



# Ennis Parish News

Confessions in Cathedral every Saturday:  
12 to 1pm & also before and after 6.30pm Mass

## Mass Times

### Sundays:

Cathedral:- Sat. Vigil: 6.30pm; Sunday: 9am, 10.30am & 12 noon  
Mass in Polish each Sunday at 3pm

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

### Phone Numbers:

Cathedral:- 6824043; Email: info@ennisparish.com

St. Joseph's:- 6822166; Cloughleigh: 6840715;

Friary: 6828751

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

4th Sunday of Advent

Year B

18th December, 2011



***"I wish it could be Christmas every day!"***



Christmas is almost here! We welcome friends and family. Something of the magic of Christmas touches the child inside all of us, with its promise of love, peace, acceptance and above all the light of hope for the future. Something about Christmas lifts us up to gaze, if even for a moment, beyond the horizon of our

fears, anxieties and failures to a place where we can hope, trust and believe.

And it all began when Mary, a frightened young girl, said "YES" to God. She dared to hope, to trust and to believe, and in doing so made salvation possible for all humanity by giving birth to our Saviour

We Catholics retell the story Christmas, the story of Mary's "yes" every time we pray the Angelus. Speaking about the Angelus during his visit to Germany this year, Pope Benedict said;

*".....This prayer constantly reminds us of the historical beginnings of our salvation. The Archangel Gabriel presents God's plan of salvation to the Virgin Mary, by which she was to become the Mother of the Redeemer.*

*Mary was fearful, but the angel of the Lord spoke a word of comfort to her: "Do not be afraid, Mary,*

*for you have found favour with God." So Mary is able to respond with her great "yes". This "yes", by which she accepts to become the handmaid of the Lord, is the trusting "yes" to God's plan, to our salvation.*

*And she finally addresses her "yes" to us all, whom she received as her children entrusted to her at the foot of the Cross (cf. Jn 19:27). She never withdraws this promise. And so she is called happy, or rather blessed, for believing that what was promised her by the Lord would be fulfilled (cf. Lk 1:45).*

*As we pray this Angelus, we may join Mary in her "yes", we may adhere trustingly to the beauty of God's plan and to the providence that he has assigned to us in his grace. Then God's love will also, as it were, take flesh in our lives, becoming ever more tangible. In all our cares we need have no fear. God is good....."(Pope Benedict XI)*

Each time we pray the Angelus we are challenged by Mary's courage to hope, to trust and to believe. Great things are possible when we say "yes". And each time we said "yes" to God we welcome him into our hearts and then we can dare to hope and dream.



Yes it really can be Christmas every day!





# What's on this week?



## Hospital & Sick Calls

This week: 18th December, 2011

Priest on Duty:

Fr. Tom O'Gorman ☎065 68 40715

Wednesday Duty:

Fr. Ger Fitzgerald ☎065 68 24043

## Annual Advent

### Ecumenical Carol Service

takes place in Ennis Friary at 7pm on this Sunday - December 18th. The combined choirs of Abbey Cluster: Doorra/Barefield, Quin/Clooney, Clarecastle/Ballyea, Ennis Cathedral, St. Joseph's, The Friary, St. Columba's and The Ennis Brass Band will lead us in the singing of the carols



## Advent Giving Tree



Please place under the tree any of the following, and help organisations who work with our town's needy this Advent: Tea, coffee, sugar, tayto, selection boxes, minerals, biscuits, soup, jam, baked beans, cornflakes, custard, peas, crackers, shampoo, toilet rolls, tinned fruit.

## Sr. Eileen's Clúinne

Táimid ag tnúth go dílis le féile na Nollag - Breith ár dTiarna, agus ní fada anois go mbeimid ag ceiliúradh le dícheall is le dúthracht. Is dócha go bhfuil mórchuid ullmhúcháin saolta déanta againn cheana féin agus ba chóir go mbeadh raidhse ullmhúcháin spioradálta idir lámha againn freisin. Is é ár gcairdeas le Críost, solas mór an tsaoil dúinne. Bhíodh an phaidir seo á rá ag ár sinsiir mar ullmhúcháin do bhreith an Linbh Íosa.

