

# ENNIS PARISH

## NEWSLETTER

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

YEAR C

THE GIFT OF FAMILY

29th December 2024

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. Fortunately, most of us value the gift of family, and understand its importance for both society and church. We live in a fast-paced world, some with more than one job in order to make ends meet. It is so easy to get lost in our day to day living. And when that happens, we may neglect the family while we work to provide for them. Some of us can remember a song by Harry Chapin, recorded many years ago.

It was called "The Cat's in the Cradle." It was a ballad about the relationship between a father and son. The father spent his time and energies making a successful living. The son kept asking for his attention, to be able to share his father's life. "When you coming home, Dad?" The son would repeatedly ask. Only to receive the reply, "I don't know when, but we will get together then." As the boy grew up and the father grew wiser, he began to pose the same questions, "When you coming home son?" Only to receive the sadly predictable reply, "I don't know, Dad, but we will get together then."

How many of us will be here with our families next Christmas? You can't guarantee it. All we have is time, and usually less than we think. Family life is about dreams, dreams of the future for your children, dreams of a happy family, dreams of success, dreams of a better

year, dreams of a future of love, family, hope, and peace in the world. Dreaming is fine, but enabling dreams to happen with and for others is what life is all about and what ultimately satisfies most.

We cannot control the future completely. What we can do is continue in good times and in bad to have the patient faithfulness of Simeon, & Anna, and the acceptance and faith of Mary and Joseph. All of these set the context for the coming of Jesus and for his message to the people of His time and to us.

Today think of how much you still need to do with and for your family. If you have accomplished some of your dreams in life tell someone else how you did it. If you lead your life the right way, in faithfulness to God, the dreams will come to you. Jesus was the best of all dreams to come true. It is up to us to make the Jesus dream come true for others as well. Our responsibility extends from our immediate family to the wider community. The Church teaches that the common good is what we all must work toward. Faithful patience means we never give up trying to make things better and never give up sharing our experience of Jesus with others.



HAPPY FEAST OF THE  
HOLY FAMILY

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
In you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love,  
to you we turn with trust."

—Pope Francis

#### Mass Times

**Cathedral**-[www.ennisparish.com/webcam](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 29th December, 2024**  
**Contact: Fr. Martin Blake Tel: 065 6869098**



**Cathedral**

**Remembered in Masses this Week:**

**6.30pm:** Martha Hayes, Colledge 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, Ballynealon, Fountain.  
 Teresa Corcoran O'Neill, Springfield, Clonroadmore.  
**11.30am:** Packie Vaughan, Cahercalla Rd.  
 Ann Doyle, Cusack View.  
 Michael & Peg Meehan, Killimer, Kilrush.  
**Opening Mass for the Jubilee New Year.**  
**3pm:** Mass for the Brazilian Community. .  
**Mon 7.40am: No 7.40am Mass .**  
**11am:** Dan, Peggy, Margaret & Seán Mullins,  
 Ennistymon.  
 Michael, Susan & Brendan Jordan, Australia.  
**7.30pm:** Teresa Murphy, Hermitage.  
**Tues 7.40am: No 7.40am Mass.**  
**11am:** Book of Intentions.  
 Bridie Connellan, Cahercalla Wood.  
 Michael, Imelda & Johnny Hayes, Rockmount.  
 & Pat Fitzgerald.  
**7.30pm:** Joe & Tess Kerin, & Deceased Family,  
 Clonroadmore.  
**Wed 7.40am: No 7.40am Mass.**  
**11am:** Ann Ryan, Childers' Rd.  
 Mary & Dan O'Keeffe, 'Prague', Ardlea Rd.  
 Joe & Brian Sheehan, Drumbiggle Drive.  
**7.30pm:** No intention booked.  
**Thurs 7.40am: No 7.40am Mass.**  
**11am:** Deceased Sheehan & Jordan Families.  
 PJ Killeen, Miltown Malbay.  
 Hannah Ahern, Limerick.  
**7.30pm:** Michael O'Donoghue, Ennis & Australia.  
 Deceased Members Irish Red Cross Clare.  
**Fri 7.40am: No 7.40am Mass.**  
**11am: Mass for the People.**  
**7.30pm:** No intention booked.  
**Sat:11am:** No intention booked.  
**6.30pm:** Mary Vaughan, Cahercalla Rd. **1st Anniv.**  
 Michael & Anne Tierney, Kilrush Rd.  
 Martin Shannon, Kilnaboy.  
 Michael McMahon, Gallows Hill.  
 Mary, Thomas & Marian Kelly, Knock, Kilrush.  
**Sun 5th 8am:** Bridie Rynne, Castlewood Park.  
 Patrick & Mary Anne Rynne, Lissycasey.  
 Joe, Nora & Joe Jr. McDonagh, Galway.  
 Costelloe & O'Donoghue Families, Cork & Ennis.  
 Thomas & Kathleen Scanlon, Newcastlewest & Ennis.  
**9.30am:** Patrick Feeney, St. Michael's Villas.  
 Noel & Mary Bolger, New Rd.  
 Michael & Martin Shannon & Martin Reidy Jr., Ennis.  
**11.30am:** Frank & Agnes Fox, Cornmarket St.  
 Luke Coote, Considine Rd.  
 Paddy Loftus, Buttermarket.  
 Bertie, Josie, Marian & Noel Garry, Sandfield Park.  
 PJ Malone, Beechpark.  
 Peggy & Jim Casey, 'The White House', Shanaway.  
 Seán & Mary Connolly Lr. Limerick Rd.  
 Liam & Eoin Madigan, St. Michael's Villas.  
 David Barrett, Willow Park.

