



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>

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year B

4th December, 2011

How Shall We Prepare?

The first reading from Isaiah talks about preparing the way of the Lord. John the Baptist is seen as the one who goes before the Lord to prepare His way. The challenge to us, who listen to the Scriptures so many centuries afterwards, is to prepare the way of the Lord in our own hearts and to strive to open our hearts to His coming. John the Baptist does this by preaching repentance; that is, changing the way of living.

What is happening in our hearts right now? What are the attitudes or ways of living that we must change, to prepare the way for the Lord? This is not a matter of trying to make ourselves perfect. Rather, it is a matter of wanting to share in Divine Life and thus looking into ourselves and seeing what might be stopping that participation. God always loves us and always gives us time to look within and to change.

This patient waiting for us is the focus of the Second Reading today. God is a God who wants us to share His life with Him. This God waits for us and always invites us to share with Him.

The Gospel brings us back to John the Baptist and the need to acknowledge our sinfulness, confess our sins. Over and over we must stress that such acknowledgement of our sins is not to make us feel badly about ourselves, or to make us cringe before the Lord. Rather, the confession of our sins is to manifest that God is at work in us.

We proclaim the salvation won for us in Christ, when we acknowledge our sins and ask pardon.

Repentance

And

Rejoicing



It really comes down to this:

do we want to live in a new and marvellous manner that allows us to love and be loved totally?

This is the mystery for which we prepare now. We wait to celebrate the birth of Christ, who comes to change this world forever.

Let us live in Him.



What's on this week?



Hospital & Sick Calls

This week: 4th December, 2011

Priest on Duty:

Fr. John McGovern ☎065 68 22166

Wednesday Duty:

Fr. Tom Hogan ☎065 68 24043

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. Josephs: 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.

• **Update on Fr. John's work:**

Parish Website: www.ennisparish.com

Cathedral cantor Karoline O'Sullivan

is giving a concert performance in the Danlann an Chlair on Saturday December 10th at 8pm. The music, inspired by France will be performed in both English and French. Each song will be knitted together with interesting facts and amusing stories about the composers and original performers. Other performers include Michael Hennessy and Maeve Cairney. Tickets are available at the Cathedral Office and the Ennis Bookshop.



Newly Baptised

We welcomed the following into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism: **Aaron Mark Whelan; Fionnan Patrick O'Connor; John Patrick Boyle; Annalise Jane Sherlock; Aisling Noirin Murphy.**

AGM of Clare Arch & Historical Society

will take place in the Civic Rooms, Drumbiggle at **7pm on Tue next, Dec 6th.** Followed by lecture - Simon Large will present the results of a survey of 170 Medieval Churches and associated graveyards, in Co Clare, completed in 2010, and some of the issues that were discovered. Admission charge is €5 for non-members. All are welcome. emgreene@eircom.net or 087-9165916.

Ceili in Cois na hAbhna Sun Dec 4th from 3-6.



Live the word:

Advent is upon us, and so Christmas is drawing nearer. You can still have festive cheer, without the festive expense. Look forward to spending time with family and old friends. Talking, laughing, a gift of your own creation can make some of the best Christmas gifts.



Feast of Immaculate Conception Thursday, 8th December Holy Day Mass Times

Vigil Mass Wednesday 7th Dec:

Cathedral 6.30pm

St. Joseph's 7pm.

Friary: 7.30pm

Thursday 8th December:

Cathedral: 9am; 10.30am; 12 noon & 6.30pm.

St. Joseph's: 8am; 10am; 11.30am.

Cloughleigh: 9.30am; 11am.

Friary: 10am, 12noon, 1.05pm

The St Vincent de Paul Society will hold a Church Door Collection before all masses on Thursday, 8th December, The Feast of The Immaculate Conception, and the Vigil masses on Wednesday 7th.



"A BUDGET BUSTING" Nearly New Sale of Designer Ladies/Gents clothing and handbags etc, Tues 6th Dec, 4-8pm at Old Ground. Proceeds to Building of Hope 2012 Project, to build a Home for Orphaned/Blind Children in Mombasa. Raffle for A Beautiful Hamper; Info Maureen: 086 8222828.

