



NEWSLETTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A

Matthew 4:1-11

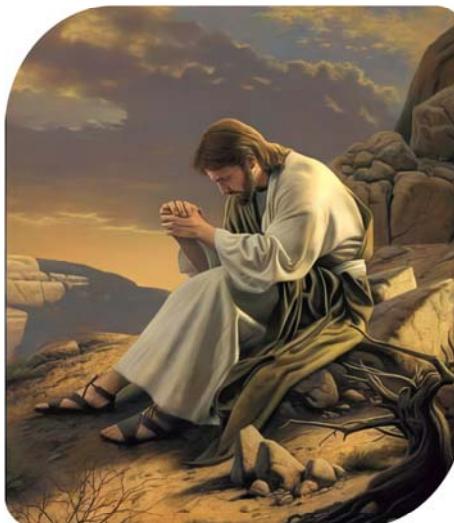
Sunday 22nd February 2026

A few thoughts for simple reflection on this first Sunday of Lent



The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness and why?

If you go therefore to the desert to be rid of all the dreadful people and all the awful problems in your life, you will be wasting your time. You should go to the desert to see more and see better. One goes to the desert especially to take a closer look at the things and people one would rather not see, to face situations one would rather avoid, to answer questions one would rather forget. – From ‘*Mediations on the Sand*’ by **Alessandro Pronzato**’



In this desert of solitary prayer, Jesus is tempted. If we look more closely at these temptations, we see that the devil seized on the moment between what Jesus knew about himself and what he was experiencing. Jesus knew he was the Son of God. But if you are, says the devil, you should not be hungry, you should not be powerless, you should not be alone. And what does Jesus do? He places his divine nature to one side and takes his place on the side of the poor, the abandoned, the weak, “worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.” ... therefore Jesus goes into the desert, therefore he fasts; therefore he leaves behind everything else that a person needs even for bare existence, so that for this once not just in the depths of his heart but in the whole range of his being he can do and say what is the first and last duty of humankind – to find God, to seek God, to belong to God to the exclusion of everything else that makes up human life. - **Karl Rahner**

If some temptation arises in the place where you dwell, do not leave that place in time of temptation. For if you leave it then, no matter where you go, you will find the same temptation waiting for you. – **Theophan the Recluse**.

Mass Times

Cathedral:

Monday to Friday 7.40am, 11am & 7.30pm
Saturday 11 am & Vigil 6.30pm
Sunday 8am, 9.30am & 11.30am
www.ennisparish.com/webcam
Radio link:106.4fm

St. Joseph's:

Monday to Friday 10.30am
Saturday 10.30am & Vigil 7pm
Sunday 10.30am & 11.45am
www.ennisparish.com/our-parish/stjosephs-church-webcam

Friary:

Monday to Saturday 10am
Vigil Mass Saturday 7.30pm
Sunday 10.30am
www.ennisparish.com/our-parish/franciscan-friary-webcam/

Christ the King - Cloughleigh

Monday to Friday 9.30am
Sunday 11am

Anniversary Masses and Baptisms are booked through the Parish Office: 065 6824043 (office hours).

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Cathedral & Friary:

Cathedral: Monday to Friday 7pm to 7.25pm
Saturday after the Vigil Mass
Friary: Tuesday to Saturday 11-12 noon & 4-5pm

Baptisms

Can be booked through the Parish Office.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday to Friday in the Cathedral from 5pm until 7pm

Phone Numbers:

Cathedral:- 6824043;
Email: info@ennisparish.com
St. Joseph's:- 6829584
Cloughleigh:- 6797 489;
Friary:- 6828751

Ennis Parish Web Site:
<http://www.ennisparish.com>
Facebook:
<http://facebook.com/ennisparish>



