

# 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>

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

22nd December, 2019

Over the centuries there have been many powerful leaders in our world, many dictators and indeed we have had many of these in the last 100 years. The Tzar in Russia, Hitler in Germany, Mugabe in Zimbabwe, Idi Amin in Uganda. Some of these leaders seize power but many of them were elected and were popular in their own countries.

All of these people believed that they knew what was best for their own people and for the world and that their rule would make a difference. But we all know power can corrupt and there is lots of corruption in many places.

Many others get involved in politics believing in the democratic system. If they make it into a position of power they feel that they can change things for the better.

Many other people believe in Education, they believe that educating people will help to change their lives and that we will have a better, more just world. We are all people of hope, looking ahead, looking for a better world and for better times.

The Jewish people were a people who lived in difficult circumstances. They were occupied by the Romans, they had been exiled many times through the centuries, they were leaderless. They looked forward to a Messiah who would free and liberate them. They were thinking of people like King Solomon or King David, a person of great power and influence. But as we know God's way is not our way. Who could have believed the Messiah would have come as a helpless child, born to a young woman like Mary. Who would have believed that Jesus could have brought salvation to mankind. His life seemed to be a failure. Many of his supporters deserted him

and he died as a criminal on the cross. You would have been forgiven for believing that was the end of Jesus and the Christian way. But again Christ's way is not our way.

Christ has made such a difference to humanity for the last 2 thousand years. He does not depend on anybody in power or politics. He depends on all of us to welcome him into our lives and to witness to his way.

He comes to us in the most ordinary and simple of ways. We have to stay with him, like Mary, despite all difficulties that might come the way. He is our hope, our future, our Messiah. This is what we celebrate at Christmas time.



**So let us welcome him in a new way into our lives, our homes and our communities, so that we may have life and have it to the fullest.**

*Fáilte-Bienvenue-Willkommen-Benvenuto-Bienvenido-Witajcie-Bemvindo-  
Welkom-Velkomin-Vitejte-Karibu-Croeso-Valkommen-Tervetuloa-Welcome*

### Cathedral

#### Remembered in Masses this Week:

**6.30pm:** Noel Scanlan, Willow Park.  
Patrick Donohoe, Ennis.

**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.

**Mon: 7.40am:** Michael Kearns, Galway.  
Brendan Conway, Ballygriffey, Ruan.

**10am:** Tommy Byrnes, Lisdoonvarna.

**7.30pm:** Roger Fox, Clancy Park.  
Paddy & Mary Shanahan, St Michael's Villas.

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

**10am:** Thomas & Margaret Collins, Honan's Tce.  
Paddy & Norrie Kelly, Carmody Street.

**6.00pm** Childrens's Mass.

**9pm :** Vigil Mass.

**12.00 :** Polish Mass.

**Wed: Christmas Day.**

**Thurs: 12 noon** Ger O'Meara, Tulla Rd.  
Mary Fitzgerald, St Flannan's Tce.  
Anna Murphy, Ashfield Park, Gort Rd.

**4pm:** Deceased Players & Supporters of St Michael's FC  
& St Michael's Community.

**7.30pm:** Joe Daly, College Road.

**Fri: 12noon:** John, Maisie, Jim & Martin, Bradley,  
Limerick Rd.  
Pat O'Brien, McNamara Park.

**7.30pm: Mass for the People.**

**Sat: 12 noon:** Una Ryan (nee McNamara) Brookville,  
Martina, John & Teresa Wilson, Kilkerrin, Labasheeda.  
Marcus Edmund Kershaw Kelly, Westbourne Court MM.

**6.30pm:** Bernard McNeill, Limerick Road.

**Sun: 9.30am:** Sr. Cecilia, Anthony & David Lynch, Ennis

**11.30am:** Mary Browne, Circular Road.  
Houlihan family, Hermitage.  
Frank Roughan, Ballyneilan, Fountain.

#### Roster for Cathedral:

Sunday 29th December, 2019

Readers: Group 1  
Eucharistic Ministers Weekday: Group 2  
Eucharistic Ministers Sunday: Group 3



### Cloughleigh



#### Remembered in Masses this Week:

**Sun 8am:** Patrick Crowe, Knockerra, Kilrush.  
**11am:** Patrick Gregan, Knock, Inch.  
Kathleen Donovan, Cooraclare.

**Mon 9.30am:** Paddy, Josie, Joe & Tony McNamara,  
Crusheen.

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

**Fri 9.30am:** Michael McGuane, Corrovorrin Drive.

**Sun 11am:** Timothy & Margaret O'Brien, Claureen  
Drive.

Any unwanted Christmas presents can be left into the Parish Office for an online auction in the New Year. Proceeds to Cathedral Restoration Fund.

### Hospital & Sick Calls

**22nd December, 2019**  
**Priest on Duty: Fr Tom Ryan**  
Please call: 065 6869098

#### Christmas Blessings— Beannachtai na Nollag

'Today the Son of God is born and everything changes. The Saviour of the world comes to partake of our human nature, no longer are we alone and forsaken. The true light has come to illuminate our lives so often beset by the darkness of sin. Now must we put away all fear and dread, for the light shows us the path to Bethlehem.'—Pope Francis

Bishop Fintan Monahan, the Priests of the parish and the Franciscan Community wish you every blessing, joy and peace this Christmas. We take this opportunity to thank you for being part of the faith community of Ennis Parish and your ongoing support and prayers.

**Parish Offices closing Tuesday 24th at 1pm and re-opening on Thursday 2nd Jan at 9.30am**

#### Cathedral Renovation & Painting Appeal

In the past week Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge the following donations of €100, €100, €100, €50, €500. 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.*

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: oewalstours.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.



### 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:** Annie O'Brien, Carhue, Dysart.

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

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

**Mon 11am:** Maura Nevin, Corrovorrin Crescent

**Tues 11am:** Mass of Thanksgiving.

**Wed 11am:** No Mass Intentions.

**Thu 11am:** Michael Keane, Fergus Lawn.

**Fri 11am:** Eric McNevin, Corrovorrin Green.

**Sat 11am:** Dr Brian Gallagher, Tulla Road.

**7pm:** Tess O'Brien, Bansha, Tipperary.

**Sun 10am:** Dan & Mary Doorty, Tulla Road.

**11.45:** Maureen & Paddy Shanahan, St Senan's Rd.

#### 'Do This In Memory'

#### First Communion Programme



**THE READINGS:** The Minister of the Word goes to the ambo to read. The first reading is usually from the oldest part of the Bible called the Old Testament. In the Easter Season the first reading comes from the New Testament. The stories that we hear during the first reading are the same stories that Jesus would have heard when he was a child. Some of the stories from the Old Testament are thousands of years old. They remind us of how long people have been listening to God's word. They also tell us how much God loves us. Even though the stories are very old, they still have an important message for us today.

**THE PSALMS:** The psalms are different from the other readings from the Bible. They were written as poems or songs. There are 150 psalms altogether. Sometimes the psalm is sung. Between each verse there is a response which we are all invited to say. The psalm allows us to reflect on the reading that we have just heard.

**SECOND READING:** This reading always comes from the part of the Bible called the New Testament. The reading is taken from the books that are found directly after the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

**OUR RESPONSE TO THE READINGS:** At the end of each of the readings the Minister of the Word finishes by saying, 'The Word of the Lord' and we all respond with the words, 'Thanks be to God.' This is our way of saying 'thank you' to God for these stories which help us to grow together as members of God's family.

**GOAL Mile** takes place at Fairgreen, Ennis on Christmas Day 11am to 1pm. Come along and support the poorest of the poor on this special day.

**10th Annual Siúl Linn Walk**, Sunday 29th Dec Registration at 11am; Walk at 12 noon starting at Shibeen Pub. Proceeds to Charity. All welcome.

The Clare branch of Arthritis Ireland would like to thank you for your generous support over the past two years. The money collected is funding research and providing courses and classes for people with arthritis in Co. Clare. If you would like any information please call: 087 3910150.

## Christmas Masses

### Monday 23rd December

7.40am Cathedral  
7.45am Poor Clares  
9.30am Cloughleigh  
10am: Cathedral and Friary  
11am: St Joseph's  
1.05pm: Friary  
7.30pm: Cathedral

### Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

7.40am: Cathedral  
7.45am: Poor Clares  
9.30am: Cloughleigh  
10am: Cathedral & Friary  
11am: St Joseph's

### 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  
8pm Cloughleigh  
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

## St Stephen's Day

8.30am: Poor Clare Monastery  
11am St Joseph's  
12noon Cathedral & Friary  
7.30pm Cathedral

## Friday 27 December

8.30am: Poor Clare Monastery  
11am St Joseph's  
12noon Cathedral & Friary  
7.30pm Cathedral

## Saturday 28 December

8.30am: Poor Clare Monastery  
11am St Joseph's  
12noon Cathedral & Friary  
Normal Saturday Vigil Masses  
6.30pm Cathedral  
7pm St Joseph's  
7.30pm: Friary

## Confession

Cathedral:  
Christmas Eve: 10am—5pm.  
Friary:  
Monday 23rd & Tues 24th  
11am-1pm & 2-5pm  
St Joseph's  
After 11am—Mass on Christmas Eve  
Cloughleigh  
After 9.30am – Mass on Christmas Eve

## 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.

**Pantaloons, Mother Goose** from Dec 21st to Dec 31st at Glór with Raffle in aid of the Gavin Glynn foundation.



**The Annual 5km Turkey Trot** promoted by the Marian Athletic Club takes place on Saint Stephen's Day 26th December from Waterpark House on the Drumbiggle Road in Ennis.

Registration will be from 11.30am with the trot going out at 12.00. noon. You can walk, trot, jog or run at your own pace. The route will be up by the showgrounds swinging down by Cahercalla to the Kilrush Road and back to base camp at Waterpark House. Plenty of spot prizes and refreshments. Monies raised will go to Milford Hospice and the RNLI Lifeboats.

**Festival of Trees** takes place in St Columba's Church this weekend. Open Friday and Saturday 11am-6pm. Sunday 1pm to 5.30pm. A wonderful way to prepare for the Coming of Christ.

**Bereaved by Suicide.** 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. We promise complete confidentiality.

Tel: 086 0565373 / 087 3698315.

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

## Rest in Peace

**Maureen Whyte**, Kincora Pk. & Miltown Malbay;  
**Tony Shannon**, Cooper's Place & Dalcassian Pk; **Bridget Keenan**, Clareen; **Carmel Devane**, Newpark; **Brigid O'Rourke (nee Daly)**, Bridge Ct, Roslevan, sister of Bella Hehir & Marian Slattery, Ennis; **Michael Moloney**, Nenagh, brother of William, Cahercalla Road;

*Those we love don't go away,  
they walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near;  
still loved, still missed and very dear.*



## Sr. Eileen's Cuinne

An Ceathrú Domhnach den Aidhínt  
Inniu an ceathrú Domhnach den Aidhínt agus ceiliúrfar Breith Íosa ar fud an domhain ar an gCéadaoin seo chugainn. Tá an feitheamh thart nach mór agus comhlíonadh na Nollag buailte linn. "Seo mar a deir an Tiarna:

"Tusa, a Bethlehem Efrata,  
bíodh is gur beag le rá thú i measc treibheanna Judah,

is asat-sa a thiochfaidh, dom-sa,  
an té a bheidh os cionn Israel" (Micah 5:2)  
Is féidir linn teachtaireacht na Nollag a mheabhú dúinn féin agus machnamh a dhéanamh ar an gcéad Nollaig. Bhí an tSlánaitheoir geallta don chine daonna agus rugadh é breis agus dhá mhíle bliain ó shin. Lonraigh a sholas sa dorchadas. Chan na haingil leis na haoirí an chéad oíche Nollag "ná bíodh eagla oraibh; óir féach, tá dea-scéala agam daoibh, a chuirfidh áthas mór ar an bpobal uile, rugadh slánaitheoir daoibh" (Lúcás 2:10). Lastar coinneal gheal san fhuinneog mar chomhartha go bhfuil fáilte roimh an Leabhar Íosa, Muire agus Íosaef, ní amháin inár dtithe ach inár gcroí freisin. Fáilte romhat, a Rí na nAingeal! *Síocháin an Naí Íosa a gealladh do lucht na dea-thola go raibh ag cách an Nollaig seo agus san Athbhliain. Áiméan.*

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent and the Birth of Jesus will be celebrated worldwide on Wednesday next. The waiting is almost over. This is how the Lord speaks:

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days." (Micah 5 :2)  
We can reflect on the first Christmas and its true meaning. The Saviour was promised and born in a stable in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago. A light shone in the darkness. The Angels sang to the shepherds on the first Christmas night. "Fear not, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto us this day is born a Saviour." (Luke 2:10) A lighted candle is placed in the window to welcome Mary, Joseph and the Infant Jesus not only in our homes but also in our hearts. Welcome Saviour of the world! *May the peace of the Infant Jesus promised to people of good will be with you all this Christmas and in the New Year. Amen.*

Rebecca Griffin and her family thank everyone who made the Fundraising Concert for the Hope Foundation on 23rd Nov a great success. Total funds raised €3,959. Thanks to musicians, Brian Flynn, MC, Inagh Community Centre, those who gave spot prizes, food etc. All this money is greatly appreciated and goes straight out to the 60+ Projects working with street and slum children in Kolkata

Ennis Parish Development Fund for Sunday, €7,284

# Today's Scripture Readings

## Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

### 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 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above'. 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us" .

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Response:** Let the Lord enter!  
He is the king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

R

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things.

R

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. R

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

*Rm 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name.

You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

### The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!

## A reading from holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Mt 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived

what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

### 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

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.**