Building of Hope Project: Table Quiz in The Grove Bar, Roslevan Dec 9 at 8.30pm

Bake Sale at Doora Church; Sun Dec 4th following mass; for Clare FM's 50 cent appeal

FLORAL SEASONAL ARRANGEMENTS: Ennis Flower and Garden Club present 'Seasonal Arrangements' by Club Committee members on Tue, Dec 6 at the West Co. Demonstrations commence at 8.15pm. Doors open at 7.30pm. Arrangements raffled & Christmas Sales table on the night. Admission €10 for non-members. All are welcome. ennisflowerandgardenclub@eircom.net.

Banner GAA Club AGM Fri Dec 9th at 8pm in Woodstock Hotel. All welcome.

The Fun Club - Ennis National Afterschool Service. Christmas Club available to junior/senior infants. 0867363286; 0879232833. 11th to 15th Dec.

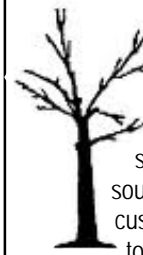
The Ennis Brass Band and friends will hold a free concert on Fri Dec 9th. All are welcome to St Columba's Church, Bindon St., at 8pm come enjoy Christmas classics and more.

SOLAS - Suicide support group will take place on **Sat Dec 10th 11am-12 noon**, at **CIOC offices, Elevation Business PK, Clonroad.** For family, friends, and co-workers whose lives have been touched by suicide either recently or in the past. It is totally confidential and free of charge. Contact Johanna Treacy, Psychotherapist 086 - 0829907

Revision Course Days in English & Irish in West Co. in January. 0871205842.

Wanted for needy: couch, small table and chairs; contact Parish Office.

Advent 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.

An Invitation to Reflect on the Sunday readings during Advent

Jesus started his ministry by choosing a small group of 12. They learned by what Jesus did as well by what he said. They learned the Gospel way of living in the company of Jesus. In His company, they came to know Him & God who sent Him. It is hardly surprising that God desires a relationship with those who are made in his image. Personal relationship depends on communication. Shared reflection on the Gospel helps us to come to know God, who loves us, and wants to be in communion with us. God is reaching out to each one of us & inviting us to reflect on God's Word & to learn as the first disciples did. **Cathedral House at 8pm on Thursday 8th & 15th December.**



Young People & Parish

We thank the young people and their teachers from the various second level schools in the Parish, for their involvement in our Advent Mass at 10.30am in Cathedral. **This week, the students from St. Flannan's College, have prepared the music & Liturgy.**

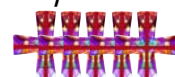
Advent Penitential Service on Monday December 19th at 7.30pm. We will have our annual Advent Penitential Service in Ennis Cathedral. You are most welcome. An opportunity will be provided for individual confession, or to come forward for a blessing. Enjoy precious time out from the hectic run up to Christmas and experience our God who is a God of Love.



The Annual Advent Ecumenical Carol Service takes place in Ennis Friary at 7pm on Sunday December 18th.



Gospel Mass



Monthly gathering in St. Joseph's Church on Sunday 11th December @ 6.30pm, with The Ennis Gospel Choir. All welcome.

Newsletter items to Parish Office ☎ 065-6824043 Fax 065-6842541 or email: info@ennisparish.com Deadline is 12 noon on Tuesday.



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 3rd Dec 7pm: Patrick Kearney, 38 Kincora Park.
Sun 8am: Donor Intentions.
10am: Eddie Ryan, 118 Clancy Park.
11.30am: Kitty, Michael & Mathew Mc Enery, Gort Rd.
Mon 11am: Angela (Veronica) Neville, late Abbey St.
Tue 11am: Peter Cosgrove, Kincora Park.
Wed 11am: Miceál O'Loughlin, 44 Corrovorrin Grove.
7.00pm: Noel Mc Cullagh, late of Doora.
Thurs. 8th Dec. Feast of Immaculate Conception 8am: Mass of Thanksgiving.
10am: Deceased members of Legion of Mary.
11.30am: Tom, Dillie & Maisie Mc Mahon, Gort Rd.
Fri 11am: Noel Moloney, late 34 Marian Avenue.
Sat 11am: Brian Gallagher, Tulla Rd.
7.00pm: Bill & Agnes Reidy, Coolmeen.
Sun 11th Dec 8am: Mary Lally, Pine Grove
10am: James O'Keeffe, Lifford Rd
11.30am: Mary Ellen Quinn, Kincora Park

