

ENNIS PARISH

NEWSLETTER

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

YEAR C

LOVE

22nd December 2024

Celebration is an attentive and gracious joy of presence. When you celebrate, you are taking time to recognize, to open your eyes and behold in your life the quiet miracles and gifts that seek no attention; yet each day they nourish, shelter, and animate your life. The art of belonging in, with, and to your self is what gives life and light to your presence; it brings a radiance to your countenance and a poise to your carriage. When your heart is content, your life can always find the path inwards to this deep stillness in you.

ohn O'Donohue xcerpt from ETERNAL ECHOES



**Mary greets Elizabeth
In a moment of
"attentive and gracious
joy of presence"**



"Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled"

The moment Mary greeted Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-44) these words uttered by Elizabeth referring to Mary as the one blessed by her 'belief' in God's promise. The fruits of this blessed belief' resided deep within

and would be born as God's promise to humanity, as God's promised son, Messiah. His God given gift, in fulfilling this promise of God, to be born to us as the messenger of peace and forgiveness ... reflecting a Love only God could promise ... a Love that would last the ages and beyond .. An eternal embrace.

With Mary as our guide, blessed we will be to believe the promise made us by the Lord would be fulfilled. For us on this fourth Sunday of Advent our pilgrim journey to Christmas nears its goal .. To celebrate being blessed with the belief that we celebrate God's promise fulfilled , not just in Bethlehem all those years ago, but again and again as we encounter each other as Mary and Elizabeth encountered each other recorded in today's Gospel.

From the first Sunday of Advent we have marked each Sunday's themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and today's theme 'Love' paving the way for us to see the birth of Christ as humanity's life caught up in divine eternal life. That we might look to these coming days in trust, surrender and belief. The babe of Bethlehem held that promise, a promise to be fulfilled on Calvary's Cross. May the babe of Bethlehem, same Risen Christ of Easter morning, fulfill his promise for those caught up in eternal life.

Mass Times

**Cathedral-www.ennisparish.com/webcam
Radio link:106.4fm**

Monday to Friday 7.40am, 11am & 7.30pm
Saturday 11 am & Vigil 6.30pm
Sunday 8am, 9.30am & 11.30am

St. Joseph's- www.ennisparish.com/our-parish/stjosephs-church-webcam

Monday to Friday 10.30am
Saturday 10.30am & Vigil 7pm
Sunday 1 0am & 11.45am

Friary-www.ennisparish.com/our-parish/franciscan-friary-webcam/

Monday to Saturday 10am
Vigil Mass Saturday 7.30pm
Sunday 10.30am

Christ the King Oratory Cloughleigh

Monday to Friday 9.30am
Sunday 11am

www.ennisparish.com

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 will take place
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://www.facebook.com/ennis.parish>



Priest on Duty 22nd December, 2024
Contact: Fr. Tom Ryan 065 6869098



Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

6.30pm: Vera Madden, St. Flannan's Drive. MM.
 Michael O'Brien, Ballybeg.
 Michael McNamara, McNamara Park.
 Brian Malone, Ennis.
 Fiona Knox, Clarecastle.
 Noel Scanlan, Willow Park.

Sun 22nd 8am: Edmund Cahill, Corofin.

9.30am: Michael Bugler, Ballygireen.
 Josephine Carr, Ned Purcell & decd Carr & Purcell family.

11.30am: Joe Callinan, Gallows Hill,
 John Costin, Gallows Hill.
 George & Margaret McMahon, St. Michael's Villas.
 Lily Cusack, Parnell St. & Mary Cleere, Tubber.
 Maureen Martin, Woodstock View, Shanaway Rd.
 Patsy & Pauline Guerin, McNamara Park.
 Paddy & Mary Cullinan, Tubber.

1pm: Mass for Ukrainian Community.

6.30pm: Mass for Polish Community.

Mon: 7.40am: Michael Flynn, Miltown Malbay.

11am: Elizabeth Holmes & Bernard Kennedy.
 Catherine Ryan, nee Lyons & decd Lyons family.
 Stephen & Eileen O'Sullivan, Cork and Stephen O'Sullivan, Ruan.
 Frankie Hogan, St. Flannan's Terrace.
 Michael McGuane, Corrovorrin Drive;
 Mary, Denis, Pat Joe Kelly, Kinturk, Connolly.

7.30pm: Jackie, Patricia, Declan & Ann Hayes & Phylis O'Grady, McNamara Park.

Tues: 7.40am Book of Intentions.

11am: Thomas & Margaret Collins, Honan's Tce.
 T.S Joseph, India.

Christmas Eve: 4.30pm—First Mass of Christmas.

6.30pm: Vigil Mass

9pm: Vigil Mass

Midnight: Mass for the Polish Community

Christmas Day: 8am, 9.30am, 11.30am

Thurs: No 7.40am Mass

11am: Gerard O'Meara, Tulla Rd.
 Anna Murphy, Ashfield Park.

7.30pm: Tommy Jordan, Drumbiggle Drive.

4pm: St Michael's Football Club.

Fri: No 7.40am Mass

11am: Mass for the People.

7.30pm: Freddy Ensko, Turnpike Rd.
 Roger Fox, Clancy Park.
 John, Mary & Gerard Davoren, Kilcorney, Kilfenora.
 John White, McNamara Park.

Sat: 11am: Una Ryan nee McNamara, Brookville.
 Mary Browne, St. Anthony's, Circular Rd.
 Anne & Jack Wall, Ballymaley.
 Juliette & T.J. O'Connor, Shanballa, Lahinch Rd.

6.30pm: Martha Hayes, College Green. MM
 Carmel Spaight, Sixmilebridge.
 John, Maisie, Jim & Martin Bradley, Limerick Rd.
 Gertrude & Patrick Vaughan, The Market.
 Paddy Moroney, Kincora Park.
 Bernard McNeill, Limerick Rd.

Sun 29th 8am: Special intention.

9.30am: Frank Roughan, Ballynealan, Fountain.
 Teresa Corcoran O'Neill, Springfield, Clonroadmore.

11.30am: Packie Vaughan, Cahercalla Rd.
 Ann Doyle, Cusack View.
 Michael & Peg Meehan, Killlimer, Kilrush.

Opening Mass for the Jubilee New Year.

Cathedral Renovation Appeal

Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge a donations of €5,000, €1,000, €500, €250, €100x4, €50x2

We thank the many people who have made once off contributions to this appeal.

Received in the past week, some of these contributions come from businesses in the town to help support our Cathedral Renovation Appeal. Many parishioners have shown great support for the appeal that enables us to restore the Cathedral to its original beauty.

In the coming year the project will move on to converting the heating system from oil to gas and upgrading. Many thanks to all for such generosity.

Cois ns hAbhna

The Wren Session on St Stephen's day 4pm to 6.30pm in Cois na hAbhna Ennis.

A tribute to Frank Custy; session on January 1st 6pm to 8.30pm in Cois na hAbhna.

Shannon Doc



For out of hours service during Christmas. Contact 0818 123 500

St. Michael's Football Club

Annual mass for deceased members and families will be celebrated on St. Stephen's day in the Cathedral at 4pm.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul

Wishes to thank all those who contributed to their recent Church Gate Collection. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



Wishing all our parishioners a very safe and happy Christmas.

St. Joseph's



Remembered in Masses this Week:

7pm: Maria Fox, Golf Links Rd.

Sun 22nd 10am: Catherine & Michael Griffin, Maurice's Mills.

11.45am: McMahon & Coulter Families, Lifford Rd.

Mon 10.30am: Maura Nevin, Corrovorrin Crescent.

Tues 10.30am: No mass.

5pm: Vigil Mass

7pm: Vigil Mass

Wed 10am: Christmas Day

11.45am: Christmas Day

Thu 10.30am: No mass

Fri 10.30am: Brian 1st Anniv. & Joan Cronin, Shannon Park.
 Martin Slattery, Kevin Barry Ave.

Sat: 10.30am: Dr. Brian Gallagher, Tulla Rd.

7pm: Kieran O'Connor, Cloverhill, Tulla Rd.
 Frank & Margo Mulqueen, Abbey St.

Sun 29th: 10am: Dan & Mary Doorty, Tulla Rd.

11.45am: Dymphna Mullin, Woodlands.
 1st Anniv.
 Maureen & Paddy Shanahan, St. Senan's Rd.

Cloughleigh



Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sun 22nd 11am: No intention booked.

Mon: 9.30am: Patrick Crowne, Knockerra.

Tue 9.30am: No Mass.

5.30pm: Vigil Mass.

8:30pm: Vigil Mass.

Wed 9.30am: Christmas Day .

Thu: No Mass

Fri 9.30am: No Mass

Sun 29th 11am: No intention booked.

Calling all choirs!

Join us for the Inaugural Ennis Choral Festival, Jan 31st- Feb 2nd 2025. Whether you are a Church Choir, School Choir, or Community Choir, mixed voice or unison, there is something for you. All details can be found on our FB Page Ennis Choral Festival or by contacting Carmel at ennischoralfestival@ gmail.com Closing date for receipt of entries Friday, January 10th 2025.

Would you like someone to talk to over Christmas? SeniorLine is Ireland's national telephone service for older people open every day of the year 10am-10pm, Freephone 1800 80 45 91. You may feel isolated, alone, bereaved or far from family. Senior Line's older volunteers are trained to listen, to support and refer to other helpful services if necessary. So don't be alone and lift the phone. Phone Senior Line 1800 80 45 91, No problem too big or too small.

Ennis Parish
 Development Fund
 for Sunday 15th December 2024

Fund **€5,909.28**
 Online **€353.50**

Jubilee of Hope 2025

On Christmas Eve in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome Pope Francis will open the Holy Door which will welcome pilgrims during the Jubilee of Hope.



The Jubilee takes place every 25 years and for many of us it will be our last Jubilee.

On Sunday 29th December the feast of the Holy Family the Jubilee will be launched in every Diocese throughout the world. In the Killaloe Diocese Bishop Fintan will launch the Jubilee at the 11:30am mass in the Cathedral next Sunday.

Pope Francis is reminding us to be pilgrims of hope. " for everyone may the jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounters with the Lord Jesus who is our hope".

Pope Francis

Ennis Parish

Don't carry cash but want to make a donation?



Scan the QR code with your phone to make a donation.

Ennis parish is a Parish of the Killaloe Diocese, a designated Religious Charity. RCN 20014056

Come to the Crib

Year after year, the same invitation goes out "come to the crib". Stand or kneel or sit before the crib and take in the beauty of it. Close your eyes and allow the peace, the quietness, the calm to surround you.

This year the crib in the Cathedral has returned to one of its original location, the old Baptistry, now the Lourdes Grotto.

Our thanks to Josepha Quigley who designed and prepared the crib with the help and assistance of Michael Clancy, Michael McInerney, Tommy Molloy, Pat Hanrahan, our Sacristans Michael & Rebecca, electrician David Minogue and Egils Avontis, Bella Hehir, Francis Murray.

The beautiful figures from Bro Philip Lane OFM at the Friary. They were gifted to Bro Philip when he was stationed in Gormonstown College by his aunt the late Eileen Myers in 1986. Fr. Brendan McGrath OFM Guardian gifted us the sheep. We thank our benefactors and all who helped create this beautiful sacred space for all of us to nourish ourselves on the Christmas Story.

Masses for Christmas in Ennis Parish

Christmas Eve

4:30pm	Cathedral
5pm	St. Joseph's
5:30pm	Cloughleigh
6:30pm	Cathedral
7pm	St. Joseph's
8pm	Friary
8:30pm	Cloughleigh
9pm	Cathedral
12 midnight	Cathedral- Polish Mass

Christmas Day

7:45am	Poor Clares
8am	Cathedral
8:45am	Ennis Hospital
9:30am	Cathedral
10am	St. Joseph's
10:30am	Friary
11am	Cloughleigh
11:30am	Cathedral
11:45am	St. Joseph's



