

# Ennis Parish News



Confessions in Cathedral Saturday After 10am Mass & before and after 6.30pm Mass

St Joseph's Saturday After 11am Mass

Parish Office open Mon to Fri 9.30-1pm & 2-5pm Sat 10.30-12noon

## Mass Times

### Sundays:

Cathedral:- Sat. Vigil: 6.30pm; Sunday: 9.30am & 11.30am

St. Joseph's:- Sat. Vigil: 7pm; Sunday: 10am, 11.45am

Cloughleigh Church:- 8.00am, 11am

Friary:- Sat. Vigil: 7.30pm; Sunday: 10.30am, 12.00 noon

Poor Clare Monastery:- 7.45 a.m.

### Weekdays:

Cathedral: Mon. – Fri: 7.40am; 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; Daily Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament from 4-6pm in the Chapel.

### Phone Numbers:

Cathedral:- 6824043; Email: [info@ennisparish.com](mailto:info@ennisparish.com)

St. Joseph's:- 6822166; Cloughleigh: 6797489; Friary: 6828751

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

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ennis.parish>

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

15th December, 2019

**The Crib, a place to reflect on the wonder of God's love.**



The **Nativity Scene** or **Crib** can seem just like another Christmas decoration, but its origins and deep spirituality go away back in history. In his recent *Apostolic Letter Admirabile signum*, Pope Francis tells a beautiful story of how St Francis had been struck by the mosaics in the Roman Basilica of Saint Mary Major depicting the birth of Jesus, close to the place where, according to an ancient tradition, the wooden panels of the manger are preserved. Francis had earlier visited the Holy Land, and the caves in Greccio reminded him of the countryside of Bethlehem. His dream was to recreate his sense of wonder and awe in a setting that was more accessible to all people.

The *Franciscan Sources* describe in detail what then took place in Greccio. Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked a local man named John to help him realize his desire "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay". At this, his faithful friend went immediately to prepare all that the Saint had asked. On December 25<sup>th</sup>, friars came to Greccio from various parts, together with people from

the farmsteads in the area, who brought flowers and torches to light up that holy night. When Francis arrived, he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene. The priest then solemnly celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. At Greccio there were no statues; the nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Christmas crib is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, brothers and sisters all, thanks to that Child who is the Son of God and the Son of the Virgin Mary. And to realize that in that knowledge we find true happiness. Like Saint Francis, may we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that from our wonderment a humble prayer may arise: a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all, and thus never to leave us alone.

Friary and Poor Clare Winter Heating Fund  
 Donations to the Winter Heating Fund for both the Friary and Poor Clare Monastery can be left into the Friary Office.  
 Both Communities are grateful for the support they receive to this annual appeal.

## Cathedral

### Remembered in Masses this Week:

**6.30pm:** Tony Woods, Rockmount Grove.  
 Liam Slattery, St. Michael's Villas.  
 Ignatius McCarthy, Tulla Rd.  
 Nellie & Denis Wylde, Clonroad.  
 Dr. Donough Moylan, Bindon St. **1st Anniv**  
**Sun 15th: 9.30am:** Gertrude Vaughan, Market.  
 John & Bridget Daly, Parnell St & Collins Park.  
 Donal O'Brien, Turnpike Rd.  
 Jim Whymys, Cusack Rd.  
 Peggy Kearney, Summerhill.  
**11.30am:** Peggy Corry, Loughville.  
 Donal Cahill, Hazelgrove, Roslevan.  
 Marie O'Loughlin, Castlewood Park.  
 P.J. & Rita Coulter & Family, Ennis & Dublin.  
 McMahon family, Lifford Rd.  
 Bobby & Frances O'Rourke, Dalcassian Ave.  
 Mulvihill Family, O'Connell St & Kilkishen.  
 Eileen & Jack O'Donovan, Turnpike Rd.  
 Nellie Ryan, Murroe, Limerick.

**Mon: 7.40am:** Special Intention.

**10am:** Special Intention.

**7.30pm: Penitential Service - No Mass.**

**Tues: 7.40am** Book of Intentions.

**10am:** Donors Intention.

**7.30pm:** Ita & Paddy Gilligan, Cloughleigh Rd.  
 Ml, Mgt & Martin Fitzpatrick, St. Patrick's Tce.  
 Karen Cosgrove, Golf Links Rd.  
 Tess White, Clare Rd.

