

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Armagh

25th December 2024



Merry
CHRISTMAS

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.

Christmas and New Year Mass Times

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—Thurs 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

Normal Sunday Schedule inc. Vigil Masses

Monday 30th December

St Patrick's Cathedral - 10am

St Malachy's Church - 7:30pm

Tuesday 31st December - Feast of the Holy Family

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

Contact Numbers:

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The Parish Office is closed for the Christmas
Break and will reopen on Tues 2nd Jan at 10am.

Dear Parishioners

This year in our Parish we have focused particularly on the Nativity. We have re-ordered our Church Cribs and indeed have undertaken a lovely display of cribs in the Synod Hall. Our focus on the cribs has enabled us to identify ourselves there present with Jesus in the simplicity of the stable in Bethlehem.

Each of us know what it is like to be fragile, to need to be cared for and through His birth in such a simple and humble setting Jesus reminds us that even when we are most fragile we are close to Him. This last year has had its usual highlights and low points in all aspects of life but we look back on it with a sense of gratitude that whatever cross we carried, we carried it with Jesus.

The community spirit that was displayed in our parish over the last year has been truly inspirational, of course a highlight for many in our community was the return of Sam Maguire to Armagh, but we have also had many other reasons to celebrate and many of these focus on our young people - our younger parishioners inspire us in so many ways and we thank God for them and pray that they will remain close to God throughout their lives.

On Sunday next we will have a special Mass to mark the opening of the Jubilee of Hope. Pope Francis has proposed that our world is in need of a renewed focus on hope. Indeed Pope Francis is a somewhat lone voice in identifying the need for a renewal of our consciousness of what brings us hope in the world where we see bloodshed and persecution, war and violence, political unrest and social isolation all around us.

This Christmas time is an opportunity for each of us to hope! I found myself looking up the dictionary to get the definition of hope and I found it as "an expectation or desire for a particular thing to happen" and "a feeling of trust". Our relationship with Jesus brings us hope because we trust that He is present and alive in our lives - we trust that God has a plan for us and that plan is a good one.

"The first sign of hope should be a true desire for peace in our world" Over the last year Pope Francis as we as our local Church leaders have focused on the need to stop the bloodshed and violence which befalls so many in our world - in our own Cathedral last Christmas Archbishop Eamon lit our Peace Candle - a perpetual candle lit to remind us of the need to pray for Peace daily. So many people now can not see that prayer is our hope - simply because God listens to our prayer. God is more powerful than any other existence and the light of Jesus can illuminate any darkness in the world - but we must pray, we must ask God. The war and violence that befalls the world is a sign of mans inhumanity to our brothers and sisters.

This Christmas my hope for you is that you identify yourself in the crib, like Mary each time we receive the Eucharist we become the tabernacle of Jesus - each time we stand protecting someone we love we reflect the example of St Joseph - each time we lead others to Jesus, we are like the guiding star - each time we come into God's presence we are like the shepherds, responding to God's invitation - each time we use our gifts for the betterment of others we are like the wise men protecting and honouring Jesus as we work in His name.

Whatever way you spend Christmas this year, I wish that you may be reminded of the love that God has lavished on you by calling you His chosen one - I wish that you might have the courage to ensure that there is room in your home to welcome Jesus and I hope that you may be filled with the reassurance that god is present in your life directing you towards his wonderful plan for you.

On behalf of the Parish team, I wish you every blessing and peace this Christmas and a desire that 2025 will be a year filled with hope and joy.

Fr Barry Matthews Adm.

