They say that a new book about Francis of Assisi comes out every year. Even after over 800 years Francis still interests people and fascinates them, both inside and outside the Church. Despite our best efforts to tame this dynamic whirlwind of a man, Francis of Assisi will not be refashioned into a holy statue with painted lips and an angelic smile, but will continually and persistently jump off the plinth to challenge and confront us as to whether or not we truly depend on God and radically follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

Francis was very small in stature, wispy looking with a round face and large, dark, penetrating eyes. He had a big personality that people found attractive. He was immensely charismatic, passionate and sensitive; a romantic, a poet and later in life a mystic. Saints are real flesh and blood men and women just like us and Francis was no exception. He was both joyful and cranky, sometimes depressed, often dramatic in his gestures as when hestripped naked in the town square in Assisi in front of the bishop and a crowd of onlookers and gave all his clothes back to his father. Francis and his cloth merchant father had been engaged in a protracted dispute about Francis not wanting to be in the family business. His bewildered father could not understand his son’s desire to lead a frugal and uncomplicated life devoted to God and to serving lepers. Francis was deemed deranged and a fool for turning his back on wealth and privilege in order to become a nobody, living rough among the poorest and the outcasts of his native Assisi.

The reason for all this turmoil was that Francis had become fascinated with Jesus and the Gospel-message of liberation. Finding this treasure brought Francis great inner peace and joy. He wanted to tell the whole world that he had found the secret to profound happiness. The secret lies, Francis discovered, in giving one’s self away in love and service like Jesus did. He saw that Jesus was poor, had no place to lay his head so he chose to live simply. He understood that Jesus spoke to people in an ordinary way, therefore he and his companions would do the same when they spoke about God. Francis found in the Gospel that Jesus actively looked for and reached out to the poorest, the most forgotten and the nobodies. He chose then to be among these sisters and brothers, as Jesus had been. In fact, it was among the poor and the lepers that Francis encountered Jesus and came to know him. In Francis and in the movement he inspired Jesus came alive again for a whole generation of people who had grown distant from faith and who had lost hope in the power of Love who is Jesus Christ, and whom Francis called ‘the Son of the Most High God’.

Francis saw a humble Christ in the poor and praised God for the beauty of the created world. He was himself a humble person in that he did not believe the world revolved around him. Perhaps Francis’ most important legacy for our age is that humility is joyful. When he abandoned a life of privilege and came to depend on God alone, the world became a place of piercing, ecstatic beauty. Everything became valuable in its own right and able to offer up its loveliness, not as a commodity but as a gift. By the standards of the world St. Francis was a fool but the spirit of God has seldom been more present in the world than in the heart of The Little Poor Man from Assisi, God’s Fool and the world’s beloved brother.
Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:
6.30pm: Mass for the People.
Sun 29th: 9.30am: Kitty Kelly, College Rd.
         Patricia Brogan, Lower Finlea, Killaloe.
11.30am: Mary & Pakie Ryan, Dalcassian Ave.
         Mary Burke, Park Ave.
         Joseph Keane, Summerhill.
         James Cahill, Lisheen, Ballymacally.
Mon: 7.40am: Special Intention.
10am: Donor Intention.
7.30pm: Caroline O’Brien, Stonecourt. MM
Tues: 7.40am: Book of Intentions.
10am: John & Kitty Considine, Clare Rd.
7.30pm: Michael & Bridget Singleton, Hermitage.
Wed: 7.40am: Special Intention.
10am: Donor Intention.
7.30pm: Maureen Nihill, Shalee Drive. MM
         Carmel & Flan O’Reilly, Clare Rd.
Thurs: 7.40pm: Raymundo Sabroso, Philippines.
10am: Patrick & Josephine Kelly, Ard na Greine.
         John Ryan, Ardlea Road.
7.30pm: Patrick Woods, Mc Namara Pk.
         Rita Banaghan, Cloughjordan & Clonroad.
Fri: 7.40am: Mass for the People.
10am: Special Intention.
7.30pm: Michael Gilligan, Boston & Golf Links Rd.
         Ellizabeth Broderick, Ard Carrig, Ennis.
Sat: 10am: Noreen Green, College Pk.
6.30pm: Barbara Considine, Riverside, Ennis.
         Anne Mangan, Turnpike Rd.
11.30am: Mary & Frederick Dunne, Clare Rd.
         Margaret (Rene) Browne, Circular Rd. MM
         Maureen O’Brien, Hermitage. MM
         Aidan Tuttle, Castlelawn, Tulla Rd.

