Rembrandt was a genius at painting, at just 25 years old, while still living in Leiden, he created a famous painting “Simeon in the Temple” in 1669. The subject must have fascinated Rembrandt, because he crafted at least two paintings and several drawings of the scene.

Mary and Joseph had taken Jesus to the temple to present him to God. The devout Simeon, helped by the Holy Spirit, saw that the infant might very well be the awaited Messiah. He took the child in his arms and praised God.

In Luke's gospel Simeon also speaks of "a light to enlighten the Gentiles". Rembrandt used that by depicting the child as the source of light.

In the painting against a dark background, the aged characters of Simeon and Anna emerge. Simeon has taken the baby in his arms. Anna is standing at his shoulder looking down at the child. Simeon appears to be about to speak those words of the Nunc Dimittis: For mine eyes have seen.... and yet Simeon is not looking at the child. He appears to be blind, perhaps reflecting the artist’s own growing blindness. He seems to be lost in looking at something that we cannot see, looking to God, looking to the future, seeing what was in store for this child.

Simeon saw with faith, not by what Jesus looked like. We are called to walk by faith and not by sight. Faith is “Being sure of that which we do not see.” God calls us to have our eyes of faith opened by him. To see others, not by our sight which might lead us to criticise or dislike, but by faith to see them as children of God, loved by Him.

As we leave the Church today, we will have seen and tasted the promised future. Taking bread and wine to our lips, we will have held the Christ child. With words and songs we will have proclaimed his presence.

We can go in peace now.... For mine eyes have seen.
Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:
- Sat 6.30pm: Al Wrafter, Tullamore & Bernadette Wrafter, (nee Dunne), Ennis.
- Daniel Curtin, Cahercalla Drive.
- Francie O’Halloran, Collins Park.
- Michael & Bridget Singleton, Hermitage.
- James (Jim) O’Sullivan, Woodlawn, Lahinch Rd.
- 8pm: Gaelscol Mhichil Ciosáig - Do this in Memory Mass.

Sun 2nd 9.30am: James Kelly, Clonroadmore.
- Teresa Ryan, Gallow's Hill.
- 11.30am: Mary Keane, Hermitage. MM.
- John Fogarty, Fernhill, Gort Rd.
- Tom McGrath, Francis St.
- Nora & Kevin Ryan, Greendale, Clonroad.
- Maurice O’Brien, Inch.
- Teresa Kelly, Fergus Park.
- Mon 7.40am: Nora & Martin Meaney, Cranry.
- 11am: Denis Moloney, McNamara Park.
- Paddy & Mary Hogan, Toberaoscain.
- 7.30pm: Eva, Tom, Noel & Mary Ryan, Summerhill.
- Tues 7.40am: Book of Intentions.
- Frey Barry, Boston.
- 2pm: Joseph McDonagh, Ballygiffey, Larchill.
- 7.30pm: James, Agnes & Seamus Blake & Fitzpatrick family, Limerick Rd.
- Wed 7.40am: Special Intention.
- 11am: Special Intention.
- 7.30pm: William Burke, Mill Rd.
- Thurs 7.40am: Maura Garvey, Dublin.
- Earlie family, Limerick Rd.
- 11am: Pat & Nora Harnett, Limerick Rd.
- Michael Sheedy, College View.
- Teresa Purtil, College Green.
- 7.30pm: Kathleen Doran, Tulla & Charlie O’Grady, McNamara Park.
- Fri 7.40am Mass for the People.
- 11am: Lyle O’Connell, St. Michael’s Villas.
- John Mulqueen, Ballygiffey, Ruan.
- 7.30pm: Bernie Dilger, Connolly Villas.
- Bernadette Corry, Enniscrory & Creg. MM
- 6.30pm: Maureen Murphy, Hermitage.
- Pauline Pender, Riverside, Clonroad.
- Michael Hassett, Drumbiggle Rd.
- James & Mary Teresa Quinlivan, Lissycassey.
- Sun 9th 9.30am: Helen Griffin, Woodlawn, Loughville.
- Virginia Donnellan, St. Joseph’s, Hermitage.
- Mary, Mick & Kitty Connelan, Ard na Gréine & Sr. Clare Connelan, Ennis & Texas.
- Mary & Miko Glynn, Knockaderra.
- Christina Kelly, Eirn Park.
- Eleanor Murphy, Magowana, Inch.
- Sun 10am: Michael Hogan, Station Rd., Lahinch. MM.
- 11.45am: Peter Burke, Lifford Rd.
- Margaret Waters, Tullycrine.
- Mon 10.30am: John & Katherine Behan, Kilkee.
- 7pm: Susan Brohan, Considine Rd.
- 11.30am: Vicky Keane, Corrovorrin Drive.
- Sun 9th 10am: Maura Cavanagh, Pine Grove.
- 11.45am: Pat & Marie O’Keeffe, Drummcliffe Rd.

Cathedral Renovation & Painting Appeal

In the past week Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge the following donations of: €300, €100, €10 & €5. We thank the many people who have made once off contributions to this appeal. All contributions for this work are very much appreciated.

The General Election

As we prepare to vote on Saturday next to elect our Public Representatives, we pray for our Politicians.

"Beatiudtes of the Politicians":
Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his/her role.
Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.
Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his/her own interest.
Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.
Blessed be the politician who works for unity.
Blessed be the politician who works for radical change.
Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.
Blessed be the politician who is without fear.
(Cardinal Nguyen Thuan of Vietnam)

Hospital & Sick Calls 2nd February, 2020
Priest on Duty:
- Please call: 065 6869098

Friary News

The next meeting of the Secular Franciscan Order at 10am & 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th February.

Newly Baptised
We welcome into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism:
Darragh Patrick Hayes, Keelin Bridig Moloney, Grace Angela Loonam, Ciara Frances O’Brien

Ennis Parish Development Fund for Sunday, 26th January €6,674.00
Diocesan needs Appeal €3,363.00
Thank you for your generosity to these appeals.

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:
- Sun 10am: Michael Hogan, Station Rd., Lahinch. MM.
- 11.45: Peter Burke, Lifford Rd.
- Margaret Waters, Tullycrine.
- Mon 10.30am: John & Catherine Behan, Kilkee.
- Tues 10.30am: Special Intention.
- Fri 7pm: Margaret Ziemann, Corrovorrin Dr. 1st Anniv.
- Sat 10.30am: Michael & Teresa McMahon, Coore.
- 7pm: Susan Brohan, Considine Rd.
- 11.45am: Vicky Keane, Corrovorrin Drive.

Next Mass in the extraordinary form (the Tridentine or ‘Latin’ rite) takes place:
- Sunday 2nd February; 5.30pm; St. Joseph's Church. All are welcome.

Meeting of St. Joseph’s Young Priests Society after 7pm Mass on Friday 7th February in St. Joseph’s

Taizé Prayer

All welcome to join us for Taizé Prayer, Thursday 6th Feb, 7.45pm - 8.30pm Church of Our Lady, Roslevan.

Alzheimer Society - " Burren Walk "
Just two weeks to go to the Alzheimer Society " Burren Walk " which takes place in Fanore on Sunday the 16th of February. S ponsored Walk will start / finish at O’ Donoghue’s Pub with Registration from 10:30a.m. Information from the Society’s Office at Cahercalla, Ennis - Ph. (065) 6866 621.

Afternoon Céilí, Sunday, February 2nd - 3pm - 6pm with The Nelly O’ Connor Céilí Band. Admission €10.
065 68 24276 - www.coisnahabhna.ie

The Ennis Book Club Festival takes place from March 6th-8th, visit www.EnnisBookClubFestival.com or Glór to see the many events lined up over the weekend.

Roster for Cathedral:
Sunday 9th February, 2020
Readers: Group 1
Eucharistic Ministers Weekday: Group 3
Eucharistic Ministers Sunday: Group 3

Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week:
- Sun 2nd 11am: Kitty McDermott, Cloughleigh.
- Mon 9.30am: Delia, Mary & Peter Hegarty, Hermitage.
- Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.
- Wed 9.30am: Special Intention.
- Thurs 9.30am: Special Intention.
- Fri 7pm: Maureen Lavery, John Paul Ave.
- Sun 9th 11am: P.J. Bridle & Trevor Dilger, Hermitage.
- Chrissie, Miko & Patrick Ball, Drumcarramore.
- Marian & Mark O’Neill & Patrick (Sonny) Kearney.

Blessing of Throats

This Monday is the Feast of St. Blaise. The Blessing of throats will take place at all Masses on Monday.
Day of Consecrated Life
As we celebrate Candlemas Day this Sunday, we also celebrate a Day of Consecrated Life which we acknowledge and give thanks to God for the witness and example of both women and men who consecrate their lives to God as sisters and brothers in various religious communities. In Ennis we are asked to have the presence of the Franciscan Friars, Christian Brothers, Sisters of Mercy and Poor Clares in addition to members of religious life who have come to Ennis in recent years.

First Friday of February: This Friday 7th February, sick and housebound parishioners will receive the Sacraments at home. If you know of any housebound parishioners who would like to receive the Sacraments please contact the parish office on 6824043

St. Brigid's Crosses
As we celebrate the Feast of St. Brigid's this weekend, St. Brigid's crosses made from rushes are for sale in both the Friary and Cathedral. All proceeds to the Cathedral renewal appeal. We thank the many volunteers who have made these crosses and those who supplied the material.

Pilgrimage to Oberammergau
The Killaloe Diocese has secured 40 tickets to the famous Passion Play that is held in Oberammergau, Germany, from 29th August to 2nd September this year. Flying direct from Shannon Airport the pilgrimage will include visits to Vienna, Salzburg, the German Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Altötting and Markt am Inn (birthplace of Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI). Places are limited to 40 pilgrims, so early booking is advised.

Since the Passion Play at Oberammergau is performed only once every ten years, this pilgrimage offers a unique opportunity to participate in a special and historic event. In 1633 the residents of Oberammergau in the German province of Bavaria vowed that if God spared them from the bubonic plague, that they would, for all time, produce a play every 10 years depicting the life and death of Jesus. The play is performed in every year ending in zero. This year the play will be performed throughout the season from May to October. The production involves 2000 performers, musicians and technicians, all of whom are residents of Oberammergau. Cost of the Pilgrimage is €1095 per person sharing, no single rooms available.

Further Information and booking forms from:
Fr. Tom Ryan, Killaloe Diocesan Director of Pilgrimages. 087 234 9816
Fr. Brendan Quinlivan, Killaloe Diocesan Communication’s Officer. Tel: 087 273 6310

Appeal for Nurses: This year’s Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from Friday 26th June to Wednesday 1st July. To care for sick and assisted pilgrims the Diocese is looking to select 20 nurses who would like to volunteer to assist and care for these pilgrims. Nurses who would like to express interest and find out more details are asked to contact Michael Daly 086 3813677

Safeguarding Training: Parishioners and all involved in various Church ministries involving young people and vulnerable adults are required to be Garda vetted and have completed a one day safeguarding training every three years. The next safeguarding training day for this area will take place on Saturday 15th February; at Inn at Dromoland. Further Information and booking forms from: Director of Pilgrimages. 087 234 9816

Online Auction—Thank You
We are very grateful to the parishioners who organised the recent online auction of unwanted Christmas Gifts. €1,130 was raised to support the Cathedral Renovation Appeal. This weekend the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord also known as Candlemas Day. The blessing of candles will take place at all Masses. We welcome the donation of candles for our Churches that can be used during the year at Masses and different times of Prayer.

Petitions For Lourdes
Fr. Tom will represent the Killaloe Diocese at the International Mass for Petitions For Lourdes. If you would like to send a petition to the grotto in Lourdes please leave it into the Parish Office by Thursday lunchtime. This year Diocesan Pilgrimage takes place from 26th June to 1st July.
Today’s Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon
Your merciful love, O God, We have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

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.

GLORIA
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

A Reading from the prophet Malachi.
MI 3:1-4
The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner’s fire and the fuller’s alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to Yahweh as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Yahweh as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Response: Who is the king of glory?
It is the Lord.
O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! R

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war. R
O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! R
Who is he, the king of glory? He, the Lord of armies, he is the king of glory. R

A Reading from the first letter of the Hebrews
Heb 2:14-18
Since all the children share the same blood
and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a com-passionate and trustworthy high priest of God’s religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia Alleluia! The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to the Luke
Lk 2:22-40
When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel’s comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God: and he said: “Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.”

As the child’s father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed him and said to Mary his mother, “You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.”

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.

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
My eyes have seen your salvation Which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.