



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

Ennis Parish News

Mass Times

Sundays:

Cathedral:- Sat. Vigil: 6.30 p.m.; Sunday: 9, 10, 11, 12.15pm

Mass in Polish each Sunday at 3pm

St. Joseph's:- Sat. Vigil: 7.00 p.m.; Sunday: 8, 10, 11.30 a.m.

Cloughleigh Church:- 9.30, 11 a.m.

Friary:- Sat. Vigil: 7.30 p.m.; Sunday: 9.30, 10.30, 12.00 noon

Poor Clare Monastery:- 7.45 a.m.

Weekdays:

Cathedral: 8.00, 10, 7.30 p.m. Mon. – Fri.; 10, 11 a.m. on Saturday

St. Joseph's:- 8.00, 11 a.m. Mon. – Fri.; 11 a.m. on Saturday

Cloughleigh Church:- 9.30 a.m. Mon. – Fri.

Friary:- 10 a.m., 1.05pm daily; 10 a.m. on Saturday

Poor Clare Monastery:- 7.45 a.m. daily

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 C) 20th December 2009

Greatest Gift at Christmas is Love

In a mission school in Africa, a young boy listened carefully as the teacher explained why Christians give gifts at Christmas.

“It’s to express our joy and gratitude at the birth of Christ, and to show our desire to have love for one another,” the teacher explained.

Christmas came and the young lad offered a gift to the teacher, a sea-shell of truly wondrous beauty.

The teacher was touched. She asked where he had got it, and the boy explained how he had walked many miles to a distant sea-cove to choose this shell for her.

“It’s truly beautiful. I am really grateful, but you shouldn’t have walked so far,” the teacher said.

The boy’s eyes brightened and he gave a big smile

“Long Walk Part of Gift!”



**In all our preparations, grant us,
Lord, hearts rich in love, hearts
that search in love, enriching the
gift that is given.**

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise duit.

Hospital & Sick Calls

This week: 20th December, 2009

Priest on Duty:

Fr. John McGovern ☎086 3221210

Wednesday Duty:

Fr. Tom Hogan ☎065 68 24043

Brother Senan (Jim) Smith C.S.S.p.

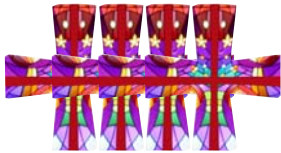


1926 – 2009

Jim Smith, known in his Religious Community of the Holy Ghost as Brother Senan was laid to rest in the Cemetery of Rockwell College where he had lived and worked for almost 50 years. He was the middle child of a family of 10, born to Ciss and Michael Smith, The Market. He followed into the family business of Building Construction and worked along side his Dad. At the age of thirty his life took a new path of direction. He entered the Holy Ghost Novitiate and so began a labour of love that lasted fifty three years. He brought his expertise and talent as a builder to his new life. He was heavily involved in the development of the Campus of Rockwell College; Junior Students dining room; the swimming pool and gymnasium and Agricultural College. He combined the role of builder with teaching and administration. He inherited from his Dad a great love of gardening and fishing. All his life he was a doer. Recent months saw a marked decline in Senan's health. The Circle of his life was completed on 21st November with the passing of his Soul.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hAnam

Mass with a Difference



This Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm in St. Joseph's Church.

Come along and celebrate your Christian faith in a lively Mass - joined by the fresh and upbeat *Ennis Gospel Choir*. All ages welcome. You are *especially* welcome if you haven't been to Church for a while.

Newly Baptised



We welcomed the following into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism: Ailbhe Lucy Curran; Maya Ann Jean Chambers;

Ennis Parish Ceremonies for Christmas

Masses Christmas Day

Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul

Christmas Eve: 9pm - Vigil Mass.

Christmas Eve:

Midnight - Polish Community Mass.

Christmas Day:

9am; 10am; 11.15am & 12.15pm.

10am Children's Mass: Ennis National School.