Christmas Masses at the Poor Clares' will be celebrated at 7:45am on Christmas morning. From St. Stephen's Day until 13th January inclusive daily mass will be at 8:30am in the Monastery Chapel. The Sisters wish all a very Happy & Holy Christmas and Blessings for the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Masses during Christmas Week

St. Stephen's Day

8:30am	Poor Clare Monastery
10:00am	Friary
11am	Cathedral
4pm	Cathedral
7:30pm	Cathedral

Friday 27th December

8:30am	Poor Clare Monastery
10:00am:	Friary
10:30am	St. Joseph's
11am	Cathedral
7:30pm	Cathedral

Saturday 28th December

8:30am	Poor Clare Monastery
10:00am	Friary
10:30am	St Joseph's
11:00am	Cathedral

Sunday 29th December

Normal Sunday masses in all Churches

Parish Office



The Parish Office will close at 5pm on Monday 23rd December and re-opens at 9am on Thursday 2nd January, 2025.

The Friary Office will close at 12 noon on Christmas Eve, re-opening on Monday 30th December and closed on New Year's Day 1st January, 2025.

Parish Calendar 2025

Our Parish Calendar for 2025 is now available free of charge in all our churches. Our thanks to Pat Hanrahan, John O'Neill and the late Fr. Joe McMahon for photos this year. Margaret in the Parish Office and Real Print for production and print.

To our Parish Representatives who have delivered the calendar to homes in the Parish.

Unwanted Christmas gifts.

We welcome unwanted Christmas Gifts which can be left into the Cathedral this week for an online auction in the New Year with the proceeds going to the Cathedral Restoration Appeal.

Please only gifts that are unopened and not used can be accepted.

This annual fundraiser has become an important source of fundraising for the Cathedral.

Priests' Christmas Collection

The Christmas Collection for the Bishop and Priests of the Parish and Pastoral Area will be taken up at all masses on Christmas Eve and Day in the parish. This is the last of only four appeals in the year to support your Bishop and Priests and such generosity is very much appreciated. Envelopes are available.

Bethlehem Peace Light

The peace light of Bethlehem is an Austrian initiative that began in 1986. every year since then a flame has been carried from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to Vienna on the country's national airline, then distributed throughout the world by the scouting association. The light arrived in Dublin during the week and was collected by members of the first and fourth Clare Scouts. This year because of War and conflict that light is needed more than ever before. Please pray for Peace in our Lords' birth place and throughout the world. The light will be presented to Bishop Fintan at the 9pm Mass on Christmas Eve.



Rest in Peace

Barry Connellan, Ard na Greine;

Lily Nalty, Renmore, Galway, sister of Kathleen Considine, Craganore, Shanaway Rd;

Bridie Tubridy, Cree, mother of Vinnie Normoyle, Springfield, Rita Clinton, Castlerock, Josephine Dempsey, Westfields;

Sr. Francis Collins, Poor Clare Monastery, Ennis



Today's Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above,
you heavens, and let the clouds rain
down the Just One;
Let the earth be opened
And bring forth a Saviour.

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 prophet Micah.

Mi 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant
past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to
abandon them till the time when
she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers
will come back to the sons of
Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his
God.

They will live secure, for from then
on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

*Response: God of hosts,
bring us back;*

*Let Your face shine on us and we shall
be saved.*

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
Shine forth from Your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up Your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R**

May your hand be on the man
you have chosen,
The man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
Give us life that we may
call upon your name. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
Look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
The vine Your right hand has planted. **R**

A reading from the letter to the

Hebrews

Heb 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or
oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in
holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the
scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to
do your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the
oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices
for sin, and you took no pleasure in them;
and then he says: Here I am! I am coming
to obey your will. He is abolishing the first
sort to replace it with the second. And this
will was for us to be made holy by the
offering of his body made once and for all
by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

Let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.
She went into Zechariah's house and
greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child
leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled

the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and
said, 'Of all women you are the most
blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your
womb. Why should I be honoured with
a visit from the mother of my Lord? For
the moment your greeting reached my
ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.
Yes, blessed is she who believed that
the promise made her by the Lord
would be fulfilled.'

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

Behold a virgin shall conceive

And bear a son;

And his name will be Emmanuel