Lent
a season of
Faith, Hope and Love



Priest on Duty 22nd February, 2026
Contact Fr. Pat Malone - 065 6869098



Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat: 6.30pm: Patricia Tuohy, Considine Rd.
Sheila Guerin, Woodstock House, Shanaway. **1st Anniv**
 David, Noreen & Alan Seery, Davitt Tce.
 Christy Shannon, Hermitage &
 Shannon & Hewitt Families.
 Nancy, Tommy & Alice Cunningham, St. Michael's Vls.
 Mary Lynch & Lynch Family, Caherbarna, Liscannor.
 Francis Lyons, Golf Links Rd.
Sun 22nd 8am: Gerard Keane, St. Anne's Tce.
9.30am: Tony Dargan & Siobhán Colleran, Limerick Rd.
 Tess Moloney, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.
11.30am: James & Mary McMahon, Summerhill.
 Pat Jones, College Park.
 Donal Ryan, Cusack Rd.
 Senan Sheehan, Clare Rd.
 Cillian O'Sullivan & Ellen Rasdale.
 Bob Meehan, Kent, UK.
1pm: Mass for Ukrainian Community.
Mon 7.40am: Holy Souls.
11am: No intention booked.
7.30pm: Monica Sheridan, Hermitage.
 Marian, Mick & Michael Molloy, St. Michael's Villas.
Tues: 7.40am Book of Intentions.
11am: Kitty & John Looney, Kilmihil.
7.30pm: Peter Walsh, Corrovorrin.
Wed 7.40am: No intention booked.
11am: Johnny Purcell, Ard na Gréine.
 Patrick, Mary & Patrick Jr. Quigley,
 Ballinacarra, Kilfenora.
7.30pm: Tom Flynn, Golf Links' Rd.
 Carmel Quearly, Dalcassian Drive.
Thurs 7.40am: No intention booked.
11am: T. Kenny, Rathflynn, Corofin.
7.30pm: Eddie Mulqueen, Considine Rd. **MM.**
 Anne Marie & Richard McInerney, New York.
6pm: First Sacrament & Reconciliation - Holy Family NS
Fri 7.40am: Mass for the People.
11am: No intention booked.
12 noon: Confirmation - Gael Scoil Mhicil Ciosog.
7.30pm: Nancy McMullen, McNamara Park. **MM.**
 John Lynch, St. Michael's Villas. **MM.**
 Patrick Murphy, Bernan House, Circular Rd.
Sat: 11am: Francie Keane, Golf Links' Rd. **1st Anniv.**
 Susie & Mary Mooney, Brosna, Co. Kerry.
 Daniel, Ellen, John & Eddie Kelly &
 Tom O'Sullivan, Clare & Tipperary.
 Nora & John McGrath, Considine Rd.
 Dr. Aidan & Rosaleen Spooner, Clonroad Mews.
 Louis Sheehan, Clare Road & Florida.
6.30pm: Canon Pat Taaffe.
 Mary MM & PJ Finucane, Shanaway Rd.
 Terry & Michael O'Donohue, Edenvale, Kilrush Rd.
 Marion Sheill, Friars' Close.
 Gerard McNamara, Corrovorrin Crescent.
 Patrick Hurson, Summerhill.
 Maura & Micheál Frawley, Cahercalla.
Sun 1st 8am: Costelloe & O'Donoghue Families,
 Ennis & Cork.
9.30am: Deceased Loughnane Family, Tulla.
11.30am: Phil & James Barrow, Drumcliffe.
 Patricia & Margaret Graham, 'Prague', Cusack Rd.
 Fiona Howard, Rockmount.
 Martin & Brid Moloney, Clare Rd..
 Padraig Walsh, Cork & Mayo & Greene & Walsh Families.
1pm: Mass for the Polish Community.

Cathedral Renovation Appeal

In the past week Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge donations of €10, €50 and €50. Your generosity to the Cathedral Renovation Appeal is much appreciated. Thank you

Confirmation



Bishop Fintan will celebrate his first Confirmation of the year on Friday at 12 noon in the Cathedral when he will confirm the buachaillí agus caillí of Gael Scoil Mhicil Ciosog.

Our Lenten Journey



Morning Prayer

Monday to Friday 7.30am Cathedral

Daily Mass

Seven daily Masses to choose from in the parish.

7.40am	Cathedral
7.45am	Poor Clares'
9.30am	Cloughleigh
10am	Friary
10.30am	St. Joseph's
11am	Cathedral
7.30pm	Cathedral

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday to Friday 5pm—7pm
 Late Nights Monday 8pm—10pm
 with a priest available for Confession, Chat or Blessing.

Confession - Cathedral

Monday to Friday 7pm-7.25pm
 Saturday after 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Confessions - The Friary

Tuesday to Saturday
 11am to 12 noon & 4pm—5pm

Late night Confessions

Mondays 8pm—10pm

Stations of the Cross

Friday at Cathedral 8pm

Adult Faith Development

Three Mondays of Lent
 23rd February, 2nd and 9th March
 from 8pm to 9pm in Clarecastle Daycare Centre.