Roster for Cathedral:
Sunday 29th September, 2019
Readers: Group
Eucharistic Ministers Weekday: Group
Eucharistic Ministers Sunday: Group

Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week:
Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.
Sun 6th11am: John, Peg & Peter Maloney, Clarenre.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration resumes in Cloughleigh Oratory at 8pm on Friday October 4th. All welcome to come and spend a half hour in the presence of God in the blessed sacrament.

Blessing of animals takes place in Cloughleigh on October 4th, the feast of St. Francis, at 6pm in the yard of the Church. All welcome. There is also the traditional blessing of animals to be held on Sunday in the Franciscan Friary at 3pm.

Priests’ Autumn Collection

The Autumn Collection for the Priests of the Parish takes place at all Masses next weekend. As one of only four appeals in the year for support of your Priests, your generosity to the Autumn Collection will be very much appreciated. We thank Parishioners who distribute envelopes for this appeal.

Hospital & Sick Calls

29th September, 2019
Priot on Duty: Fr. Dariusz

Friary Notes

Next meeting of the Secular Franciscan Order at 10am and 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd October.

Hour of Prayer for Peace at Poor Clare Chapel on Saturday 5th at 4.30pm.

Cathedral Renovation & Painting Appeal

In the past wek Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge the following donations of €150; €100; €50. We thank the many people who have made once off contributions to this appeal.

The estimated costs of this work to date is €180,000. All contributions for this work are very much appreciated.

First Friday of October
Next Friday is the first Friday on the month of October. Sick and housebound Parishioners will received Sacraments at home and if you wish to receive the Sacraments please contact the Parish Office or any of the Priests.

Taizé Prayer
Thursday 3rd October
Church of Our Lady, Roslevan.
7.45pm - 8.30pm
All welcome.

Canonisation of Blessed John Henry Newman


Bishop Fintan has written a book about his favourite Saint to be. This book will be launched in the Canon O’Kennedy Room in St. Flannan’s College on Wednesday 9th October at 8pm.

All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

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:
7pm: P. J. O’Donnell, Ballyalla.
Sun 10am: Carmel & Tom McInerney, The Crescent.
11.45am: Kay & Séán Horgan, Kincora Pk.
Mon 11am: Ethne Carey, Pine Grove.
Tues 11am: Martin Keane, St. Senan’s Road.
Fri 11am: Simon & Bridget Ryan, Kilkee.
Sat 11am: Sean & Ciss McInerney, Shannon Pk.
7pm: Tom Spellissy, Steele’s Tce.
Sun 6th10am: Tom & Mae Miniter, Kincora Pk.
11.45: Denis & Frances Callinan, Lifford.

Next Mass in the extraordinary form (the Tridentine or ‘Latin’ rite)
Sunday 6th October; 5.30pm, St. Joseph’s Church. All are welcome.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
Next week we Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis. Last weekend on his visit to Ennis Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland spoke of how blessed Ennis is to have a Franciscan presence in the town.

As we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis we thank the present Community of Friars: Joe (Guardian); Paschal; Elzear; Cletus; Philip; Nicholas; Frank and Adrian for their presence and service to our Community.

