



# Ennis Parish News

Confessions in Cathedral Saturday After 10am Mass & before and after 6.30pm Mass  
St Joseph's Saturday After 11am Mass  
Parish Office open Mon to Fri 9.30-1pm & 2-5pm Sat 10.30-12noon

## Mass Times

### Sundays:

Cathedral:- Sat. Vigil: 6.30pm; Sunday: 9am, 10.30am & 12 noon  
St. Joseph's:- Sat. Vigil: 7pm; Sunday: 8, 10, 11.30am  
Cloughleigh Church:- 9.30am, 11am  
Friary:- Sat. Vigil: 7.30pm; Sunday: 9.30, 10.30, 12.00 noon  
Poor Clare Monastery:- 7.45 a.m.

### Weekdays:

Cathedral: Mon. – Fri: 7.45am; 10am & 7.30pm; 10am on Saturday  
St. Joseph's:- Monday – Saturday: 11am  
Cloughleigh Church:- Monday – Friday: 9.30am  
Friary:- Daily: 10am & 1.05pm; 10am on Saturday  
Poor Clare Monastery:- Daily at 7.45 am; Daily Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament from 4-6pm in the Chapel.

### Phone Numbers:

Cathedral:- 6824043; Email: [info@ennisparish.com](mailto:info@ennisparish.com)  
St. Joseph's:- 6822166; Cloughleigh: 6840715; Friary: 6828751

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

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ennis.parish>

Third Sunday of Advent

11th December 2016

(Year A)

## Sequin by Sequin

The message offered to us in today's Gospel is one of hope and healing.

“The blind see again  
The lame walk  
The lepers are cleansed  
The deaf hear  
The dead are raised to life  
The Good News  
is proclaimed”

What was broken is mended.

Advent gives us this opportunity to let go of anything that dulls the spirit and brings us to a new year with the promise of joy and gladness.

A tweet found some time ago from Lady Gaga known for her self-empowering messages, fashion and performances, might help us to regain and strengthen our spiritual balance during Advent.

She tweeted that she intends to change the world ‘sequin by sequin’.

We can be amused by this or it can challenge us! ... How's that for a life's purpose?  
How do I intend to change the world?  
And if so what would I tweet?

I intend to change the world...

Kindness by kindness

Justice by justice

Healing by healing

Forgiveness by forgiveness

Prayer by prayer



Advent a time-

of patience - quieten our hearts

of waiting - be filled with joy

of hope - the blind recover their sight

of healing - lepers are cured

to believe - we are the beloved of God

## Cathedral

### Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat: 6.30pm:

Eugene McNamara, Clover Hill & Claireen. MM

Sun 11th: 9am: Tim Flanagan, Rockmount Hse.  
Mary Gormley, Childers Rd.

10.30am: Ignatius McCarthy, Tulla Rd.

Bridget & John Daly, Parnell St & Gallows Hill.

Jim Whymys, Cusack Rd.

Eileen & Jack O'Donovan, Turnpike Rd.

Nelly Ryan nee O'Donovan.

Joe & Mary Nevin & Mary O'Neill, Loughville.

Kathleen O'Halloran, St Michael's Villas.

Patrick & Maura Keane, Market St. & Kilrush Rd.

Liam Slattery & Torpey family, St Michael's Villas.

12noon: Patrick Molloy, Dalcassian Park. 1st Anniv

Mon: 7.45am: Sean & Lucy Kissane, Dublin & Ennis.

10am: Alan Halpin, O'Connell St.

7.30pm: Ita & Paddy Gilligan, Cloughleigh Rd.

Tues: 7.45am Book of Intentions.

10am: Josephine O'Halloran, Limerick Rd.

7.30pm: Ella Burke, Phoenix Court & Mill Rd.

Wed: 7.45am: Don Farrell, Cahercalla Estate.

10am: Tom Reidy, St. Flannan's Tce.

7.30pm: Frank Fox & Cecilia Freeman, Cornmarket St

Thurs: 7.45am: Louis Pyne, Abbey St.

10am: Frank Kearse, Connolly Villas.

7.30pm: George & Kathleen Dinan, Hermitage.

Fri: 7.45am Mass for the People.

10am: Pat & Ricky Loughnane, Abbeyfeale & Ennis.

7.30pm: Michael Keane, Upr Market St. & London MM

Sat: 10am: George Bradley, Drumcliffe.

6.30pm: **Do This In Memory.**

Michael Bugler, Newmarket-on-Fergus. 1st Anniv.

Sun 18th: 9am: John & Bridget Stokes, Corofin.

John & Anne McNamara, Corofin.

Gertrude Vaughan, The Market.

Noel Scanlan, Willow Park.

Peggy Kearney, Summerhill.

Maureen Martin, Shanaway Rd.

10.30am: Marie O'Loughlin, Castlewood Park.

Deceased Kerin family, Clonroadmore.

Donal Cahill, Roslevan.

Donal O'Brien, Turnpike Rd.

PJ & Rita Coulter, Dublin & Ennis.

Mary Connolly & Family, Ard na Gréine.

Jim Harnett, Rockmount.

Paddy Quinn, Market St.

Bobby & Frances O'Rourke, Dalcassian Ave.

Paddy & Peggy Corry & Sr. Mary Corry, Loughville.

12Noon: Mary Moroney, Hermitage & London. 1st Anniv.

## Roster for Cathedral:

Sunday 18th December, 2016

Readers: Group 6

Eucharistic Ministers Weekday: Group 4

Eucharistic Ministers Sunday: Group 1



## Live the Word:



Practising gratitude allows us to stop and reflect on the abundance you already have in your life. Being grateful ceases the endless wanting and needing because it helps you to realize just how much you possess already.

## Hospital & Sick Calls

11th December, 2016

Priest on Duty:

Fr. Dariusz Plasek

Please call: 065 6869098

Wednesday:

Fr. Tom O'Gorman

065 6869098

## Newly Baptised



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

## People of the Year Awards



Many people are working in a voluntary capacity (often unnoticed), giving of their time and energy in the service of others and enriching our community. Some years ago the Pastoral Council decided to acknowledge their contributions, and awards have been presented to worthy participants for the past number of years. If you know of someone whom, you feel, would be worthy of such recognition, we would appreciate your nominating them. Nominations to be sent to the Parish Office and should include information about the person being nominated and a detailed outline of the reasons for the nomination.

**Closing date: 31st Dec 2016.**

## Third Sunday of Advent-Dec 11th

"I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare the way before you." Are you called to be sent by Jesus as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Contact: 086 2777139



## St. Joseph's

Mass intentions for scheduled Masses in St. Joseph's Church should be booked through the Parish Office. For all other events call Fr John 0656822166.

### Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat 7pm: Rita Considine, Beechpark. MM

Sun 11th 8am: Bill & Agnes Reidy, Coolmeen.

10am: Peter & Paulette Cosgrove, Castlewood Park.

11.30am: Pat Kilker, St. Senan's Rd.

Mon 11am: Niamh & Oisín Heiner, Melbourne.

Tues 11am: Eileen Leydon, London.

Wed 11am: James & Maureen O'Keefe, Lifford Rd.

Thu 11am: John Leydon, Sligo.

Fri 11am: Tom McCarthy, Sligo.

Sat 11am: Rosaleen Spooner, Clonroad.

7pm: Mary McHerney, Shannon Park. MM

Sun 8am: Michael & Catherine Griffin, Maurices Mills.

10am: **Do This In Memory.**

11.30am: Sean & Clare McGrath, Lifford Rd.



## Rest in Peace

Phil Scanlon, Oak Park Ennis and formerly Renagisha, Kilmaley and Kilburn London; John McNamara, Ennis & Mountshannon; Margaret Counihan, Fergus Lawn;



## Cloughleigh



### Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sun 11th 9.30am: Patrick Gegan, Knock, Inch.

11am: Adelede & Cyril Cosgrove, Clancy Pk.

Mon 9.30am: Donors' Intentions.

Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.

Wed 9.30am: Margaret & Tom Crowe, Lahinch.

Thu 9.30am: Lena & Mickie McNamara, Carrigaholt.  
Donor's Intentions.

Fri 9.30am: Nancy Sherlock, Watery Rd.

Sun 9.30am: **Do This In Memory**

Juliette & TJ O'Connor, Lahinch Rd.

11am: Louis, Dr. Tom & Louis Galvin, Cloughleigh Rd.

## Advent / Christmas Parish Events

**Parish Carol Service** in Cathedral Sunday 18th December; 7pm. Celebrate this occasion as a family to help us have the "Real" Christmas atmosphere in our lives and homes.



**Baby Jesus Sunday:** Every year on one of the Sundays of Advent, families bring the figure of the Baby Jesus to St. Peter's Square in Rome for the Pope to bless. It is called "*Bambinelli Sunday*." Many homes in our parish still give a central place to the crib among their Christmas decorations. On Sun 18th Dec we invite you to bring the Baby Jesus from your home to any mass in Ennis Parish and they will be blessed by the celebrant.

**Cluster Reconciliation;** Cathedral Monday 19th 7.30-8.30pm. This is an opportunity for us to seek forgiveness and enter the Christmas feast with Peace in ourselves & others.

**Ennis Men's Shed Christmas exhibition in the Scout Hall** just across from the Ennis Parish Office; December 18th-24th. The exhibition will present some scenes from the Christmas story such as the annunciation and Herod's Palace and there will be an opportunity to have a photo taken with the crib. Admission is free but any donations will go towards Ennis Men's Shed. All welcome to come and share a prayer or a thought. Opening after 12 mass; Sunday 18th, and after all masses during the week.