Mass in the extraordinary form

(the Tridentine or 'Latin' rite)

In St Joseph's Church

This Sunday 4th December at 5.30pm

Mass will be enriched by beautiful Gregorian Chant led by the Schola Petra Fertile (the choir of the fertile rock) from Corofin. **All welcome.**



Cloughleigh



Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sun 4th 9.30am: John, Catherine & Tom Quinn, Loughville
11am: John, Peg & Peter Moloney, Claireen & Wales.
Mon 9.30am: Fr. Pat Fahey, SSC
Tue 9.30am: Fr. Tom Peterson, SSC
Wed 9.30am: Fr. John McCormack, SSC
Thurs. 8th Dec. Feast of Immaculate Conception 9.30am: Fr. Kevin Connors, SSC
11.00: Tom, Annie & Anne Leyden, Cloughleigh Road
Fri 9.30am: Fr. Patrick Creaton, SSC
Sun. 11th 9.30am: Hegarty family, Hermitage
11am: Mary & Thomas Chambers & decd family Moyasta.

Cloughleigh Connect Group meeting next Tue night 6th Dec at 8pm in the Presbytery.

Cloughleigh Residents Association are 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 and the draw will take place on 19th Dec at 8pm in the Community Centre. Please support this worthy cause.

"Jim's Christmas Lights" - No. 75 Elm Park (behind swimming pool) will light up for Christmas in memory of Jim O'Driscoll's wish to raise money for Diabetes Ireland. **On Sat Dec 10; 4-7pm**, Santa Claus, food & wine; treats for children. every evening from Dec 8th - Jan 6th between 4pm - 11pm. People can make donation in Jim's memory to Diabetes Ireland: 1850 909 909 or by logging onto www.diabetes.ie and clicking the "Quick Donate" icon.

Bereavement Team meeting on Thursday 8th December 8pm Cathedral House.

Friary News

Charismatic Prayer Group have a Day of Renewal on this Sun, Dec 4th at St. Anthony's Hall, Francis St; starts at 11am; speaker: Fr. Liam Kelly, OFM, Ennis; theme: Psalm 121 "Where does my help come from". Celebration of The Eucharist at 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Remembering Fr. James Anthony White OFM. Friday 2nd of December marks the centenary of the death of Fr. James Anthony White. Fr. James was born in Islandbawn near Ennistymon in 1841. He joined the Franciscans in 1864 and was ordained in Rome in 1869. He became Guardian in Ennis in 1879. He dedicated his time and energy to building a worthy Friary church to the glory of God and for the people of Ennis and its environs. He spent two years fund-raising in America (during his travels he was almost arrested as an imposter in Buffalo!) He lived to see his efforts rewarded and was present when the church was consecrated in 1892. He died while on holiday with his relatives in Ennistymon in 1911 and is buried in the church. Relatives of Fr. White are still living in Clare and the Friars join them in marking the great achievement of this humble and dedicated son of St. Francis. We recall with gratitude the many people who helped Fr. White build the church and those who lovingly maintained it since it was consecrated. "How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place, Lord God of Hosts" (Psalm 84).