**Wed: 7.40am:** Brian Sr. Tessie & Brian Jr. Kelly,  
 Limerick Rd.

**10am:** Pat & Ricky Loughnane, Ennis & Abbeyfeale.

**7.30pm:** Jackie, Patricia, Declan & Anne Hayes,  
 McNamara Park.

**Thurs: 7.40am:** Mass for the People.

**10am:** Tommy Lorrigan, College Park.

**7.30pm:** Dan Baker, Barrack St.  
 Frances McInerney, Park Avenue.

**Fri: 7.40am** Michael O'Brien, Ballybeg.

**10am:** Christine O'Sullivan, Shragh & London.  
 Vincent McHugh, Clonroad.

Vivian (Thomas) Lee, Fr. Jim Kennedy & family,  
 Gallows Hill.

**7.30pm:** Margaret O'Brien, Elm Park. **MM**

**Sat: 10am:** Peggy Corry, Loughville.  
 Jimmy Duggan, Connolly Villas.

**6.30pm:** Noel Scanlan, Willow Park.

**Sun: 9.30am:** Frank Hogan, St. Flannan's Tce. **1st Anniv**  
 Tom, Catherine, Teresa & Paddy Colgan.

**11.30am:** Stephen & Ellen O'Sullivan, Cork &  
 Stephen O'Sullivan, Ruan.  
 Maureen Martin, Woodstock View, Shanaway Rd.  
 Jim Harnett, Rockmount.  
 Eileen Killeen Mungovan, Tulla Rd.  
 Joe Callinan, Gallows Hill.

### Roster for Cathedral: Sunday 15th December, 2019

Readers: Group 5

Eucharistic Ministers Weekday: Group 5

Eucharistic Ministers Sunday: Group 1



Missals for 2020 can be collected in the  
 Sacristies now.

## Hospital & Sick Calls

15th December, 2019

Priest on Duty: Fr. Joy

Duty Phone: 065 6869098

### Christmas Masses

#### Christmas Eve children's Mass

**5pm:** St. Joseph's

**6pm:** Cathedral

*As these Masses are overcrowded, we ask that only children and their families attend.*

#### Vigil Masses

**7pm:** St Joseph's

**9pm:** Cathedral

**9pm:** Poor Clare Monastery

**10pm:** Friary

**Midnight** Polish Mass in Cathedral

#### Christmas Day

**7.45am:** Poor Clare Monastery

**8am:** Cloughleigh

**9am:** Cathedral

**9am:** Ennis Hospital

**10am:** St. Joseph's

**10.30am:** Cathedral & Friary

**11am:** Cloughleigh

**11.45am:** St. Joseph's

**12noon:** Cathedral & Friary

**1.15pm:** Polish Mass— Cathedral

#### Penitential Services

**Cathedral:**

Monday 16th Dec 7.30pm.

**Friary:**

Tuesday 17th Dec 10.30am.

Friday 20th Dec 1.05pm.

#### Confession

**Cathedral:**

Christmas Eve: 10am—5pm.

**Friary:**

Tues 17th to Sat 21st Dec:

11am—12.30pm & 3pm-5pm.

**Christmas Eve:**

11am—1pm & 2pm—5.30pm.

### Cathedral Renovation & Painting Appeal

In the past week Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge the following donation of: €500, €150, €50, €50, €50. We thank the many people who have made once off contributions to this appeal. The estimated cost of this work to date is €180,000. *All contributions for this work are very much appreciated.*

Feast of St. Flannan  
 Wednesday 18th December  
 is the Feast day of our  
 Diocesan Patron  
 St. Flannan.



## 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:** Maura Plunkett Ryan, Kincora Park.

**Sun 10am:** Catherine & Ml Griffin, Maurice's Mills.

**11.45am** Chris & Kathleen Kearney, Kincora Pk.

**Mon 11am:** John Leydon, Sligo.

**Tues 11am:** Tom McCarthy, Sligo & Cree.

**Wed 11am:** Bridget Orchard & John McMahon,  
 Ennis & Dysart.

**Thu 11am:** Susan & John McCarthy.

**Fri 11am:** Gerry Garvey, Roslevan.

**Sat 11am:** Michael & Christina McMahon.

**7pm:** Annie O'Brien, Carhue, Dysart.

**Sun 10am:** Mai Cotter, St.Senan's Rd. **MM**

**11.45:** Seán & Claire McGrath, Lifford Rd.

## Ennis Parish

### Christmas Project

Triduum Mass Cards (*Triduum of Masses offered on Christmas Day*) and Parish Christmas Cards are now available from Parish Office. *Proceeds from cards towards: Cathedral Restoration Fund.*



### Lourdes 2020

The 64th Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from Friday **26th June to Wednesday 1st July**; €725 full board with €20 discount for online booking to: [joewalshstours.ie](http://joewalshstours.ie) The gift of a Pilgrimage to Lourdes for a family member this Christmas is often the solution for family members wondering what might be a suitable gift for their parents, family member or friend.

