



ENNIS PARISH

Ss. Peter & Paul Cathedral | St. Joseph's Church | Cloughleigh | Friary | Poor Clares

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NEWSLETTER



PALM SUNDAY

YEAR A

MATTHEW 26:14-27:66

Sunday 29th March 2026

N. One of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,
O. What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?

N. They paid him thirty silver pieces, and from that moment he looked for an opportunity to betray him. Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say,
C. Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?

N. He replied

J. Go to so-and-so in the city and say to him. "The Master says: My time is near. It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples."

N. The disciples did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover. When the evening came he was at table with the twelve disciples. And while they were eating he said:

J. I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me.

N. They were greatly distressed and started asking him in turn,

O. Not I, Lord, surely?

N. He answered:

J. Someone who has dipped his hand into the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!

N. Judas, who was to betray him, asked in his turn,

O. Not I, Rabbi, surely?

N. Jesus answered:

J. They are your own words.

N. Now as they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:

J. Take it and eat; this is my body.'

N. Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them saying:

J. Drink all of you from this, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. From now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in the kingdom of my Father.

N. After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

J. You will all lose faith in me this night, for the scripture says: I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered. But after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.

N. At this, Peter said:

O. Though all lose faith in you, I will never lose faith.

N. Jesus answered him,

J. I tell you solemnly, this very night, before the cock crows, you will have disowned me three times.

N. Peter said to him,

O. Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.

N. And all the disciples said the same.

Then Jesus came with them to a small estate called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

J. Stay here while I go over there to pray.

N. He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. And sadness came over him, and great distress. Then he said to them:

J. My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me.

N. And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed.

J. My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.'

N. He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter:

J. So you had not the strength to keep awake with me one hour? You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the

test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

N. Again, a second time, he went away and prayed:

J. My Father, if this cup cannot pass by without my drinking it, your will be done!

N. And he came back again and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy. Leaving them there, he went away again and prayed for the third time, repeating the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and said to them,

J. You can sleep on now and take your rest. Now the hour has come when the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is already close at hand.

N. He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them. He had said:

O. 'The one I kiss, he is the man. Take him in charge.'

N. So he went straight up to Jesus and said:

O. Greetings, rabbi,

N. and kissed him. Jesus said to him,

J. My friend, do what you are here for.'

N. Then they came forward, seized Jesus and took him in charge. At that, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it; he struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus then said:

J. Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father who would promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defence? But then, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this is the way it must be?

N. It was at this time that Jesus said to the crowds:

J. Am I a brigand, that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I sat teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me.'

N. Now all this happened to fulfil the prophecies in scripture. Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away. The men who had arrested Jesus led him off to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed him at a distance, and when he reached the high priest's palace, he went in and sat down with the attendants to see what the end would be. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus, however false, on which they might pass the death-sentence. But they could not find any, though several lying witnesses came forward. Eventually two stepped forward and made a statement,

O. This man said: "I have power to destroy the Temple of God and in three days build it up."

N. The high priest then stood up and said to him

O. Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?

N. But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him:

O. I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.

N. Jesus answered:

J. The words are your own. Moreover, I tell you that from this time onwards you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

N. At this, the high priest tore his clothes and said:

O. He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? There! You have just heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?

N. They answered:

C. He deserves to die.

Priest on Duty 29th March, 2026
Contact Fr. Jibin 065 6869098



Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat 6.30pm: Mary Kennedy, Francis St. & Pitfield, Lissycasey. MM.
 Michael Woods, Circular Rd.
 Mary Hynes, Clare Rd.
 Sr. Marie Stephens, Convent of Mercy & Bridie & Albert Stephens, Clonroad.
 Breda McMahon, Clonroadbeg.
 Monica Ensko, Turnpike Rd.,

Sun 29th 8am: No intention booked.
9.30am: Brian Corey, Kilrush Rd. **1st Anniv.**
11.30am: Maureen Smyth, New York City & Orlando. **1st Anniv.**
 Jim Kitson, Claureen Drive.
 William & Martha Costin, Hospital, Co. Limerick.
 Nono Lynch, Dalcassian Drive.
 John Staunton, Gallows Hill.
 Nurse Catherine O'Leary, St. Philomena's, Upper Market St.
 Joan Petty & Petty & Crawford Families, Dublin.

1pm: Mass for the Polish Community.
2.30pm: Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony.
6pm: Mass for Brazilian Community.
Mon 7.40am: Holy Souls.
11am: Agnes & Sonny Hehir, Gortmore.
 Anne Burke, Gauranakilla & London.
 Special Intention.
7.30pm: Penitential Service.
Tues 7.40am Book of Intentions.
11am: Geraldine Fitzpatrick, Shannon.
 Martin Bradley, Clonroadbeg.
 Maureen Griffey, St. Flannan's Tce.
7.30pm: Brian McMahon, Drumcauran, Lahinch Rd.
 Gerry Browne, 'Villa Marie', College Rd.
Wed 7.40am: Milan Runnain, Slovakia.
11am: Jim Casey, Athlone & Parnell St.
 Marion Sheill, Friars' Close & Parnell St.
 Nurse Kathleen Duggan, Francis St.
7.30pm: Chrism Mass.
Holy Thursday:11am: Morning Prayer
7.30pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper
 Adoration at the Altar of Repose until 10pm
9.45pm: Night Prayer
Fri 11am: Morning Prayer & Stations of the Cross.
3pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion.
9pm: Prayer & Reflection around the Cross
Holy Sat 11am: Morning Prayer
3.30pm: Blessing of Easter Food (Polish Community).
9pm: Easter Vigil.
Easter Sun 5th 8am: No intentions.
9.30am: No intentions.
11.30am: No intentions.
1pm: Mass for Brazilian Community.
2pm: Mass for Polish Community.

Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Mon: 9.30am: Pakie Murrhly, Mullagh.
Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.
Thu 8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper.
 Adoration at the Altar of Repose until 10pm.
Good Friday 10am : Outdoor Stations of the Cross
 beginning at the Garden of Remembrance.
3pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion.
Sun 5th 11am: Easter Sunday.

Cathedral Renovation Appeal

In the past week Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge donation of €200. Your generosity to the Cathedral Renovation Appeal is much appreciated. Thank you.

Friary News

The monthly mass for SFO members will take place on Wednesday 1st April at 10am in the Friary. We will pray the office after mass. There will be no evening meeting this month as the Chrism Mass will be taking place in the Cathedral.

Holy Week Confessions in the Parish of Ennis



Monday: Reconciliation Service in the Cathedral at 7.30pm with an opportunity for individual Confessions.

Tuesday:
 Friary 11am - 12 noon & 4- 5pm
 Cathedral 7pm - 7.25pm

Spy Wednesday:
 Friary 11am -12noon & 4-5pm

Holy Thursday
 Friary 11am-12noon & 4-5pm
Good Friday
 Friary 11am - 12noon.
 Cathedral 8.30pm -10pm

Holy Saturday
 Cathedral 10am - 1pm & 2-5pm
 Friary 11am - 12noon & 4-5pm



Walk the Way of Calvary with Jesus
 Outdoor Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at the Garden of Remembrance, Cloughleigh at 10am. All welcome.

The Parish Office will close on Holy Thursday at 5pm and will open on Tuesday 7th April at 9am.
The Friary Office will be closed on Good Friday but open on Holy Saturday from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Newly Baptised

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

Jim Gerard Delaney;
Aran Matthew Ryan;
Kai Robert Cooke;
Leah Jacqueline Cooke.



St. Joseph's

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat 7pm: Bridie & Denis Greer, Shannon Park.
 Pat O'Brien, Shannon Park.
Sun 29th 10am: Brid McMahon, Kevin Barry Ave.,
 Seamus MacMathúna, Dublin & Cooraclare,
 Bridget Hermann, New York & Cooraclare.
11.45am: Christina Cullinan, The Green.
 MJ Twomey, Roslevan.
 Paul Glynn, Corrovrinn.
Mon 10.30am: Edwin Twomey, Mellor, Blackburn.
Tues 10.30am: Book of Intentions.
Wed 10.30am: Patrick & Michael Cleary, Clancy Park.
Thurs: 7pm **Mass of the Lords' Supper**
Fri 10.30am: **Stations of the Cross**
3pm: **Celebration of the Passion**
Sat: **Holy Saturday- No Liturgy**
Sun 5th 10am: **Easter Sunday — Mass**
11.45am: **Mass**

Cathedral Flower Fund

Fr. Tom wishes to thank you for the donations of flowers and donations to the Cathedral Flower Fund. As we prepare for Easter, such generosity is very much appreciated.