Rite of acceptance of two adult Catechumens into the Church at 12noon Mass on Sunday 4th December



Prayer for the Catechumens

As you embrace the cross of Christ may you come to know the power of God's love for you. May you hear the voice of God and respond to God's Word. May Christ dwell in your hearts by faith and may you learn to bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat: 6.30pm Tommy Brennan, Brookville, Clonroad. **MM**
Sun.: 9am Kitty Hanrahan & Dan Herbert, 5 Dalcassian Drive.
Dec'd members of Madigan family, Kilrush Rd.
Phyllis, Louis & Oliver Skerritt, St Michael's Vls.
Judy Griffin, Lifford Road.
10.30am John & Nuala White, 99 Hermitage Road.
Joseph & Caroline Ensko, Connolly Villas.
Dettie & Tom Kelleher, & Olive O'Malley.
Joan Kears, 36 Cloughleigh Rd.
Aine Lynch, 28A St. Joseph's Terrace.
MI Quinn & decd family members, Cahercalla
John & Bridget Guerin, 46 St. Flannan's Terrace
12 noon Patricia Gormley, 9 Dalcassian. **1st Anniv Rite of acceptance of two adult Catechumens.**
Mon: 7.45am Maisie Murrhly, Mullagh.
10am Stephen Moloney, Killoo, Clarecastle.
7.30pm Decd membs McEnery family, 124 Hermitage
Tues.: 7.45am Darragh & John O'Halloran, Árd na Gréine
10am Catherine Griffin, Ardlea Road.
7.30pm Mary O' Loughlin, 44 St. Michael's Villas.
Wed.: 7.45am Sheehan Family, 16 Drumbiggle Drive
10am Vincent Mc Hugh, Clonroad.
6.30pm Kathleen Dinan, late 73 Hermitage.
Thurs.: 8th Dec - Feast of Immaculate Conception:
9am Mary Jo O'Donoghue, Abbeyfeale.
10.30am Decd membs Quinn Family 15 St. Michael's Villas
12noon Mary Harvey, 139 Cahercalla Estate. **MM**
6.30pm Noreen Seery & son Alan, 13 Davitt Terrace.
Fri.: 7.45am Patrick Shannon, 7 Cornmarket Street.
10am Dermot Molloy, 50 Cahercalla Estate.
7.30pm Michael Moloney, 45 Mc Namara Pk. **1st Anniv**
Sat.: 10am Daryl Dobsen, 13 Ashfield Park.
6.30pm Jo Fitzgerald **1st Anniv** & husband Eddie, Cusack Rd
8pm: Mary Corbett, Limerick Road **MM**
Sun. 11th Dec: 9am Joe & Mary Nevin, Loughville.
Jim Whymys, Cusack Rd.
10.30am Donal Cahill, Roslevan.
Tina Sherlock, 16 Cloughleigh Rd.
Eileen & Jack O'Donovan, Turnpike Rd & Nellie Ryan.
Liam Slattery & decd members Torpey family, 25 St. Michaels villas.
Thomas Devitt, Inagh.
Mary Monks, 24 Glassan, Lahinch Rd.
Bridget & Gerald & James Griffin, Limerick Rd.
Nancy & Gerard Boland, Inagh.
Bobby O'Rourke, 6 Dalcassian Ave.
12 noon John Riordan **MM** & Maisie, Castlewood Pk.

Roster for Cathedral:

Sunday, 11th December, 2011

Readers: Group 6

Eucharistic Ministers Weekday: Group 2

Eucharistic Ministers Sunday: Group 3



Rest in Peace

Bertie Finlay, Portumna, Co. Galway, brother of Ted Finlay, Willsgrove, Cahercalla; **Margaret O'Dea** (nee O'Brien), 66 O'Connell St., & Crusheen; **Marie Dromey**, Portmarnock, Dublin & Tullamore, sister of Kieran, Garrán na Coille, Shanaway Rd.; **Jerry Dunne**, Drombane, Thurles, father of Jim Dunne, Shanaway Rd.; **Paddy Fitzgerald**, Cahercalla Cross, Kilrush Rd.; **Stephen Kenny**, 6 Cornmarket St.; **Michael Sullivan**, New York, husband of Carol Dilger, formerly St. Senan's Rd.;



First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

“Console my people, console them”,
says your God.

“Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes”.

A voice cries, “Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all humankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken”.

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God.”

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: .

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.*

I will hear what the Lord God has to
say,

a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

R.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

R.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

R.



Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St. Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but God is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what God promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that God will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Prepare a way for the Lord,
Make God's paths straight,
And all humankind shall see
the salvation of God.*

Alleluia!



Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord