



ENNIS PARISH

NEWSLETTER



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

YEAR C

8th December 2024

To describe John the Baptist's mission, Saint Luke in today's Gospel refers to the ancient prophecy of Isaiah which says: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be laid low"

To prepare the way of the Lord's coming, it is necessary to answer the call to conversion of John the Baptist. What do we need to do? First of all we are called to fill the 'valleys' caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, to help those in need. To fill the valleys caused by coldness. One cannot have a relationship of love, charity and fraternity with one's neighbours if there are 'gaps' just as one cannot travel a road with many potholes. This requires a change of attitude. And all this should also be done with special attention to those most in need. Then there is the need to challenge the indifference caused by pride and arrogance. How many people, perhaps without realizing it, are proud, are indifferent, and lack kindness towards others. It is necessary to overcome this by making concrete gestures of reconciliation with our brothers and sisters,

asking for forgiveness for our faults. It is not easy to reconcile with one another. One always thinks: "who will take the first step?". The Lord will help us if we are people of good will. Indeed, conversion is complete if it leads us to humbly recognize our errors, our faults and failings.

The believer is someone who, by being close to others, like John the Baptist, opens pathways in the desert, that is, a believer indicates a way forward in hope. When faced with difficulty, with rejection we should not lose hope, but should continue to make a path for Jesus into the world, because the centre of our life is Jesus Christ and his word of light, love and hope.

The witness of John the Baptist gives us an example as to how we should witness in our own lives. Today too, Jesus' disciples are called to be his humble but courageous witnesses in order to rekindle hope, to make it understood that, despite everything, the Kingdom of God continues to be built day by day with the power of the Holy Spirit. Let each of us ask ourselves: how can I change something in my attitude, in my way of life, in order to reconcile with others, create hope and prepare the way of the Lord? Pope Francis.



Mass Times

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

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/ennisparish>

Priest on Duty 8th December, 2024
Contact: Fr. Tom Ryan 065 6869098



Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

6.30pm: Mary 1st Anniv. & Joseph Connery, Dalcassian Park.
 Mary Conway, 'Greenlea', Station Rd.
 William Bloomfield & Family, Ennis
 Frank & Florrie Burns, Clare Rd.
 Christy Burns, Kilkee.
 Ciss, Paddy & Michael Hanrahan, St. Michael's Villas.
 Claire, Flan & Donohue Family, Parnell St.
 Humphrey & Margaret Counihan, Fergus Lawn.
 Vincent & Nonie Meehan, Tulla.

Sun 8th 8am: Deceased Leyden Family, Carmody St. & Cloughleigh Rd.

9.30am: Special intention.

11.30am: Peggy MM. & Seán Connolly, 'St. Patrick's', Ard na Gréine.
 Michael Moloney, McNamara Park.
 John & Patrick Quinn, Edenvale.
 Mary Ellen Quinn, Edenvale & Kincora Park.
 Joe & Mary Nevin, Loughville & Daughter Mary, Dysart.
 Maureen & Martin O'Halloran, Claureen.
 Patrick & Helen Casey, Parnell St.

Mon: 7.40am: Special Intention.
 Maura Conway & Deceased Family, Lahinch.

11am: No intention booked.
7.30pm: Dermot Molloy, Cahercalla Estate & Paschal Molloy, Cloughleigh.

Tues: 7.40am Book of Intentions.
 Special Intention.

11am: Eileen Queally, Surrey, UK.
 Special intention.

7.30pm: Seamus Guinnane, Fountain.
 Eileen & Patrick Morrissey & Family, Cornmarket St.
 Shannon Family, Cornmarket St.

Wed 7.40am: Nora & Seamus Stokes, Limerick.
11am: Joseph, Caroline & Brian Ensko, Connolly Villas.

7.30pm: Bridget, Michael & PJ Quinn, Hermitage.

Thurs 7.40am: Elaine (nee Molony) & Donagh Lampriere, Ennis.

11am: Bridie Costelloe, Templemore.
7.30pm: Ella Burke, Phoenix Court & Mill Rd.
 Patrick Molloy, Dalcassian Park.

Fri 7.40am: Mass for the People.
11am: No intention booked.

7.30pm: Loreto Ryan, Shallee Drive.
 Don Farrell, Cahercalla Estate.
 Lucy Leahy, Ruan.

Sat: 11am: Paddy, Maura & Peter Keane, Kilrush Rd.
 Maeve, Seán & Deirdre Casey, Cusack Rd.
 Denis & Nellie Wylde, Clonroad.

6.30pm: Joe Hehir, Considine Rd. MM.
 Christy Greene, Beechpark MM.
 Graham Judkins, London. MM.
 Dr. Donough Moylan, Bindon St.
 Peggy Corry, Loughville.
 Patrick & Michael Stephens, Summerhill & Kilmaley.
 Frawley Family, Shean, Kilmaley.
 PJ Daly, Cahercalla Rd.
 Patrick & Amy Molloy, Dalcassian Park.

Sun 15th 8am: No intention booked.

9.30am: Donal O'Brien, Turnpike Rd.
 Peggy Kearney, Summerhill.

11.30am: Michael Cronin, Hermitage. MM.
 John Liddy, Shepperton, Newmarket-on-Fergus. MM
 Michael & Teresa McMahon, Coore.
 Eileen & Jack O'Donovan & Nellie Ryan (nee O'Donovan), Turnpike Rd.
 Liam Slattery, St. Michael's Villas & Deceased Torpey Family.
 Ignatius McCarthy, Tulla Rd.
 Joe & Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Tuamgraney.
 Donal Cahill, Hazelgrove, Ennis.
 Tess White, Clare Rd.
 Jim Whyms, Cusack Rd.

Cathedral Renovation Appeal
 In the past week Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge a donation of €40. We thank the many people who have made once off contributions to this appeal.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception



This year's Feast will be celebrated on Monday 9th December and is not a holy day of obligation. The Sundays of Advent take precedence over the Feast this year.



Bambinelli Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent will be celebrated with the blessing of the Baby Jesus figure from the crib. On that weekend, you are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figure to mass for a special blessing on you and your family this Christmas.

Ecumenical Carol Service



Ecumenical Carol Service takes place on Sunday 15th December at 7pm in the Cathedral, bringing together the combined choirs of parishes in Drumcliffe & Ennis.

Parish Calendar 2025

Our 2025 Jubilee of Hope Parish Calendar will be published and distributed this week with the distribution of the boxes of envelopes for 2025.

Newly Baptised

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

Martin Patrick McDonagh;
Aoibhe Margaret Drohan;
Arthur Julio Miranda
 Da Silva.



St. Joseph's



Remembered in Masses this Week:

7pm: Frances Murphy, Riverdale.
 Seán & Ciss McInerney, Shannon Park & Adrian McCracken, England.

Sun 8th 10am: Bridget, John & Michael Mulligan, Roscommon.

11.45am: Anne McNamara, Turnpike Rd.
 Seán & Claire McGrath, Lifford Rd.
 Maura Beakey, Cahercalla Estate.
 Patrick & Margaret O'Sullivan, Kilkee.
 Margaret Mee, Miltown Malbay.

Mon 10.30am: Peter Cosgrove, Kincora Park.
 MJ Lernihán, Cuan an Chláir, Cahercalla. MM.
 Noel & Bernadette Moloney, Marian Ave.

Tues 10.30am: Book of Intentions.

Wed 10.30am: James & Maureen O'Keeffe, Lifford Rd.

Thu 10.30am: Bridget Orchard & John McMahon, Ennis & Dysart.

Fri 10.30am: Eileen Leydon, London.

Sat: 10.30am: Michael O'Connor, Oak Park.

1st Anniv.

7pm: No intention booked.

Sun 15th 10am: John Leydon, Sligo.

11.45am: Seán Curtin, Willow Park.

St. Paul's Missals are available for collection in the Sacristy for readers

Cloughleigh



Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sun 8th 11am: Special Intention.

Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.

Thu 9.30am: Kitty Downes, Miltown Malbay.

Fri 9.30am: Holy Souls.

Sun 15th 11am: Special Intention.

Tea Bags



Tea Bags €4 each or 3 for €10. Also available a Candle and Tea Bag gift set for €8. On sale at Parish Office and after all Masses this weekend. All proceeds to the Cathedral Restoration Fund.

Friary & Poor Clare Heating Fund

Friary & Poor Clare Sisters appreciate the generosity of so many who have contributed to their annual appeal. If you wish to contribute, please leave your contribution in the Friary Office and Parish Office marked 'Friary & Poor Clare Heating Appeal.' Both the Sisters and Friars pray daily for their benefactors and appreciate the goodness and kindness of the people of Ennis.