Is beannaithe an nóiméad a rugadh Mac na hÓige, i meán oíche i mBeithil i lár an gheimhridh ghairbh. Deonaigh a Dhia, trí idirghuí Íosa Críost agus Muire Máthair Íosa éisteacht le mo ghúí agus glac le m'achainí. Áiméan

We look forward with anticipation and excitement to the feast of Christmas - the Birth of our Lord and we will soon celebrate with effort and commitment. It is likely that by now, we have made many material preparations. We ought to prepare spiritually in our minds and in our hearts also. Friendship with Christ, is the light that leads us in this world. This prayer was said by our ancestors in preparation for the birth of the Child Jesus.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born, of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my petition through the intercession of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary His Mother. Amen.

## Christmas Ceremonies

Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul:

Christmas Eve: 6.30pm - Children's Mass

Christmas Eve: 9pm - Vigil Mass

Christmas Eve: Midnight - Polish Community Mass

Christmas Day: 9am; 10.30am & 12noon

10.30am Children's Mass: Ennis National School

Christmas Day: 3pm - Polish Community Mass

St. Joseph's Church:

Christmas Eve: 6pm - Children's Mass

Christmas Eve: 7.30pm - Mass in Extraordinary Form

Christmas Eve: 9pm - Vigil Mass

Christmas Day: 8am; 10am & 11.30am

Cloughleigh Church:

Christmas Eve: 9pm - Vigil Mass

Christmas Day: 9.30am; 11am Family Mass

Friary:

Christmas Eve: 10pm - Carols beginning @ 9.30pm

Christmas Day: 9.30am; 10.30am & 12noon

Poor Clare Monastery:

Christmas Day: 7.45am

No Evening Mass Christmas Day in Ennis

## Children's Mass

### on Christmas Eve (Saturday)

at 6.30pm in Ennis Cathedral & at 6.00 in St. Joseph's Church.



Parents and Children - This Mass is for you! Discover the real meaning of Christmas.

## Newly Baptised



We welcomed the following into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism: Charly Dae Panwa; Ben Daniel David Phillips O'Looney, Sean James Donnelly, Seadna Tadhg Ryan.

Marian Athletic Club's Annual "Turkey Trot" at 12 noon, St Stephen's Day from Waterpark Hse., Drumbiggie Rd; all welcome. Beneficiaries RNL Lifeboats (Ennis Branch) and St. Anne's School.

2011 Burren Charity Challenge 1pm Tue, Dec 27th; registration from 11am at Monks pub; 0656937604 www.burrencyclingclub.com

Ennis Track Club Annual 4 & 2 mile Fun Run, Jog or Walk for all the Family. St. Stephen's Day; walkers at 12.30pm; Runners 1pm. From Ballyea Community Hall; Proceeds to The Lilly Foundation Living with Cancer. ☎Gerry Hayes @ 086 3781912.



## Ennis Parish Christmas Project

A Triduum of Masses will be offered in Ennis Parish on Christmas Day for your intentions. Triduum Cards available from Parish Office.

Times of Triduum Masses:

Ennis Cathedral: 10.30am

Cloughleigh: 11am

St. Joseph's: 11.30am



• Parish Christmas Cards are now available. Proceeds from cards go towards Fr. John Molloy's Mission in Ecuador.

• Fr. John Molloy DVD's on his work on Mission available in Parish Office. Voluntary Donation.

## Reconciliation

The Cathedral:

Confessions: 23rd: 3pm-6pm

24th: 10.30am-1pm & 2pm-5.30pm

St. Joseph's:

Confessions: 24th: 2pm - 4pm

The Friary:

Confessions: Thurs 22nd to Sat 24th:

11am - 1pm; 2pm - 5.30pm;

## Penitential Services

Cathedral: Monday 19th December at 7.30pm. (No evening Mass)

Friary: Tues 20th Dec 10.30am

Wed 21st Dec 1.05pm

(instead of the usual 1.05pm Mass)

No Confessions after Christmas until Jan 3rd



## Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

This year the celebration will involve the whole Abbey Cluster of Parishes.

It will take place in Ennis Cathedral on Monday, December 19th, at 7.30pm. The theme of the Liturgy is God's Love for us and it is hoped that all who take part will be touched by the love that God has for each of us. At the close of the ceremony, there will be a special Christmas Blessing.

## People of the Year

Nominations to be sent to the Parish Office and should include some information about the person being nominated and a brief outline of the reasons for the nomination. Closing date 31st December 2011.



## Celebrate People In Our Community

## St. Flannan

### Patron Saint of Killaloe Diocese

Lived in the 7th century and was the son of a king of Thomond. He entered Molua's monastery at Killaloe and became abbot there. He is remembered as a great preacher.

