesus!"
 Amen.