**Priests' Collection**

The Bishop and Priests of the Pastoral Area are grateful to all who supported their appeal this Christmas. If you were away or forgot, your contribution would still be very much appreciated.

**Jubilee Year of Hope**



Bishop Fintan will launch the great Jubilee Year of Hope at the 11.30am Mass this Sunday. The theme for this year is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and our prayer is that it will be a year of prayerful hope for a world suffering the impact of war and climate crises.

**Jubilee Prayer**

Father in Heaven,  
 may the faith you have given us  
 in your son,  
 Jesus Christ our brother  
 and the flame of charity  
 enkindled in our hearts  
 by the Holy Spirit,  
 reawaken in us the blessed hope  
 for the coming of your kingdom.  
 May the same grace spread  
 the joy and peace  
 of our Redeemer  
 throughout the earth.  
 To you, our God eternally blessed,  
 be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

**Parish Office**

**The Parish Office** re-opens on Thursday 2nd January at 9am.

**The Friary Office** re-opens on Monday 30th December at 9.30am.  
 Closed on New Year's Day.

**Sunday Missals 2025**

Sunday Missals for the coming year are now available in the parish office €8 each.

**Our Parish Calendar**

Our parish calendar for 2025 is now freely available from any of our churches to share with family and friends.

**Newly Baptised**

*We welcome into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism:*

**Luke Neil Morris**



**St. Joseph's**



**Remembered in Masses this Week:**

**7pm:** Kieran O'Connor, Cloverhill, Tulla Rd.  
 Frank & Margo Mulqueen, Abbey St.  
**Sun 29th 10am:** Dan & Mary Doorty, Tulla Rd.  
**11.45am: Jreneusz Smuktonowicz, Poland.**  
 Dymphna Mullin, Woodlands. **1st Anniv.**  
 Maureen & Paddy Shanahan, St. Senan's Rd.  
**Mon 10.30am:** James O'Brien, Shannon Park. MM  
 Jerry O'Brien, Cahercalla Drive.MM  
 Winifred Leydon, Sligo.  
**Tues 10.30am:** Special Intention.  
**Wed 10.30am:** Noel Ballinger, Gort Rd.  
**Thu 10.30am:** Maura Hegarty, Elm Park.  
**Fri 10.30am:** No intention booked.  
**Sat: 10.30am:** No intention booked.  
**7pm:** Pauline Gibbons, Kincora Park.  
**Sun 5th 10am:** No intention booked.  
**11.45am:** Margaret (Gretta) Griffin, Lees Rd. **1st Anniv.**  
 Mary & Paddy Darcy, 'Arbutus House', Glenoir.  
 Maureen O'Brien, St. Michael's Villas.

**Praying out the Old  
 Praying in the New**



There will be a time of Prayer and Reflection in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral from 11.30pm on New Year's Eve to 12.15am on New Year's Day.

**Unwanted Christmas Gifts**

We welcome unwanted Christmas Gifts, which can be left into the Cathedral or Parish Office this week for an online auction in the New Year with the proceeds going to the Cathedral Restoration Appeal to help complete the restoration of the floor.  
 Please, only gifts that are unopened and not used can be accepted. This annual fundraiser has become a important source of fundraising for the Cathedral.

**First Friday of January**



Friday 3rd January is the First Friday of the month. Sick and housebound parishioners will receive the Sacraments at home.

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioners who would like to receive the Sacraments, please contact the Parish Office.

**Cloughleigh**

**Remembered in Masses this Week:**

**Tue 9.30am:**  
**Thurs 9.30am:** PJ Killeen, Miltown Malbay.  
**5th January 11am:** Ellen Flynn (nee Dilger),  
 Honan's Tce. **1st Anniv.**  
 Mai Molloy (nee McNamara), Ennis  
 & Carol Molloy, Ennis & Dublin.

**Weekday Mass resumes in Cloughleigh on Thursday 2nd January**



Ennis Parish  
 Development Fund  
 for Sunday, 22nd Decembe  
 Fund €4,865  
 Online €883.50

## RIP

**Seán O'Boyle**, Castlerock, Tulla Rd.;  
**Nancy Comyns**, Cuan an Chláir,  
Cahercalla;  
**Anne Quinn**, Ivy Hill, Gort Rd.;  
**Phil Casey**, Turnpike Rd.,  
**May Costello**, Edenvale. Ennis.  
**Betty Murphy**, Newmarket-on-Fergus,  
sister of Anne Coote, Clare Rd.;  
**Rena Smithwick**, Dublin,  
mother of Michael, Ballyea;  
**Mona Broderick**, Ballinasloe, mother of  
Monica Broderick, Shanaway Rd.;  
**Nellie Shannon**, Inagh, mother of Mary  
Howard, Shanaway Rd.;  
**John Meehan**, Kilrush, sister of Mona  
O'Sullivan, Woodlawn, Lahinch Rd.,  
**Conor Kelleher**, Westfield, Limerick Rd.,  
Funeral Mass this Sunday at 3pm in the  
Cathedral. Burial in Drumcliffe Cemetery.  
**Eileen Bradley**, Clonroadbeg. Funeral in  
Cathedral on Monday at 11am. Burial in  
Drumcliffe Cemetery.

### A Prayer for the New Year

May you awake each morning  
with 'thank you' on your lips  
and in your heart,  
recognizing that all is gift,  
that all is blessing.

May your friendship with God  
be strong and healthy.

May that love be both a comfort  
and a challenge  
as you struggle to find your way  
in the New Year.

May you be the one  
with welcome in your smile  
and hello etched upon your hand,  
the hand you extend to everyone who blesses  
you with presence.

**Athbhliain faoi mhaise  
daoibh go léir**

### Masses This Week Monday to Friday

8.30am	Poor Clare Monastery;
10am:	Friary;
10.30am:	St. Joseph's;
11am & 7.30pm:	Cathedral.

Normal Saturday Mass Times.

## *Sr. Eileen's Cúinne*



### Féile an Teaghlaigh Naofa.

Comórtar Féile an Teaghlaigh Naofa an Domhnach seo. Bíonn béim ar leith ar an teaghlach um Nollaig agus sinn ag ceiliúradh breith ár dTiarna Íosa Críost. Ní raibh saol ró-bhog ag an Teaghlach Naofa. Bhí orthu teitheadh ó Héaród go hÉigipt ar son na sábháilteachta. Is eiseamláir an Teaghlach Naofa do gach teaghlach. Bhí Íosa umhal do Mhuire agus Íosaf. Chuir siadsan a muinín i nDia agus bhí Sé i gcroílár an teaghlaigh. Féadfaidh gach teaghlach géilleadh do Dhia mar a rinne Muire agus Íosaf agus bheith dílis dó. Tugtar Lá Caille ar an gcéad lá den bhliain. Tá bliain úr nua ag síneadh amach romhainn ón gCéadaoin seo chugainn. Is í Oíche Chinn Bliana oíche dheireanach na bliana. Tugtar 'Oíche na Coda Móire' nó 'Oíche Chaille' uirthi freisin. Síleadh gur cheart go leor bia a chaitheamh i rith na hoíche chun a chinntiú go mbeadh a dhóthain bia ag gach duine i rith na bliana nua. Ba mhó an fhéile í seo i measc na nGael. Tá an nós fós ann an cúl-doras a oscailt ag meánoíche agus slán a fhágáil leis an tseanbhliain agus an príomhdhoras a oscailt chun fáilte a chur roimh an bhliain úr leis na focail.

### 2024 slán leat

### Agus an sonas isteach 2025

### Rath Dé orainn ó anocht go bliain ó anocht agus anocht féin. Áiméan

The feast of the Holy Family is celebrated today. There is special emphasis on the family at Christmas. The Holy family had to endure hardship and flee to Egypt for safety from Herod. The Holy Family is an example for all families. Jesus was subject to Mary and Joseph and trusted God who was the centre of their lives. Each family ought to be faithful to God as were Joseph and Mary.

New Year's Day on Wednesday next is the beginning of a new year. New Year's Eve the end of the old year is also called 'Night of the Large Portion' in Irish tradition. It was thought one ought to eat large portions of food on this night to ensure a plentiful supply during the year. It was an important Irish feast. Another ancient custom practised was opening the back door at midnight to allow the old year out, and opening the front door and welcoming the new year in with the prayer:

### 2024 farewell

### And good fortune enter for 2025.

**God's blessings on us from tonight to this time next year and this night also. Amen**

## A Word of Gratitude



As the year fast draws to a close and as we once again stand on the threshold of a Jubilee Year, we look back with gratitude and look forward with Hope.

Our thanks to all who supported our parish and who are active in ministry. So many people give of their time and talents in the service of the parish. We thank all who helped with Liturgy, Readers, Eucharistic Ministries, Basket Collectors, Counters, Envelope distributors, Sacristans, Safe Guarding Representatives, Choirs, Organists, Cantors. To those who serve on both the Pastoral and Finance Committees, Organisers of Eucharistic Adoration, Children's Liturgy in the Friary and those who take care of Parish Property.

To our office, housekeeping staff and the many volunteers who help each day make our parish active and vibrant.

We appreciate the support of our schools, Principals, Teachers and school staff who help and support handing on the faith. A special word of appreciation to the boards of management who look after our schools.

To the Religious communities of the Franciscans, Poor Clares, Christian Brothers and Sisters of Mercy; thank you for your presence, witness and daily prayers for all of us.

Our virtual Congregation and those joining us through Parish Radio, Webcam and facebook bring our Parish directly into many peoples homes all over the world. While there can be no substitute for your presence at the Altar of the Lord and the building of community, we do appreciate you joining us in prayer every day.

It is a privilege and blessing for us priests to serve in the Abbey Pastoral Area and in this year of Prayer for Vocations, we highly recommend the priestly life and encourage any young and not so young men to listen out for a call from the Lord. We thank God for the two young men from the Parish who are discerning their vocations, Mark for Diocesan Priesthood and Ian for the Franciscan way of life. Please keep them in your prayers. So many people in their parish are living out their vocation calling by serving our parish in so many different ways everyday.

As we look forward with hope to the great Jubilee of 2025, may we all be opened to the unexpected, it may reveal hidden treasures and just as God revealed himself in the Christ Child, may we see in him in the bits and pieces of each new day in 2025.

### Sunday Bridge

Commencing on Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 3pm in the Ennis Bridge Centre. Come along and enjoy a social game of Bridge.  
Contact: 087 2546460 for further info.

### Remembering our special volunteers

The Irish Red Cross Clare will hold a special mass for Clare Red Cross volunteers both living and deceased in honor of their work supporting the people of Co. Clare.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January—Ennis Cathedral 7.30pm.

# Today's Scripture Readings

## Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste,  
and found Mary and Joseph  
and the Infant lying in a manger.

## 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.**

## GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace to people of good will. We praise you,  
we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we  
give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God,  
heavenly King, God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with  
the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

**Amen.**

## A reading from the first book of Samuel.

1 Sm 1:20-22.24-28

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and  
called him Samuel, 'since' she said, 'I asked  
the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband  
Elkanah went up again with all his family to  
offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to  
fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up,  
having said to her husband, 'Not before the  
child is weaned. Then I will bring him and  
present him before the Lord and he shall stay  
there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up  
with her together with a three-year-old bull, an  
ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she  
brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh;  
and the child was with them. They slaughtered  
the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli.  
She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live,  
my lord, I am the woman who stood here be-  
side you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I  
prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I  
asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for  
the whole of his life. He is made over to the  
Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

*Response: They are happy who dwell in  
your house, O Lord.*

How lovely is Your dwelling place,  
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,  
Is yearning for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my soul ring out their joy  
To God, the living God. **R**

They are happy, who dwell in Your house,  
For ever singing Your praise.  
They are happy, whose strength is in You;  
They walk with ever growing strength. **R**

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,  
Give ear, O God of Jacob.  
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,  
Look on the face of your anointed. **R**

## A reading from the first letter of St. John.

1 Jn 3:1-2.21-24

Think of the love that the Father has lavished  
on us, by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of  
God but what we are to be in the future  
has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that  
when it is revealed we shall be like him  
because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned  
by our own conscience, we need not be afraid  
in God's presence, and whatever we ask him  
we shall receive, because we keep his com-  
mandments and live the kind of life that he  
wants. His commandments are these:  
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus  
Christ and that we love one another  
as he told us to do.

Whoever keeps his commandments  
lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us  
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Open our heart, O Lord,  
To accept the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!*

## A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Lk 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to  
Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When  
he was twelve years old, they went up for the  
feast as usual. When they were on their way  
home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed  
behind in Jerusalem without his parents

knowing it. They assumed he was with the  
caravan, and it was only after a day's journey  
that they went to look for him among their rela-  
tions and acquaintances. When they failed to find  
him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him  
everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple,  
sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and  
asking them questions; and all those who heard  
him were astounded at his intelligence and his  
replies. They were overcome when they saw him,  
and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have  
you done this to us? See how worried your father  
and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you  
looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know  
that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But  
they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to  
Nazareth and lived under their authority. His  
mother stored up all these things in her heart.  
And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and  
in favour with God and men

## 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 be-  
came 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 for-  
giveness of sins and I look forward to the resur-  
rection of the dead and the life of the world to  
come.

**Amen.**

## Communion Antiphon

**Our God has appeared on the earth,  
and lived among us.**