Easter Dawn Mass

The Abbey Pastoral Area will be holding the Easter Dawn Mass at The Quay, Clarecastle on Easter Sunday Morning at 6.30am. This is a community gathering on the four parishes in our Pastoral Area and our thanks to the Parish of Clarecastle/Ballyea who are hosting this year.

Chrism Mass

Bishop Fintan will be joined by priests, religious and our Lay Pastoral Ministers for the celebration of the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral of SS.Peter & Paul Ennis on Spy Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm. At this Mass the Holy Oils used in the sacraments will be consecrated and all are welcome to this Annual Diocesan Gathering.

Easter Vigil

This vigil is the most significant Liturgical Ceremony of the year. This year there will only be one Easter Vigil in the Parish of Ennis and it will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 9pm on Holy Saturday Night. Parishioners who normally go to the Friary, St. Joseph's or Cloughleigh for the Vigil are very welcome to the Cathedral where we unite with our Bishop in welcoming the Risen Christ.

Easter Holy Water

Ennis Parish for the past few years has made the decision to make Easter Holy Water available in containers and asks parishioners to use recyclable bottles and containers from home to fill your Easter Holy Water.

We are trying to reduce our dependence on plastic and help protect the environment.

Easter Chicks

We have Easter Chicks for sale after Mass. The chicks were all individually knitted and contain a Cadbury's Crème Egg — €3 each or 4 for €10 with proceeds going to the Cathedral Renovation Appeal. Also available in both the Parish and Friary Offices.





Holy Week Ceremonies Parish of Ennis

Palm Sunday

Palm will be blessed at all Masses

Monday 30th March

Reconciliation Ceremony with opportunity for individual confession in the Cathedral at 7.30pm.

Spy Wednesday

Mass of Chrism at 7.30pm in Cathedral, Ennis.

Holy Thursday

Cathedral

11am Morning Prayer
7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration at the Altar of Repose until 10pm
9.45pm Night Prayer

Friary

6.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

St. Joseph's

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration at Altar of Repose until 9pm

Cloughleigh

8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration at the Altar of Repose until 10pm

Good Friday

A day of Fast & Abstinence

Cathedral

11am Morning Prayer & Stations of the Cross
3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
9pm Prayer & Reflection around the Cross

Friary

5pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

St. Joseph's

10.30am Stations of the Cross
3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Cloughleigh

10am Outdoor Stations of the Cross beginning at the Garden of Remembrance.
3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday

Cathedral

11am Morning Prayer
3.30pm Blessing of Easter Food (Polish Community)
9pm Easter Vigil

Please note there will only be one Easter Vigil in the Parish.

(No Vigils in Friary, St. Joseph's or Cloughleigh)
All are welcome to the Cathedral

Easter Sunday

Dawn Mass 6.30am The Quay, Clarecastle

Cathedral

8am, 9.30am, 11.30am

Friary

10.30am

Poor Clare's Monastery

7.45am

St. Joseph's

10am, 11.45am

Cloughleigh

11am

Abbey Pastoral Area Service of Reconciliation

Monday 30th March 7.30pm at Ennis Cathedral
All Welcome, Priests available for individual confession.



Priests' Easter Collection

The Priests' Easter Collection will take place at all Masses in the Abbey Pastoral Area next weekend.

Bishop Fintan and all the priests who minister in our Pastoral Area appreciate the generosity of parishioners. Envelopes are available.

Matt Talbot Novena

The Annual Matt Talbot Novena will conclude on Tuesday, 31st March at 7pm in Tulla Church with Mass and Benediction (please note that the Novena takes place on Tuesday).

We welcome Fr. Tom Fitzpatrick (Doora/Barefield Parish), who will lead us in prayer. Fr. Tom will also lead a healing service, including the Celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick. Petitions may be left at the shrine in the church. Sincere thanks to all who participated and joined us during the Novena.



This is the final week of this year's Trócaire Lenten Appeal.

Your sacrifices and generosity during the weeks of Lent can be shared through the Trócaire box and returned at Easter. Your support of the Trócaire appeal is very much appreciated.

Good Friday Collection

Pope Leo has asked that Christians who gather on Good Friday to pray would support their fellow Christians in the Holy Land. At this time of war and death, they need our support.

Please support the Franciscan Friars on Good Friday to maintain a Christian presence in these holy places

First Friday of April

Friday next 3rd April is Good Friday. The sick and housebound will receive the Sacraments during this week.

If you know of any housebound parishioners who would like to receive the Sacraments, please call the Parish Office early in the week.



REST IN PEACE

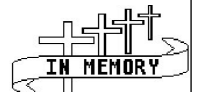
Michael Kelly, John Paul Avenue & Carrowmeer, Quin;

TJ McGuinness, The Food Emporium, Francis St. & Furnacetown, Feakle;

PJ Summerly, Gort Rd.;

Pa Scanlon, Kilrush, brother of Marie Considine, Ennis

Maura Cotter, Kilmihil, mother of Padraic, Ennis.



Ennis Parish
Development Fund
for Sunday, 22nd March

Fund €9,212
Online €171.50

N. Then they spat in his face and hit him with their fists; others said as they struck him,
C. Play the prophet, Christ! Who hit you then?
N. Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came up to him and said:
O. You too were with Jesus the Galilean.
N. But he denied it in front of them all, saying:
O. I do not know what you are talking about.
N. When he went out to the gateway another servant-girl saw him and said to the people there:
O. This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.
N. And again, with an oath, he denied it,
O. I do not know the man.
N. A little later the bystanders came up to and said to Peter:
C. You are one of them for sure! Why, your accent gives you away.
N. Then he started calling down curses on himself and swearing:
O. I do not know the man.
N. At that moment the cock crew, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said, 'Before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly. When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound, and led away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor. When he found that Jesus had been condemned, Judas his betrayer was filled with remorse and took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, saying:
O. I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.
N. They replied,
C. What is that to us? That is your concern.
N. And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary he made off, and went and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said:
C. It is against the Law to put this into the treasury; it is blood money.
N. So they discussed the matter and bought the potter's field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious one was priced by children of Israel and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord directed me. Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question, '
O. Are you the king of the Jews?
N. Jesus replied:
J. It is you who say it.
N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him:
O. Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?
N. But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.
At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at this time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered Pilate said to them,
O. Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Christ?
N. For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,
O. Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.
N. The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:
O. Which of the two do you want me to release for you?
N. They said
C. Barabbas.
N. Pilate said to them:
O. What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?.
N. They all said:
C. Let him be crucified!
N. Pilate asked:
O. Why? What harm has he done?
N. But they shouted all the louder,
C. Let him be crucified!
N. Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said:
O. I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.
N. And the people, to a man, shouted back:
C. His blood be on us and on our children!
N. Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be

first scourged and then handed over to be crucified. The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying:
C. Hail, king of the Jews!
N. And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak, and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.
On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothes by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the king of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.
The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said:
C. So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!
N. The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying,
C. He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God".
N. Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.
From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice;
J. Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?
N. That is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?'
When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:
C. The man is calling on Elijah,
N. And one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. The rest of them said:
C. Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.
N. But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice yielded up his spirit. *(All kneel and pause a moment)*
N. At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:
C. In truth this was a son of God.
N. And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons. When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathaea called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate thereupon ordered it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. Now Mary of Magdala and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.
C. Your Excellency, we recall that this imposter said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I shall rise again'. Therefore give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day, for fear his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead'. This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before.
N. Pilate said to them:
O. You may have your guards. Go and make all as secure as you know how.
N. So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.