**An Advent Giving Tree is situated in the Cathedral at the side of the Altar.**

Any of the following can be donated: Tea, coffee, sugar, Tayto, selection boxes, minerals, biscuits, soup, jam, baked beans, cornflakes, custard, peas, crackers, shampoo, toilet rolls, tinned food. By donating any of these food items, you will be helping organisations who work with our town's needy this Christmas. Items can be left under the tree or delivered to the Parish Office.



## Ennis Cathedral Organ Restoration Fund

### Organ Restoration Fundraisers

- ◆ **Triduum Mass Cards** - (*Triduum of Masses offered on Christmas Day*)
- ◆ **Parish Christmas Cards:** 6 cards for €5
- ◆ **Ennis Cathedral Choir CD:** €10

All available for sale in Parish Office.

Our Cathedral organ, the second to be placed here, has been in place since 1930. Its installation was led by the then choirmaster and organist, Ernest de Regge and was made possible by the kind donations of the people of Ennis. It is a complex instrument consisting of numerous mechanical and electrical connections and over 2000 pipes. Considering the last refurbishment of the organ took place in 1985; it is not surprising that it is deteriorating - particularly in recent years. At the moment, the organ itself is approaching unplayable. It has had to be retired from concerts and major ceremonies; as would have been noticed at our most recent Episcopal Ordination. The instrument needs a new electrical system in addition to fixing cracked pipes, wind chests and mechanical valves. Without this, the organ will continue to deteriorate and will be entirely unplayable before too long. We have done our best to keep it in use but this cannot continue without significant investment and restoration.

On Tuesday, December 20th., Holy Family Senior School will present their biennial production of 'Who Would Imagine A King - A Christmas Nativity Story'. This beautiful night of scripture and song, recalling the First Christmas, takes place in the Cathedral at 8:15pm. All very welcome to join us on the night.



Holy Family Parents' Association have produced a book of international recipes from over 50 countries. The children of the school encourage you to follow your fork around the world with them. The recipe book would make a lovely Christmas present at a cost of only €10. It will be available next week from both school offices or ring 0656828893 to order a copy. All proceeds go towards buying ICT equipment for the schools.

Land of Saints & Scholars—Beautiful book on the story of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Ideal Christmas gift. On sale, Parish office: €15



Sale of Fairtrade goods in the Chapter Room after all weekend masses.

MEDJUGORJE PRAYER MEETING with celebration of Holy Mass: Celebrant Fr Gerard Fitzgerald 12th Dec 8pm. District Daycare Centre Clarecastle. All welcome.

MEDJUGORJE CHRISTMAS GIFT: Consider giving a deposit for Pilgrimage ex Shannon on 17th May, 2017. Contact Kathleen: 086 1031508.

Clare Music Makers Present "A Christmas Celebration" Concert, Sunday 11th December at 3pm in the Franciscan Friary, Ennis. Admission at door, all proceeds to Cahercalla Community Hospice.

Maranatha Prayer Ministry invites you to our Christmas Healing Retreat on today, Sunday, 11th December; 2.30pm; St. Paul's Church, Dooradoyle, Limerick through the Ministry of Bishop Brendan Leahy, Limerick and Janice and Moss Carrig, Limerick, with beautiful Spirit Filled Praise and Worship Music and Song, Confessions, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Talk, Mass and Adoration and Laying on of hands for healing. Tea after in hall. All welcome.

Retired Nurses' Christmas Dinner. The Ennis branch of the retired nurses' association are having their annual Christmas dinner on this Monday 12th Dec; Old Ground Hotel; 1pm. All members welcome.

Scoil Chríost Rí Cloughleigh is holding a clothes' collection fundraiser. If you are throwing out any old clothes after Christmas, unwanted clothes will be recycled to raise much needed funds for our new school development. These clothes are then sent to countries in the developing world. Bags can be left in the Hall adjoining Cloughleigh Church after Sunday Mass, after weekly masses or any school day until Sunday Jan 29th. For info: 0656820105.

Shannon Archaeological and Historical society lecture on Wed Dec 14th in The Oakwood Hotel, Shannon @ 8pm. Title: Romanticism & Realish. Dr. Mary Harris gives an appraisal of the relationship between Patrick Pearse & Eoin Mac Neill on the question of the Gaelic League and their difference of opinion on the question of armed revolt. All welcome

An Garda Síochána Ennis; Older Persons Christmas Tea Party; December 16th; Treacy's West County Hotel; 2-5pm; All Welcome. Refreshments and Entertainment; Transport Available on request. Please Confirm attendance to Ennis Garda Station 065-6848100

Join us Sunday 11th Dec from 7.30pm at Active Ennis Leisure complex. To celebrate a night of music, song & Poetry. All donations to Pieta House. Performances by, Gerry O'Loughlin—piper, Tola Custy-Musician, Choir led by Tony Murray, poems by Arthur Watson. Swimming & lifesaving display. Followed by light refreshments.