Festival of Cribs

Next weekend St. Brigid's Church, Liscannor will host their annual Festival of Cribs from all over the world on display. Admission is free and combine it with a visit to the Cliffs of Moher, a lovely few hours on an Advent Day.

St. Vincent dePaul

We are blessed to have very committed people who give of their time and volunteer to work as part of the St. Vincent dePaul Team in our parish. St. Vincent dePaul reach out and support individuals and families in time of need. This work is made possible by the kindness and goodness of others who contribute and donate.

This weekend at all our masses, you have the opportunity to show your appreciation and to give support to those most in need.

**Abbey Pastoral Area
Advent Reconciliation Service**



Advent Reconciliation Service on Monday 16th December at 7.30pm in the Cathedral.

'Blessed are the Peacemakers'

You are welcome to come along and receive the peace of Christ in preparation for Christmas. Priests will be available to hear individual Confessions.



Christmas Spirit - Annual Christmas Concert St Columba's Church of Ireland, Bindon St, Ennis Saturday Dec 7th at 8.00pm
Booking: www.reginanathan.com or 0879188222
Tickets €30 Regina Nathan Soprano
Michael Hennessy Piano

The Joyful Sounds of Christmas Concert is on **Sunday 8th December** at **Ennis Cathedral** from **6.30pm**. This concert features Coole Music Youth Orchestra; The Burren Baroque Ensemble; Coole Harmonies Choir; Sonic Strings; and Helen Hancock Soprano. Donations at the door with all proceeds towards Coole Music & Arts CHY20071325 & Ennis Cathedral.

Cantare Choir and Orchestra Christmas Concert December 20th, 8.15pm, SS Peter & Paul Cathedral, Ennis - a very special start to your Christmas!

Tickets available online at www.glor.ie or from Glór box office - 065 6843103. In support of Samaritans, Clare. See you there!

The Ennis Brass Band will be performing their annual Christmas concert on Sunday 8th December at 7.30pm in St Columba's Church, Ennis.

This is a free event, with a retiring collection afterwards if desired. Special guests on the night are the Quin n' tonic Choir. All welcome.

New Irish Citizen



The newest Irish Man in the parish is Fr Joy who received Irish citizenship on Tuesday last. Fr Joy has served this parish and pastoral area very faithfully for the past six years and we look forward to him continuing to share the Joy of the Gospel with us for many more years. Congratulations Joy and every blessing for your life and ministry.

REST IN PEACE



Pauline Kelly née Fawl, Dalcassian Park;

Michael (Mickie) Fitzgibbon, Tulla Road

**Fr. Brendan Coffey, OSB
Appointed Prior of St. Anselmo, Rome**



We congratulate Ennis native Joseph (Brendan) Coffey who has been appointed Prior of St. Anselmo, Rome.

A native of The Crescent in Lifford, Fr. Brendan was educated in Ennis CBS and Rice College.

After studies in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth and in Rome, he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Killaloe in 1995. After ordination, he pursued post graduate studies in Canon Law at the Gregorian University in Rome, after which he was appointed curate in the parish of Kilrush. He entered Glenstal Abbey in 1998, taking the name Brendan. He professed simple vows in 1999 and made his solemn profession in 2002. After some years working in the abbey school as a housemaster and teacher of Classics, Fr. Brendan spent two years at Santa Giustina in Padua, Italy doing postgraduate studies in Liturgy.

On his return to Glenstal, he served as prior of the monastery from 2007 until 2015. He spent the academic year 2015 – 2016 at the Catholic University of America where he began doctoral studies in Liturgy.

He was elected abbot of Glenstal in September 2016 and received the Abbatial Blessing in November, 2016. During his tenure as abbot, he oversaw the restoration and refurbishment of the buildings and encouraged conferences, outreach programmes and interfaith initiatives, reinforcing Glenstal's reputation as a centre for both monastic and public engagement. He completed his mandate as abbot in Glenstal in July 2024.

In 2018 he was appointed First Assistant to the Abbot President of the Benedictine Congregation of the Annunciation, a role he still holds. He was elected President of the Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland in September, 2021 and served the customary two-year mandate.

Beyond his responsibilities at Glenstal, Fr. Brendan has been an active participant in the broader Benedictine Confederation, contributing to monastic visitations, conferences and retreats. This experience and background led to his appointment as prior of Collegio Sant 'Anselmo in Rome, a pivotal institution for Benedictine education and collaboration. In this role, he continues his service of the Benedictine Confederation and the universal Church.