St. Joseph's

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat 7pm: David Geraghty, Kincora Park. **1st Anniv.**
 Kathleen Reilly, Corrovorrin Crescent.
Sun 22nd 10am: Patrick O'Donovan, The Crescent.
 Kyle O'Donovan, London.
 Maura Cavanagh, Pine Grove.
11.45am: Declan Ensko, Kevin Barry Ave. **MM.**
 Brendan Armstrong, Mountain View.
 Michael Fallon, Willow Park.
Mon 10.30am: No intention booked.
Tues 10.30am: Book of Intentions.
Wed 10.30am: James, Bridget & Michael Murphy,
 Kilkerrin, Labasheeda.
2pm: St. Anne's School Enrolment.
Thu 10.30am: Anna & Eddie Casey, Marian Avenue.
 Willie Moloney, Boston, USA.
Fri 10.30am: No intention booked.
Sat: 10.30am: No intention booked.
7pm: Susan Cosgrove, Fernhill, Gort Rd.
Sun 1st 10am: Matthew & Katherine Clune,
 Ballymacahill.
11.45am: Mary Curtin, Willow Park.
 Michael McGuane, Corofin.



Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sun 22nd 11am: Edward & Mary Hayes, Hermitage.
 Lucille Hayes, Bridge Court & Cloughleigh.
 Special Intention.
Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.
Sun 1st 11am: Special Intention.

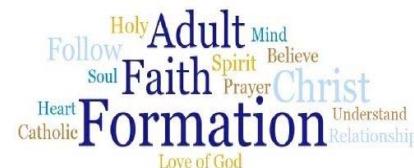


First Confession

The children of the Holy Family School will celebrate the Sacrament at 6pm on Thursday in the Cathedral.

Please note no Adoration on Thursday.

Adult Faith Formation



All welcome to the Clarecastle Day Care Centre for three Mondays of Lent 23rd February, 2nd and 9th March from 8pm to 9pm for a time of reflection and discussion.

Online Auction

Mile Buíochas

This year's online auction raised €8,566. Our thanks to Joanne and Margaret and their team who put in many hours to make it happen. To all who donated items for the auction and to those whose bid was successful. All proceeds going to the Cathedral Renovation Appeal.

Cora's Coffee Morning for John Conroy's Hospice Jinja, Uganda



Cora from our Parish Office is going to Uganda this July to volunteer with John Conroy's Hospice Jinja Project.

Cora is paying all her own expenses and any funds raised will go directly to Hospice Jinja Account.

A Fundraising Coffee Morning is being held at the Cathedral Chapter Room after 9.30am and 11.30am Masses on Sunday 8th March. Your generosity is much appreciated for this very worthy charity. Every donation, no matter how small can make a difference. All welcome.

Graduates! Don't lose your Seanad Vote
Irish citizens with degrees from designated 3rd level colleges are eligible to vote in the "HIGHER EDUCATION CONSTITUENCY" which replaces the NUI and Trinity panels in Seanad Éireann.

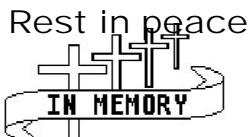
Thousands of previous voters are unaware that they have been removed from the register.

To secure your vote, go to www.seanadvoter.ie before 26th February. Evidence of a passport is needed or else email applications@seanadvoters.ie

Down Syndrome Fundraiser

Clare and Shannon Cycling Club extend an invitation to all cyclists to participate in our yearly Odd Socks Cycle in aid of Down Syndrome Clare. The Cycle takes place on Sunday 22nd March. Roll out from 9.30am at Shannon Comprehensive. 50km and 100km routes to choose from. Cyclists will enjoy great views of Shannon Estuary and many lakes.

All funds raised go directly to Down Syndrome Clare. Link to sign up is: <https://eventmaster.ie/event/qgRVfP7SQq>.



Michael Spellissy, Considine's Road,

Sr Regina Lewis, Poor Clare Monastery, Francis St.;

Packie Keane, Considine's Terrace;

George MacNamara, Phoenix Court, Kilrush Road & Corofin;

Lucy Collins, Dublin, granddaughter of Jim & Tess Drudy, Pine Grove and daughter of Denise & Anthony.