Rest in Peace

David Browne, Tulla Road; Jackie Browne, Ardlea Road; Dean Bowe, Davitt Tce.; Eamon Gaynor, Clonakilty and late of Shannon & Quin;

25 Years a Bishop

On Sunday 2nd October 1994 Fr. Willie Walsh was ordained Bishop of Killaloe; on Wednesday next Bishop Willie will celebrate his Silver Jubilee as Bishop; 16 years spent as Bishop of this Diocese and the last 9 years in active retirement. Bishop Willie has shown extraordinary leadership in the Irish Church at a time when such leadership was necessary.

We thank him for his very generous continued presence in our parish and wish him many more years of youthful retirement.

Ennis Parish Development Fund for Sunday 22nd September, €4,613.00
In Catholic tradition, rooted in Scripture, angels are figures of great power, intelligence and beauty who worship in the awesome presence of God. Angels are God's messengers to us. Our lovely belief in a personal Guardian Angel who watches over us and takes care of us, goes back to Jesus' words: "Are you a man without fear of God?" (Psalm 103:4). This day of the saints is dedicated to the memory of those who have passed on to be with Jesus. We celebrate the Feast of All Saints, a day to remember the dead, especially those who are in eternal glory. In Catholic tradition, rooted in Scripture, angels are figures of great power, intelligence and beauty who worship in the awesome presence of God. Angels are God's messengers to us. Our lovely belief in a personal Guardian Angel who watches over us and takes care of us, goes back to Jesus' words: "Are you a man without fear of God?" (Psalm 103:4). This day of the saints is dedicated to the memory of those who have passed on to be with Jesus. We celebrate the Feast of All Saints, a day to remember the dead, especially those who are in eternal glory.

Bridge Lessons for Beginners commence; 7.30 Clare Community Bridge Centre on ~Tuesday 8th. October. Contact: Fr. Enda: 087 8764728

Sr. Ethel Normoye Annual Golf Classic will be held at Woodstock Golf Club on Saturday 5th October. The proceeds will go to support the Christmas Crib!

A Day in Honour of Our Lady - "Calling all Families" Consecrate your Families to Our Lady on Saturday, 5th October in the Knock Shrine at the 3pm Pilgrimage Mass. Followed by testimony, food and music in the Rest and Care Center, concludes with a Holy Hour to pray for our Priests, Bishops and their Dioceses. Subsidised Bus (€10 return) from Topaz Service Centre, Tulla Road, Ennis; contact Human Life International in Knock on 094 9375993 or Email: mail@humanlife.ie Booking essential.

Clare Leader Forum are hosting a national conference in Temple Gate Hotel on Friday October 4th. Subject: "Is the Disability Act working for us?"; starts at 10 am and will run till 1pm. Minister McGrath TD will address the conference. More information called Dermot 0863157591.

COPD Clare Fundraiser Concert at Cois na hAbhna, Saturday September 28th at 8pm. Tickets €12. Seisiun Cois Tine at Cois na hAbhna Sunday September 29th at 6pm. Admission €3. Telephone 065 6824276; www.coisnahabhna.ie

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE is a worldwide specially designed Support Programme for men and women who have suffered the loss of a spouse/partner by death, separation or divorce. The next weekend is on at Ennismore Retreat Centre, Cork from Friday 1st November - Sunday 3rd November 2019. Please contact 087 9886480 or email: beginningexperiencecork@gmail.com or www.beginningexperiencecork.com

Ennis Tidy Towns will continue to meet during the autumn. Meeting in Abbey Street Carpark at 11am on the first and third Sundays of October and November. New volunteers are always welcome. Ennis Tidy Towns thank you for your support during our summer season.

Ennis Musical Society are delighted to host auditions for their upcoming production of "Sweeney the Musical". The perfect musical based on Horton Hears a Who and with the Cat in the Hat to keep the story rolling, there really is something for everyone. EMS are looking for auditions from children aged 8 and up and from any adults who wish to take part as lead. Auditions take place on October 13th in Holy Family Hall. Children auditions take place from 11.30am and adult auditions from 2.30pm. More info and audition details at www.ennismusicalsociety.ie

Social Media, Young People and Mental Health - a presentation by Dr. Maureen Griffin, Forensic Psychologist & Mr. Martin Moloney, Principal, Clarecastle NS. Thursday 3rd October at 8pm at the Temple Gate. Doors open 7pm. First come first served. Fee: €5 payable at the door. No pre-bookings. Proceeds to Ennis Mental Health Association.

This month.....

St. Therese of Lisieux, whose feast we celebrate on Tuesday, 1st October and St. Francis of Assisi, on Friday, 4th October are saints whose appeal goes well beyond the sphere of the Catholic and other Christian churches. People of all faiths, and none, are drawn to them because they were human beings of luminous goodness, authenticity and freedom, possessed by a love for which all hearts long. In them, humanity was at its very best, and humanity at its best is irresistible. That’s what sainthood is!

St. Therese knew all about becoming a little child as did St. Francis who, after all, invented the beautiful tradition of the Christmas Crib!

In Catholic tradition, rooted in Scripture, angels are figures of great power, intelligence and beauty who worship in the awesome presence of God. Angels are God's messengers to us. Our lovely belief in a personal Guardian Angel who watches over us and takes care of us, goes back to Jesus' words: "Are you a man without fear of God?" (Psalm 103:4). This day of the saints is dedicated to the memory of those who have passed on to be with Jesus. We celebrate the Feast of All Saints, a day to remember the dead, especially those who are in eternal glory.

Day for Life: The 2019 day for life will be celebrated on 6 October. The theme this year is domestic abuse and copies of the bishops' message are available at entrances to the Church. One in four women and one in six men experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. Almost nine out of ten women murdered in Ireland are killed by a man known to them. It is time to start talking and taking action. Go to www.dayforlife.org to find out what more we can do.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees Sunday 29th September 2019

Irish Blessing for those Who are Forced to Leave Home
The love and affection of the angels be to you. The love and affection of the saints be to you. The love and affection of heaven be to you, To guard you and to cherish you. May God shield you on every step, May Christ aid you on every path, May Spirit fill you on every slope, On hill and on plain; On earth and on sea until it is safe to go home again.

Mr. O'Loughlin at 087 2666729

Normoyle in the township of Missionvale, Port October. The proceeds will go to support the Clare Community Bridge Centre on ~Tuesday 5th October in the Knock Shrine at the 3pm Pilgrimage Mass. Followed by testimony, food and music in the Rest and Care Center, concludes with a Holy Hour to pray for our Priests, Bishops and their Dioceses. Subsidised Bus (€10 return) from Topaz Service Centre, Tulla Road, Ennis; contact Human Life International in Knock on 094 9375993 or Email: mail@humanlife.ie Booking essential.

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**Entrance Antiphon**

All that you have done to us, O Lord,  
You have done with true judgement,  
For we have sinned against you  
And not obeyed your commandments.  
But give glory to your name and deal with  
us according to the bounty of your mercy.

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**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,  
and bring us to everlasting life. |
| C. | For we have sinned against you. |

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**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to Timothy.**  
1 Tm 6:11-16

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

The Lord will reign for ever,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
He upholds the widow and orphan  
and to those who feel so safe on the  
mountain of Samaria.  
Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion  
and to those who feel so safe on the  
mountain of Samaria.  
Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their  
divans,  
they dine on lambs from the flock,  
and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the  
mountain of Samaria.  
Wealth and riches  
and to those who feel so safe on the  
mountain of Samaria.  
Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their  
divans,  
they dine on lambs from the flock,  
and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the  
mountain of Samaria.  
Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion  
and to those who feel so safe on the  
mountain of Samaria.

**The word of the Lord**

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Response: My soul, give praise to the Lord.*

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.