Pieta House

Clothes Dryer required for needy family. Please contact Parish Office 6824043.

The Killaloe Diocesan Youth Council invite young people aged 16 and over to their Christmas Fun, Faith and Social afternoon on Sunday 11th December from 2 to 4pm in the Church of Our Lady, Roslevan. Everybody is asked to bring non perishable food items, which will make up hampers for those in need in our local community. For more information contact Cora Guinnane 0872400135

#### Ennis Town Christmas Road Closures:

O'Connell Square and O'Connell Street from O'Connell Square to its junction with Station Road. Dates and Times of Closures: Sat 17th & Sun 18th Dec; 12noon to 6pm. Fri 23rd & Sat 24th Dec; 12noon to 6pm. Alternative route / diversion; Traffic from High Street and Abbey Street must turn onto Bank Place.

## Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Mí na Nollag

Is iad seo a leanas intinní an Phápa don mhí seo: Go gcuirfear deireadh le scannal na saighdiúirí linbh ar fud an domhain mhóir. Go dtaga muintir na hEorpa athuair ar áilleacht, maitheas agus firinne an tsoiscéil a thugann ríméad agus dóchas don saol.

Tá an Tríú Domhnach na hAidhainte buailte linn. Go traidisiúnta tugadh Domhnach *Gaudete*, nó Domhnach na Lúcháire, ar an tríú Domhnach den Aidhaint mar is briathra tosaigh na Loinneog do Iontríod iad: "Bí gí lúcháireach i gcónaí sa Tiarna. Deirim arís é: bíodh lúcháir oraibh. Bíodh bhur gceansacht le feiceáil ag an saol mór mar ní fada uainn an Tiarna". (Fil 4:4-5) Táimid breis agus leathshlí tríd an Aidhaint agus iarrtar orainn féachaint ar aghaidh le gairdeas d'Fhéile na Nollag. Lastar an choinneal rós-dath i bhFleasc na hAidhainte. Meabhraíonn an t-athrú datha dúinn misneach a bheith againn agus leanúint ar aghaidh lenár n-ullmhúcháin spioradálta go mór mór le paidreoireacht agus le troscadh. Ba é Naomh Eoin Baiste a d'ullmhaigh an bealach don Tiarna. Bíodh sé ina inspioráid againn go léir. Cuireann Eoin Baiste in iúl dúinn inniu go bhfuil an solas tagtha isteach sa saol. Is é Críost an solas mór. Glac an chomhairle seo a leanas: *Lean an ríal do lean gach naomh. Lean go críoch i go caoin glan séimh. Is beannacht Dé dhil gheobhaidh tú go fíor, ar feadh do shaol is ar neamh de shíor.*

*A Dhia, go dtuga tú neart agus misneach dúinn tréithe fóna a chothú ionainn féin i gcónaí. Áiméan.*

The Pope's intentions for the month of December are: That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over. That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life. Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Traditionally it is called Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday because of the first words of the Introit of the Mass. "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near." (Phil 4: 4-5) We are half way through the Season and we are invited to look forward to the Feast of Christmas. The rose coloured candle is lighting on the Advent Wreath. The change of colour is a reminder to increase our courage and to continue with our spiritual preparation especially through prayer and fasting. St. John the Baptist prepared the way of The Lord. Let him be our inspiration. John the Baptist proclaims that light has come into the world. Christ is our light. Accept the following advice: *Follow the rule adopted by the saints. Follow it faithfully with gentleness and compassion, you will truly receive God's blessing, throughout your life and forever in heaven.*

*Lord, may you give us the strength and courage to nurture good qualities in ourselves. Amen.*

Killaloe Diocese JPIC group in conjunction with Mid West Simon Community are launching the Christmas 2 euro appeal. At this time of year we all have gifts at the forefront of our mind but imagine if you could give the gift of a home to a family for just €2.

That is what this project seeks to do. Keep an eye out for posters and collection points as they go up. Collection takes place from December 12th - 24th.



# Today's Scripture Readings

## Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

### 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 Isaiah

Is 35:1-6.10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid'.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you'.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

**The word of the Lord**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Response: Come, Lord and save us.*

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, The Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down,

the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

**R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign forever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R**

## A Reading from the letter of St. James

Jm 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**The word of the Lord**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.*

*He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.*

*Alleluia!*

## A reading from the Holy Gospel

according to Mathew

Mt 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to

see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**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

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.