Jimmy Golding, Balla, Co. Mayo, father of Tonya Melody, Shanaway Rd.

Brian Barry, St. Senan's Rd. Funeral Mass in the Cathedral on Monday at 11am

Lourdes Pilgrimages 2026



Our Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Fintan will depart Shannon Airport on Wednesday 24th June for 5 days. €990pp includes full board.

Our Diocesan Autumn Pilgrimage is from Monday 28th September to Saturday 3rd October. €960pp includes full board.

To reserve a seat please call Joe Walsh Tours, 89 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 D02UY88; Tel (01) 2410800 or joewalshtrips.ie for more details.

A limited number of assisted pilgrims will be accommodated on the June Pilgrimage. €890 is the cost for this section. A Medical Declaration form must be completed and those interested in this section are asked to apply to Ms Mary Freeman, Pilgrimage Secretary (087) 9777896 or marybfreeman@gmail.com

Sponsor a Sick Person

Each year some people sponsor a sick or assisted pilgrim to make their wish of travelling to Lourdes become a reality. The cost €890 per pilgrim.

To sponsor or part sponsor a pilgrim, please contact Fr. Tom Ryan, Pilgrimage Director (087) 2349816.



Trócaire Boxes are now available in all churches. Please take one and share with family and neighbours. Trócaire gives us the opportunity each Lent to share with the poor, to appreciate all that we have and take for granted and makes us more conscious of our obligations.



The Annual Matt Talbot Novena will continue on Wednesday, February 25th at 7pm in Tulla Church with Mass & Benediction. Fr. Robert McCabe will be the celebrant on the night.

Currently working in Navan as the Central Spiritual Director of the Pioneer Association and as a former Military Chaplain, he has served with Irish Peacekeeping Forces in Lebanon, Kosovo, Liberia and Chad.

Attending this Novena could be a meaningful Lenten commitment.



Sr. Regina Lewis

Sr. Regina Lewis entered the Poor Clare Community, in Ennis in 1961. She was a native of Co. Clare and enjoyed everything Irish!

An invitation from Australian Poor Clares to make a joint Foundation to Papua New Guinea found Sr. Regina among the small band of four Irish sisters joining four Australian sisters embarking on a new Foundation to Papua New Guinea in 1971. The sisters have been in New Guinea for the last 55 years and the community have expanded to 8 indigenous sisters and now one remaining Australian sister.

Less than two years ago Regina returned to Ireland on sick leave, but still her desire was to return to PNG and to the many people who shared her life, supporting her in her fruitful, missionary and contemplative vocation.

The Lord had other plans for her. She experienced ill health and eventually was confined to a wheelchair. All within a week spent in hospital, she met Her Great Love on Valentine's Day! Wasn't Regina a person of coincidence?

She had a lively and engaging personality and gracefully accepted all that lay ahead of her in her final illness. We know for many days we will talk of her escapades, adventures, and endless stories, of which there are many.

Regina passed away in the early hours of the morning of 14th February 2026. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday among her family, friends, brother friars, Bishop Fintan Monahan and a large number of clergy.

We know that Regina went calmly and peacefully, "for she had a *good escort* for her journey – *the King of Glory*". St. Clare

Free Meditation Practice

Free Meditation Practice every Thursday Night 7pm–8pm in Clonroad Business Park.

"Be still and Know"

Tel, 086 8552820 for info.

Ennis Parish Development Fund for Sunday 15th February 2026

Fund **€5,068.00**
Online **€826.00**

Today's Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

PENITENTIAL RITE

- P. Have mercy on us, O Lord
- C. For we have sinned against you.
- P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
- C. And grant us your salvation.
- P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
- C. Amen.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden, which is in the east; and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, "Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?"

The woman answered the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death." Then the serpent said to the woman, "No! you will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like Gods, knowing good and evil." The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loincloths.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

*Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we have sinned.*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
Put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
Nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

*Give me again the joy of your help;
With a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
And my mouth shall declare your praise. R*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Rm 5.12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, O Christ,
king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
But on every word
that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory!*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Mt 4.1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

*Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God.*

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their
hands
in case you hurt your foot against a
stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:
You must not put the Lord your
God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your
God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, the angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

*One does not live by bread alone, but by
every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.*