Ennis Parish
Development Fund
for Sunday, 1st Dec

Fund €5,192
Online €229.50

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

An Dara Domhnach den Aidhbhnt.

Ní fada uainn féasta Bhreith Ár dTiarna. Is léir agus is cinnte gur tréimhse dhian ullmhúcháin saolta í dúinn go léir. Caithfidh ullmhúcháin spioradálta a dhéanamh freisin. Sna heaglaisí feicfidh tú Crann leise, crann ginealaigh Íosa Chríost, agus samhail chomhartha na ndaoine a chuaigh roimhe ó Adhamh agus Éabha go dtí Muire Máthair Íosa.

Bhí ardmheas ag ár sinisir ar Mhuire toisc gur Máthair Íosa í. Déarfáidís an paidrín páirteach gach oíche roimh dhul a chodladh, Go dtugaimid ómós di sa phaidir Cheilteach seo agus sinn ag iarraidh uirthi teacht i gcabhair orainn in am an ghéatair: *A Mhathair glórmhair a chíos ár ndochar agus díobháil, go scarra tú do bhrat beannaithe tharainn Áiméan.*

Christmas is near. It is a time of feverish preparation and buying for most. We ought to make spiritual preparation also. In the churches you will see the Jesse Tree, the genealogy of Jesus and the symbols of persons from Adam and Eve to Mary the mother of Jesus.

Our ancestors had great devotion to Our Lady and the rosary was said by them before retiring. May we honour Our Lady as we say the following Celtic prayers, asking her to be with us always. *Glorious Mother who sees our distress and deprivation; may you spread your sacred mantle over us. Amen*

Advent Calendar

Advent marks the beginning of the new calendar year for Christians. The digital Advent calendar offers a distinctive and spiritually enriching way to journey through this holy season. Based on the Jubilee Year's theme of #Hope, the 2024 calendar offers prayers and resources designed to guide individuals, families and faith communities to reflect on the hope that Christ brings to the world, while also preparing for the upcoming Holy Jubilee Year in 2025.

To access the calendar please visit: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar/>

Céili with The Sliabh Aughty Céili Band
Saturday December 7th 8pm -11pm Cois na hAbhna, Galway Rd. Ennis. Tel. 065 6824276
Admission €10

CHIME Hearing Clinic for December on Wednesday 18th December 10am to 3pm.
By appointment only. Tel 061 467 494.

Festive Self-Care

A Pre-Christmas Gift to yourself. Local Psychotherapist and Chaplain Anne Healy helps us to make the Christmas journey more relaxing. Come along and enjoy a cuppa and mince pie and unwrap the gift Christmas peace.

St. Columba's Church Hall on Friday 13th December at 10.30am. Free event. All welcome.



Happy Birthday

We congratulate Mary Galvin, Cloughleigh Road who celebrated her 100th birthday on Friday.

We also congratulate Mary Cahir, Dysart who this Sunday also celebrates 100 years on this earth.

We Congratulate both Marys on this special occasion.



Today's Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon

O People of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his
voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

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 Baruch Ba 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow
and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for
ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God
around you, put the diadem of the glory of
the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour
to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will
be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour
through devotedness.'
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and
east at the command of the Holy One, jubi-
lant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting
hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground
level so that Israel can walk in safety under
the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will
provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of
his glory with his mercy
and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response:

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

When the Lord delivered Zion from
bondage, It seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
On our lips there were songs. **R**

The heathens themselves said:
'What marvels The Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
As streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
Will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back,
full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R.**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

Ph 1:4-6.8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with
joy, remembering how you have helped to
spread the Good News from the day you
first heard it right up to the present. I am
quite certain that the One who began this
good work in you will see that it is finished
when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God
knows how much I miss you all, loving you
as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is
that your love for each other may increase
more and more and never stop improving
your knowledge and deepening your per-
ception so that you can always recognise
what is best. This will help you to become
pure and blameless, and prepare you for
the Day of Christ, when you will reach the
perfect goodness which Jesus Christ pro-
duces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
Make his paths straight,
And all mankind shall see t
he salvation of God.
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel ac- cording to Luke. Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's
reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of
Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his
brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of
Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias Tetrarch

of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas
and Caiaphas, the word of God came to
John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.
He went through the whole Jordan district
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the
book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid
low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the
salvation of God.

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 suf-
fered 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 Fa-
ther. 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 spo-
ken 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

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the
heights, and behold the joy which
comes to you from God.