Feast day Sunday 18th Dec.





## 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:** Peggy Dillon, St. Senan's Rd. **1st Anniv**  
**Sun 10am:** Tom & Bridget Mc Mahon, Lifford Rd.  
**Mon 11am:** Decd members Smith family, Market St.  
**Tue 11am:** Jerome & Francis Greene, 55 Cahercalla Est.  
**Wed 11am:** Donors Intentions  
**Thu 11am:** Thomas Hehir, Fergus Park.  
**Fri 11am:** Maura Nevin, Corrovorrin Crescent.  
**Sat 24th 6pm: Children's Mass**  
**7.30pm:** Mass in the extraordinary Form.  
**9.00pm:** Vigil Mass  
**Sun 25th Dec 11.30am: Triduum Mass**

*Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion*  
St. Joseph's Church Monday to Friday 8am  
Everybody welcome.



**St. Joseph's Carol Service**  
In St. Joseph's Church on Mon Dec 19 at 2pm. All welcome to come along and join in.

The monthly Mass of the Ennis Padre Pio prayer group will be held in St. Joseph's Church Ennis, on Wednesday the 21st December, at 7.30pm.  
Celebrant: Bishop Kieran O'Reilly, S.M.A.



*Mass in the extraordinary form*  
(the Tridentine or 'Latin' rite)  
**Saturday 24th December**  
(Christmas Eve)  
at 7.30pm in St. Joseph's Church.  
also on Jan 7th at 5.30pm (the Tridentine or Latin rite) takes place in St. Joseph's Church. Masses will be enriched by beautiful Gregorian Chant led by the Schola Petra fertile (the choir of the fertile rock) from Corofin. All are welcome.



## Cloughleigh



### Remembered in Masses this Week:

**Sun 9.30am:** Louis & Dr. Tom Galvin, Cloughleigh Rd.  
**11am:** Paddy & Bunny Tuohy, Old Mill St.  
**Tue 9.30am:** Donors Intention.  
**Sat 24th 9pm:** Vigil Mass  
**Sun 25th Dec 11am:** Family & Triduum Mass

Scoil Christ Rí will hold a Carol Service in Cloughleigh Oratory on Mon, Dec 19th at 7pm. The children will perform a selection of carols, old and new, and read some reflections on the meaning of Christmas. The pupils and staff would like to invite everyone to share the spirit of Christmas with them.

Cloughleigh Residents' Association holding a Christmas Raffle in aid of their benevolent fund.

**1st Prize** €100 "All for One" Voucher; **2nd Prize** 2 Bags of Coal; **3rd Prize** 1 bottle of Whisky. Cost is €2 a line; draw on 19th Dec at 8pm in the Community Centre. Please support this worthy cause.

**BINGO Bingo BINGO**  
restarting in Community Centre in aid of Cuan an Chláir on Sunday January 1st from 6pm.



**Dublin youth Opera** company with guests Ennis Friary Junior Choir Tue Dec 20th @ 8.30pm in Ennis Franciscan Friary. Admission by donation in aid of Cahercalla Hospice.

**Supervised Study** will run every day from Jan 2nd to 8th in New Rd Study Centre at Rice College. Students from all secondary schools are welcome. Every day from 9am to 2pm. Enquiries to John Burns on 0872766338.

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself*  
Luke 10:27. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ we are asked to help our less fortunate neighbours in the developing world through Trocaire's Global Gifts. Make a difference to someone's life from as little as €7. Gifts are available at [www.trocaire.org/globalgift](http://www.trocaire.org/globalgift) or calling 1850 408 408



Thank you from the Management & Staff of District Daycare Centre Clarecastle to all who provided Homemade Baking, Flowers, Crafts and gave donations to our recent Craft Fair. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Tulla C.C.É.** Christmas Céili In Minogue's, Tulla On Saturday 17th Dec. at 9.30pm Tickets €5

**Killaloe Lourdes Pilgrimage.** Bishop Kieran O'Reilly SMA, will lead Diocesan Pilgrimage on June 26 for 5 days €670 (same price as last year and the cheapest Diocesan pilgrimage from Ireland). An ideal gift for a parent or friend. Details: JWT @ 012410812. Autumn Pilgrimage on 2nd Oct @ €650.

**Bishop's and Priests' Christmas Collection** will be taken up at all masses on Christmas Day, including Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve.

**Goal Mile** on Christmas Day in Fair Green, Ennis (St. Joseph's Hospital side) 11-1pm. Walk, run or crawl 1 mile and help poorest of the poor worldwide. **Mary @ GOAL mile** 0861029000.



### Live the word:

Balance is everything in this life. Neither too much nor too little. So for this festive season find the balance that's right for you. Enjoy taking a new approach to this Christmas.



## Cathedral

### Remembered in Masses this Week:

**Sat:6.30** Eta Gilligan, (1st Anniv) & her husband Paddy, 5 Cloughleigh Rd  
**Sun.18th Dec :9am** Paul & Andrew O'Shea, Tulla Rd. Michael Crowe, Cree.  
Donnagh & Elaine Lempriere, Ennis Marie O'Loughlin, 31 Castlewood Park.  
**10.30am** Noel Higgins, 74 Hermitage.  
Paddy Quinn, Market St.  
Tony Woods, 5 Rockmount Grove, Kilrush Rd  
Jim Harnett, Rockmount.  
Guerin Family, 42 St. Michael's Villas.  
John & Bridget Daly, late of Parnell St & Gallows Hill.  
Chris & Kathleen Kearney, St. Judes, Kincora Pk.  
**12 noon** Dan Baker, Barrack St. **1st Anniv**  
Maureen Martin, Woodstock View, Shanaway **1st Anniv**  
**Seeking Vision Members Mass**  
**Mon:7.45am** Brian Kelly junior & senior, Limerick Rd.  
**10am** Donors Intentions.  
**7.30pm Penitential Services.**  
**Tues.:7.45am** Frank O'Connor, Kilbricken, Doora.  
**10am** Delia Reddan, Beechpark.  
**7.30pm** Donal O'Brien, Turnpike.  
**Wed.:7.45am** Jimmy Duggan, late of Connolly Villas.  
**10am** Paddy & Mary Shannahan, 75 St. Ml's Villas.  
**7.30pm** Denis Wylde, 11 Clonroad.  
**Thurs.:7.45am** O'Halloran families, Tulla Rd, Maghera.  
**10am** Frances Mc Inerney, 59 Parnell St & Park Ave.  
**7.30pm** Joe Callinan, 3 Gallows Hill.  
Maureen Pussa, Parnell St.  
**Fri.:7.45am** Michael O'Brien, Ballybeg.  
**10am** Donor Intention.  
**7.30pm** Michael & Mgt Fitzpatrick, 2 St. Patrick's Tce.  
**Sat.:10am** Paddy & Norrie Kelly, Carmody St.  
**6.30pm** Children's Mass  
**9.00pm** Vigil Mass  
**12 midnight** Polish Community Mass  
**Sun 25th 10.30am** Christmas Triduum, Children's Mass  
**3pm: Polish Community Mass**

### Cathedral Readers

Please collect 2012 Missals from Sacristy or Parish Office.

### Rest in Peace



**Seamus Malone**, Nenagh formerly Clare Co Council; **Nell West**, Kilkenny mother of Helena Cantwell, Westfields; **Mary Kelleher**, 15 Rosanore, Gort Road; **Christina Geraghty**, Unit 2 St Joseph's Hospital & Ballinruan; **Theresa Brigdale**, Hermitage; **Christina King**, Newmarket on Fergus, mother of Imelda Kennedy, College Rd., Eileen Holly, Cahercalla & Michelle, Park Ave; **Mossie Moore**, Garryspillane, brother of Therese Murphy, Ballybeg; **Laura Colleran**, Quin, granddaughter of Kathleen Shannon, Shannon Park; **Ivan Duggin**, "Clare", South Australia; **Betty Cullinan**, Clarecastle wife of the late John Cullinan, Drumcliffe;

**The Blessed Sacrament Chapel**, alongside the Parish Office in the Grounds of the Cathedral, where continuous Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place, will be open and welcoming to you right through all of:- Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and St. Stephen's Day etc.



*Why not pay a visit to Him whose Birthday it is. Happy Christmas from all involved.*

**First Reading** 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent. Nathan said to the king, Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

Go and tell my servant David, Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.

**The word of the Lord****Responsorial Psalm**

**Response:** .

*I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all the ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

**R**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.'

**R**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure.

**R**

**Second Reading** Romans 16:25-27

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

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. God alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

**The word of the Lord.****Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the handmaid of the Lord:*

*let what you have said be done to me.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel**

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a woman betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the woman's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**