Ennis Parish Development Fund for  
 Sunday 8th December: €6,456.00

## Cloughleigh

### Remembered in Masses this Week:

**Sun 11am:** Kathleen Shannon, Cloughleigh Rd.

**Mon 9.30am:** Donor's Intention.

**Tue 9.30am:** Book of Intentions.

**Wed 9.30am:** Donor's Intention.

**7.30pm:** Anne O'Neill, Dalcassian Ave. **MM**

**Thu 9.30am:** Donor's Intention.

**Fri 9.30am:** Donor's Intention.

**Sun 11am:** Patrick Gregan, Knock, Inch.

**Blessing of cars for safety on our roads over Christmas** takes place outside Cloughleigh Oratory on Thursday December 19th between 5:30-6:30pm. St Christopher medals also available. All welcome.

**Christmas by Candlelight in Cloughleigh Oratory.** A short prayer service of carols and readings will take place in Cloughleigh Oratory on December 20th at 8pm. All are welcome to what will be a beautiful ceremony as we light the Oratory with candles, to await the birth of Jesus. A candle will be lit in Memory of deceased loved ones. All welcome.

## Advent / Christmas Parish Events

The annual Carol Service will take place this Sunday Evening at 7pm in the Cathedral. The combined choirs of Ennis Churches and Ennis Brass Band will lead us in Advent reflections, prayer and song. We welcome Bishop Kenneth Kearnon, Church of Ireland, Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe who will join Bishop Fintan in imparting the blessing.

**Reconciliation Service:** On Monday 16th December as we continue our Advent journey of preparation there will be a Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm in the Cathedral for all parishes of the Abbey Pastoral Area. 14 Priests will be available for individual confessions or a chat. An ideal opportunity to prepare for Christmas.

**Items to help the needy can be placed near the tree in the Cathedral or handed into the Parish Office.**

### Priests' Christmas Collection

The Christmas collection of the Priests of the Parish will take place at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. As one of just four collections in the year we do appreciate the generosity of the Parishioners and those who worship in our Parish. Envelopes are available at the Church Doors.

### Planned Giving Envelopes

Currently new boxes of envelopes for 2020 are available for distribution and collection to those who use them. We thank our Parish Representatives who distribute these boxes and our Parish Calendar. New boxes become effective on 5th January 2020.

### Parish Calendar 2020

Our Parish Calendar for 2020 is now available free of charge. This year's Calendar produced in association with our Diocesan Vocations' Committee focuses on the care of our Common Home, Mother Earth. We reflect each month on Pope Francis call to care for the Earth in his letter Laudato Si.

### Festival of Cribs

The annual Festival of Cribs takes place this Saturday, Sunday and Monday in St. Brigid's Church, Liscannor from 10am to 6pm. A lovely experience of viewing over 600 Cribs from all over the world. Free Admission.

### Festival of Trees

Takes place this weekend and next weekend December: 13th, 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd. Open Fri & Sat 11am-6pm; Sunday 1pm-6pm; in St. Columba's Church, Bindon Street. A wonderful way to prepare for the Coming of Christ.

The monthly Mass for the Ennis Padre Pio prayer group will be held in the Franciscan Friary Ennis; Thursday 19th Dec; 7.30pm. All are welcome.



**Found:** Small Crucifix in Ballygriffey early December. Contact Parish Office.

A sincere thank you to all who generously donated €1,983 at our recent Church Gate Collection in aid of the Hope Foundation.

### Rest in Peace

David Murphy, Victoria Court; Gertrude Hayes (nee Keating), Limerick & Kilmihil, sister of Paul Keating, Westfields; Joan Browne, Considine Rd., & late Davitt Tce; Michael Hanrahan, Corrovorrin Grove;



"The Heart of the Winter" an evening of song, poetry music and contemplation. 6:30pm, December 15th, Maria Assumpta Hall, Ennis; Suggested donation €5; All proceeds to Burren Animal Rescue.

**Cantare Choir** concert will take place in Danlan an Chlair on Wednesday, Dec 18th at 8.00 pm. Tickets can purchased from the Ennis Bookshop or at the door, €15, €10 concessions. The concert is in aid of Bushy Park Treatment Centre.

**Clare Music Makers** present "A Christmas Celebration" Concert, Sunday 15th December, at 3pm in Franciscan Friary, Ennis. All are welcome!!!! Proceeds to Clarecare.

### Bereaved by Suicide and Christmas.

The Christmas Season can be a difficult time for people bereaved by suicide. Clare Suicide Bereavement Support volunteers are available to help you. Support and help are only a phone call away. You are welcome to phone/text us at one of our numbers below and we will take it from there. We promise complete confidentiality.

086 0565373. 087 3698315.

[www.claresuicidebereavementsupport.com](http://www.claresuicidebereavementsupport.com)

**University Hospital Limerick** have opened a Book of Remembrance for the children who have passed away in our care. We would like to invite families who wish to have their child's name included in the book to contact Denis Casey End of Life Co-ordinator on 0876544070 or [denis.casey@hse.ie](mailto:denis.casey@hse.ie) for more information.

**Enjoy a magical train ride through the streets of Ennis** onboard the Christmas Express Train from 20th to 22nd December. Pick-up is outside the Market Building. All proceeds in aid of Local Charities. Follow ChristmasInEnnis on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram or visit [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie)

**Holy Family Senior School presents:** The Twelve Days of Christmas a Dastardly Dazzling Musical; Holy Family School Hall; 16th & 17th December; 7pm; Doors open: 6.30pm.

**Bingo Great prizes;  
Jackpot: €1,500;  
In Community Centre  
Sunday from 8pm.**



**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** The Ennis conference wish to thank the people of Ennis who contributed very generously to their annual appeal last weekend. If you still wish to make a contribution to the great work St. Vincent de Paul society do in our name please leave your contribution in the parish office. As a parish, we thank the members of St. Vincent de Paul who give of their time in a voluntary capacity to respond to the cry of the poor.

## Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

**Domhnach na Lúcháire, Domhnach Gaudete.**  
Tá an tríú Domhnach na hAidhainte buailte linn. Go traidisiúnta tugadh Domhnach na Lúcháire, Domhnach Gaudete, ar an tríú Domhnach den Aidhinte mar is briathra tosaigh na Loinneog don Iontróid iad: "Bigí Lúcháireach i gcónaí sa Tiarna. Deirim arís é: bíodh lúcháir oraibh. Bíodh bhur gceansacht le feiceáil ag an saol mór, mar ní fada uainn an Tiarna". (Fil 4:4-5). **A Dhia, go dtuga tú neart agus misneach dúinn tréithe fóna a chothú ionainn féin i gcónaí. Aimeán**  
Páidir le linn Chrann Nollag a réiteach.

A Dhia dhílis, cruthaitheoir na gcrann, cuir do bheannacht ar an gCrann Nollag seo agus é ina sheasamh mar shiombail ar an áthas, ar an dóchas agus ar an mbeatha i ndorchadas an Gheimhridh. Go raibh na géaga síorghlása air ina gcomhartha dúinn ar do ghealltanais shíoraí. Go raibh a shoilse agus a ornáidí ildathacha mar spreagadh dúinn chun an teaghlach/pobal seo againne agus an domhan ina bhfuilimid, a mhaisiú le grá, le dóchas, le solas, agus le creideamh. Go raibh na bronntanais a leagfar faoi mar shiombailí ar na bronntanais a bhronn Íosa orainn le crann an tSlánaithe. Ag breathnú dúinn ar an gcrann glas seo le linn tréimhse naofa na Nollag, go dtaga lúcháir agus síocháin Chríost chun nead a dhéanamh ina ghéaga, sa chlann/sa phobal seo, agus inár gcroí. Aimeán.

### Today is the third Sunday of Advent.

Traditionally it is called Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday because of the first words of the Introit of the Mass. Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. (Phil 4: 4-5). **Lord, may you give us the strength and courage to develop virtues in us now and always. Amen**

**Prayer as you prepare the Christmas Tree:** Faithful God, the creator of the trees, bless this Christmas Tree, a symbol of joy, hope and life in the darkness of winter. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your eternal promise. May its lights and colorful ornaments inspire us to make our home/community and our world places of love, hope, light and faith. May the gifts placed underneath be symbols of the gifts granted to us by Jesus on his saving Cross. As we look at the tree during the holy season of Christmas may it fill our hearts with the joy and peace of Christ and let that joy and peace extend to our community and the whole world. Amen.

### 'Do This in Memory' Holy Communion Programme



The special clothes that the priest wears for Mass are called vestments. There are three different pieces which he needs to put on. Over his ordinary clothes the priest puts on a white or cream coloured tunic called an alb. Then he puts on a long piece of coloured cloth which looks like a scarf and is called a stole.

Over the alb and the stole he puts on his chasuble. The colour of the stole and the chasuble is very important. It tells us what season we are in or what special occasion we are celebrating in the Church year. There are four main colours worn during the Year: green, purple, red and white and this weekend the Priest wears Rose vestments. This vestment is only worn on the 3rd Sunday of Advent and 4th Sunday of Lent.

*Excerpt from 'Learning About the Mass with Kath and Quemen'*

# Today's Scripture Readings

## Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

## 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, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C. **Amen.**

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Is 35:1-6.10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid'.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you'.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

## The word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

*Response: Come, Lord and save us.*

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, The Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign forever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R**

## A reading from the letter of St. James Jm 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.*

*He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.*

*Alleluia!*

## A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mathew Mt 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to

see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

## The Gospel of the Lord

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

## Communion Antiphon

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.**

**Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**