Christmas Day: 3pm - Polish Community Mass

St. Joseph's Church

Christmas Eve: 6.30pm – Children's Mass.

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 start @ 9.30pm.

Christmas Day: 9.30am; 10.30am & 12noon

Poor Clare Monastery

Christmas Day: 7.45am

No Evening Mass Christmas Day in Ennis



Sacrament Of Reconciliation

The Cathedral

Confessions:

24th: 10.30am-12noon & 2pm-5.30pm.

St. Joseph's

Confessions: 24th: 2pm - 4pm.

The Friary

Confessions: Mon 21st to Thurs 24th:

11am – 1pm; 2pm – 5.30pm;



Penitential Services



Cathedral: Monday 21st December at 7.30pm. (No evening Mass)

Friary: Tuesday 22nd December 10.30am. No Confessions after Christmas until Jan 2nd.



Masses during Christmas Week

Cathedral: 12noon & 7.30pm from Christmas until Fri Jan 2nd.

St. Joseph's: 11am: from Christmas until Friday January 2nd.

Cloughleigh: 9.30am (weekdays).

Friary: 12noon only from Christmas until Friday January 2nd. (No evening Mass).

Poor Clare Monastery: 8.30am (weekdays).



Festival of Cribs in Liscannor Church



On Saturday & Sunday from 9am to 6pm.

Ennis Track Athletic Club Annual 4 mile & 2 mile Fun Run, Jog or Walk for all the family. Proceeds to Chernobyl Orphanage Programme & Fr. Martin Keane Building of Hope. At Ballyea Community Hall on St. Stephen's Day from 12.30pm. Call Gerry 086 3781912. Family: €10 & individual: €5



Parish Representatives

Sincere thanks to the Parish Representatives who have distributed the Christmas Link, Development Fund envelopes and Calendar to the homes of the Parish. If you haven't received them please contact Parish Office.

Book of Expression

A special book is available in the Cathedral for people to write their reactions, feelings and hopes in the follow on of the Murphy report. What can we as a Parish do?

CUAN Cuan An Chláir CUAN

Christmas Day Sponsored Swim in aid of Cuan an Chláir. Cards from Parish Office.

Cuan An Chláir 'Donate A Brick' campaign. Bricks can be purchased for just €10 each on line by logging on to www.cuan.ie and at Ennis Parish Office. The donor can enrol the recipient in the "Remembrance Book" which will be permanently displayed at the new Cuan An Chláir day care facility".

The Ennis Parish Carol Service which took place in Ennis Cathedral is being broadcast on Clare FM this Sunday December 20th at 9pm.



Celebrate the Light of the Solstice and the Light of Christmas with meditation, reflection and a simple ritual this Sunday evening in St Anthony's Hall at 3pm. For further information contact Mary at 0879701130.



Wanted for Car Boot Sale in aid of Cuan an Chláir: good quality clothes, delph, bric-a-brack. Contact Paul at Parish Office 6824043



St. Joseph's

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat 19th 7pm: Sonny Murray, 36 St. Flannans Tce
 Sun 8am: John, Bridget & Peig Crowley, Coolmeen
 10am: Jimmy Casey, Gort Road.
 11.30am: John O Connor, 32 Marian Ave.
 Mon 11am: Thomas Hehir, Fergus Park.
 Wed 11am: Maura Nevin, Corrovorrin Cres. 1st Anniv
 Fri 11.30am Christmas Triduum Mass
 Sat 11am: James Roche, Doonbeg.
 7pm: Patrick Seery, Tulla Rd.
 Sun 27th 8am: Andrew O'Shea, Tulla Rd.
 10am: Bill Hanrahan, Ashfield Park.
 11.30am: Clare & Sean McGrath, Lifford Rd.



Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sun 20th 9.30am: Mgt & Joseph Clohessy, Cree.
 11am: Thomas & Mary Chambers & decd family members, Einagh, Kilrush.
 Mon 9.30am: Bridget Keogh, Ennis & Miltown Malbay.
 7pm: Scoil Christ Ri Carol Service.
 Tue 9.30am: Dodie & Mgt Casey
 Thu 9.30am: Thomas Collins & Aidan Frost.
 Fri 11am: Christmas Triduum Mass.
 Sun 11am: Patrick Moroney, Woodgrove.



Scoil Christ Ri, Cloughleigh will hold their annual Christmas Carol Service in Cloughleigh Church on Monday, December 21st at 7.30 pm. The children will sing a selection of their favourite carols. Come help us celebrate the Christmas season. Everyone welcome.

Bingo in Community Centre on Sunday night at 8.30pm. All welcome.



Boithrin GAA Family Day: Over 180 adults and children had a most enjoyable afternoon in the Woodstock Hotel in Ennis. Sean Collins presented the Under 12 Football team with their county medals and he encouraged them to continue to play. The under 8 and Under 10 squads were also presented with medals. Training will recommence in the CBS pitch in Spring.

Lions Club of Ennis in association with Clare Champion have produced a 2010 calendar with photographs of over 400 people who have appeared in the newspaper over the past 12 months. All proceeds for Christmas Food Appeal & Lions Clubs local charities. €8 each.



Banner Jigs N' Reels DVD in aid of Flood

Victims: The Lions Club of Ennis have released a DVD of its recent Banner Jigs N' Reels show in Glor. This two hours of fantastic entertainment featuring local dancers and celebrities, is available from a wide range of retail outlets in Ennis, and from members of the Lions Club of Ennis. The cost is €10 and all proceeds will be donated to victims of the recent flooding in Ennis.

The Ennis Gospel Choir present their show "Gospel at the Movies" on 22nd/23rd Jan In GLOR. Tickets €18 - 065.6843103, www.glor.ie Further details contact Ennis Gospel Choir at ennisgospelchoir@gmail.com or <http://ReallyTrulyJoyful.bebo.com>

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 Dec. 2009.



Celebrate People In Our Community

Bushypark Addiction Treatment Centre, Ennis, Co. Clare. Bushypark recognise that this is a difficult time for people with addiction issues. We support people with alcohol, drug (illegal and prescribed) and gambling problems to take back control of their own lives. If you, or a family member or someone you care about needs assistance please call us in confidence at 065-6840944 or get more information at www.bushypark.ie



St. Stephen's Day is called *Lá Fhéile Stiofán* or *Lá an Dreoilín*. Although now mostly a discontinued tradition, in certain parts of Ireland persons carrying an effigy of a wren travel from house to house playing music, singing and dancing. Depending on which region of the country, they are called Wrenboys and Mummers. A popular rhyme, known to many Irish children and sung at each house visited by the mummers goes as follows (this version popularized by the Irish group The Clancy Brothers):

The wren, the wren, the king of all birds, St. Stephen's Day was caught in the furze, Although he was little his honour was great, Jump up me lads and give us a treat.

Auction & Sale for Paw Purri Animal Rescue at Centre Point, Hermitage Dec 20th; 2pm-6pm.

Mass for St. Michaels AFC deceased members & supporters. All neighbours welcome @ 4pm Ennis Cathedral on December 26th.

Pre-Marriage Course. A residential style preparation for marriage given by married couples in a completely private & relaxing setting in Esker, Athenry. **Dates for 2010:** Jan 29-31; Feb 26-28; Mar 19-21; May 28-30; ☎ 091 844549 / email: eskerret@indigo.ie; €220/couple.

Goal Mile on Christmas Day at Fairgreen (St. Josephs Hospital side) from 11am-12noon. All welcome.



Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat: 6.30pm Olive Duggan, McHugh's Villas. MM
 Sun.:9am Jim Whyns, Cusack Rd.
 10am Frances McInerney, 12 Park Ave., Clonroad
 Marie O'Loughlin, 31 Castlewood Pk.
 Maisie Riorden, 44 Castlewood Pk.
 Quinn Family, 15 St. Michaels Villas
 Jim Harnett, Rockmount.
 Peggy Corry, Loughville.
 Maureen Duggan, Parnell Street.
 11am Maureen Hanrahan, 'Garyard', Cusack Rd. MM
 12.15pm Nicholas Moloney, Ballycoree, Barefield. MM
 Mon:8am Donor Intentions.
 10am Josephine O Halloran, Limerick Rd.
 7.30pm Penitential Services.
 Tues.:8am Paddy Barry, Cahercalla Road.
 10am Peggy Corry, Loughville, Betty & Senan Meaney, England.
 7.30pm Frank Murphy, 103 Hermitage.
 Wed.:8am Noel Higgins, 74 Hermitage.
 10am Donor Intentions.
 7.30pm Paddy Quinn, Market Street.
 Thurs.:8am Jimmy Duggan, 27 Connolly Villas.
 10am Norrie Kelly, Carmody Street.
 9pm Vigil Christmas Mass.
 Midnight: Polish Community Mass.
 Fri: Christmas Day; 9am, 10am, 11.15 & 12.15
 10am Children's Mass: Ennis National School
 11.15am: Triduum Mass Intentions.
 Sat.:10am: Polish Mass
 12noon Joe & Mary Daly, Lifford, Gort Rd.
 4pm St. Michaels Villas
 6.30pm Pat O'Sullivan, 3 Abbey Court.
 Sun.:9am Gerry Roche, Tobertasocain.
 10am Pat Moloney, Tulla.
 Gerard & Ellen Hynes, Late Connolly Villas
 Michael Crowe, Cree.
 11am Gertrude Vaughan, Market St. 1st Anniv
 12.15pm Cormac Cannon, 56 Cahercalla Est. 1st Anniv.

Annual Christmas Cathedral Tidy Up will be on Mon 21st. Help appreciated. Please come to Chapter room @ 10.30am.



Roster for Cathedral:

Sunday 27th December, 2009

Readers: Group 1
 Eucharistic Ministers Weekday: Group 5
 Eucharistic Ministers Sunday: Group 3



Rest in Peace: Tony Woods, Rockmount Grove; Brian Prior, Ivy Hill; Elizabeth Lough, London & Late of St. Claires Tce, mother of Eddie, Gallows Hill; Bobby O'Rourke, 6 Dalcassian Ave.; Ita Kurek, Wales, sister of Tommy Mahony, Tobertaoscaín;

Bishop's & Priests' Christmas Collection

Will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Day, including Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve.

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, & St. Stephen's Day etc. *Why not pay a visit to Him whose Birthday it is. Happy Christmas from all involved.*





Today's Scripture Readings

With Inclusive Language



First Reading Micah 5:1-4 **A reading from the prophet Micah.**

The Lord says this:
 You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 the least of the clans of Judah,
 out of you will be born for me
 the one who is to rule over Israel;
 his origin goes back to the distant past,
 to the days of old.
 The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
 till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
 Then the remnant will come back
 to the people of Israel.
 He will stand and feed his flock
 with the power of the Lord,
 with the majesty of the name of his God.
 They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his
 power
 to the ends of the land.
 He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord



Responsorial Psalm

Response:

**God of hosts, bring us back;
 Let Your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
 Shine forth from Your cherubim throne.
 O Lord, rouse up Your might,
 O Lord, come to our help. **℟**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
 Look down from heaven and see.
 Visit this vine and protect it,
 The vine Your right hand has planted. **℟**

May Your hand be on the one You have chosen,
 the one You have given Your strength.
 And we shall never forsake You again:
 Give us life that we may call upon Your name. **℟**

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10 **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:
 You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
 prepared a body for me.
 You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for
 sin;
 then I said,
 just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law
 lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the
 sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices
 for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he
 says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is
 abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And
 this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his
 body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

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 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town
 in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's
 house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth
 heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and
 Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud
 cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and
 blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be
 honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the
 moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my
 womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that
 the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord

