On Monday 6th January we will celebrate the 12th day of Christmas, trying to get our head around the strange idea that there is a God who took flesh in our world out of love for us.

Next Sunday we jump to Jesus at thirty, being baptised in the Jordan and starting his public ministry.

So on Monday we finish the overture to the Gospel with the visit of the Magi and it is clear from the early stories that they are taking up themes which will be developed later in the Gospel narratives. So what is at the heart of the Magi story? Why did the early Church remember it? What might we as the Church of 2020 learn from meditating on it?

It seems to me that they complete the unsettling list of people who visit Jesus. While he is rejected by the Jewish leadership and even by the local business world, he is recognised by smelly shepherds and foreigners.

The foreigners follow the star but the locals follow the shekel. The foreigners bow down before the child – but the locals will seek to ignore or destroy him. This reinforces the Gospel message that the Church always needs to hear, namely that Church – if it wants to retain a prophetic voice – has to resist the temptation to be seduced by power.

Being part of the establishment can blind us to the uncomfortable message of the Gospel. The outsiders may have much insight. Those who come from afar tell us not to be short-sighted. Making the Church strong again is a dangerous slogan. Right through the Gospel, from manger to cross, weakness is the Christian’s strength.

This is a strong message that, even from the start, Jesus will be an outsider to the establishment and will put awkward questions to those who think they are on the inside.
Cathedral
Remembered in Masses this Week:
Sat: 6.30pm: Michael McMahon, Gallows Hill.
Michael & Ann Tierney, Kilrush Rd.
Kitty Casey, Monument House, O’Connell St.
Ml, Mi & Mr J. McMahon, Drumcarnmore.
Sun: 9.30am: Joe & Tess Kerin, Clonroadmore.
Haulie & Martin Reidy, Golf Links Rd.
Greene Family; Padraic McNamara;
Bridget, Jerome, Francis, Delia & Jim Collins.
11.30am: Liam & Edin Madigan, St. Michael's Villas.
PJ Malone, Beechpark.
Josie, Bertie & Noel Garry, Sandfield Park.
Peggy & Jim Casey, Whitehouse, Shanaway.
David Barrett, Willow Park.
Mon: 7.40am: Flan & Mary Hynes, St. Michael's Villas.
10am: Pat McInerney, Cork & Phyllis Liptak, USA.
7.30pm: Andrew Woods, McNamara Park.
Mary, Henry & Eamonn Smyth, Cavan.
Tues:7.40am: Book of Intentions.
11am: Hannah Aherne, Limerick Rd.
7.30pm: Albert Mounsey, Marian Avenue.
Wed:7.40am: Special Intention.
7.30pm: Special Intention.
11am: Kevin Keane, Connolly Villas.
Martin Slattery, Kevin Barry Ave.
7.30pm: Frances Arthur, Station Court.
Fri:7.40am: Mass for the People.
11am: Catherine Considine, Hermitage.
Steven Cunningham, Labasheeda.
7.30pm: Michael Hanrahan, Corroevorin Grove MM.
Anthony Shannon, Coopers Place & Dalcaissin Pk. MM
Sat:11am: Patrick McMahon, Carmody St.
Linda Lee Drennan, Lahinch Rd. 1st Anniv.
6.30pm: Paddy Guthrie, Ard na Gréine 1st Anniv.
Mary English, Clonroad.
Tony Shannon, Clancy Park.
Mary Corbett, Limerick Rd.
Sun: 9.30am: Patrick Feeney, St. Michael's Villas.
Vincent Neylon, Parnell St.
Bridie Rynne, Castlewood Park.
Tom Kelly, College Rd.
Mary Ann Rynne, Lissycasey.
11.30am: Lorraine O’Gorman, Hermitage.
Mary Hayes, Loughville. MM
Lily Cusack & Mary Cleere;
George & Margaret McMahon, St. Michael’s Villas.

Priests Christmas Collection: The Bishop and Priests of the Parish thank all who contributed to the Priests Christmas Collection on Christmas Day. If you were away or forgot, your contribution would be very much appreciated.

Unwanted Gifts: We thank those who have contributed unwanted Christmas gifts. Unwanted Christmas Presents can be left into the Parish Office for an online auction in the New Year. Proceeds to Cathedral Restoration Fund.

Parish Statistics
In the past year 2019:
210 Baptisms;
24 Marriages;
266 Confirmations;
155 Funerals;
Over 1,500 parishioners are using them. Have you received a box? Maybe you are new to the Parish. Boxes are available at the Parish Office or by calling (065) 6824043. Using the envelopes makes it possible to reclaim tax. In 2019 the Parish benefitted by €46,750. All contributions for this work are very much appreciated.

Cloughleigh
Remembered in Masses this Week:
Sun 11am: Mai Molloy, Ennis & Dublin.
John & Mary Hayes, Hermitage.
Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.
Kathleen McMahon, Connolly.
Sun 11am: Joan Browne, Considine Rd. MM
Do This in Memory.

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

Hospital & Sick Calls
5th January, 2020
Priet on Duty:
Fr. Jerry Carey
Duty Phone: 065 6869098

Newly Baptised
We welcome into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism:
Liam Dermot Ballinger;
Alfie Eamon McInerney;
Lucy Clare Henchy;
Lucy Mai Cussen;
Ciarán Patrick Lynch;

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 7pm: Pauline Gibbons, Kincora Park. 1st Anniv
Sun 10am: PJ & Kathleen Foudy, Ivy Hill.
11.45am: Toss O’Sullivan, New Rd.
Mon 11am: Donor’s Intention.
Wed 10.30am: Deceased Tubridy family, Cree.
Thu 10.30am: Michael & Christina McMahon, Broadford.
Sat 10.30am: Imelda Micks, The Crescent.
7pm: Peter & Paulette Cosgrove, Castlewood Park.
Sun 10am: Annie, Peter & Anne Barry & family, Shanaway Rd.
Philomena Barrow, Ballymacaugin, Drumcliffe. 1st Anniv
11.45: Maureen Whyte, Kincora Park. MM

Change in Weekday Mass times 2020
From Tuesday 7th January a new weekday Mass time programme will take effect in Ennis.

7.40am: Cathedral
7.45am: Poor Clare Monastery
9.30am: Cloughleigh Oratory
10am: Friary
10.30am: St. Joseph’s
11am: Cathedral
1.05pm: Friary
7.30pm: Cathedral

Funerals will be celebrated at:
10.30am: Mass in St. Joseph’s
11am: Mass in the Cathedral

There are eight daily Masses in the Parish with Mass every half hour between 9.30am and 11am each weekday.

Cathedral Renovation & Painting Appeal
Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge three donations of: €300; €200; €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.

Church Envelopes & CHY3 Certs.
New envelopes were distributed before Christmas. Over 1,500 parishioners are using them. Have you received a box? Maybe you are new to the Parish. Boxes are available at the Parish Office or by calling (065) 6824043. Using the envelopes makes it possible to reclaim tax. In 2019 the Parish benefitted by €46,750. CHY3 Certs were delivered to parishioners whose contributions entitled the parish to reclaim tax. If you have overlooked returning the form we would appreciate if you would to forward it to the parish office. A copy of the Cert is available from the office, Our thanks to all who support the running of the parish.
Feast of the Epiphany

Monday 6th January, a Holyday

Mass Times:
7.40am: Cathedral
7.45am: Poor Clare Monastery
8am: St Josephs
9am: Ennis General Hospital
9.30am: Cloughleigh
10am: Friary & Cathedral
11am: St. Joseph’s
1.05pm: Friary
6pm: Polish Mass Cathedral
7pm: St. Joseph’s
7.30pm: Cathedral

Please Note: No Vigil Mass on Sunday evening in Ennis Parish

A Prayer for the New Year
May you awaken each morning with ‘thank you’ on your lips and in your heart, recognizing that all is gift, that all is blessing.
May your friendship with God be strong and healthy.
May that love be both a comfort and a challenge as you struggle to find your way in the New Year.
May you be the one with welcome in your smile and hello etched upon your hand, the hand you extend to everyone who blesses you with presence.

Aithbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir

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: joewalshtour@gmail.com
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.

Pilgrimages to Medjugorje: Two seven day pilgrimages are leaving Shannon Airport on Sept. 9th & 16th. Arrive Mostar airport (40 minutes to shrine) and depart Split airport. Pay deposit of €50 before Jan. 31st price €695 after Feb. 1st €745. Contact Jimmy 065 9059328; 085 7385385.

Prayer meeting in Barefield Church Tues 7th January for Bishops Priests Deacons and Seminarins in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament

Home Instead Senior Care Ennis is currently hiring qualified Homemcare Assistants. Minimum requirement (QO) FETAC Level 5 Care Skills and Care of the Older Person, or be in the process of completing the modules. In-date Patient Moving and Handling Certificate is desirable. To apply send updated CV to emer.oconnor@homeinstead.ie or call 0860126721 for more information.

Irish Dance Classes will resume in Cois na Habbhna Wednesday January 8th 4.30-5.30pm.

Rest in Peace

Bernie Kenny, Fergus Park; Gortie Young, Sixmilebridge, sister of Tess Kearney, Kincora Park; Mary (Mai) Finn (nee Howard), Lisdoonvarna & Shanaway; Mairead Connors, Station View; Richard Bigley, Athlone, brother of Kathy Lynch, Barnrick, Kildysart Road;

‘Do This in Memory’ - First Communion Programme

Mass Begins: The opening parts of the Mass are called the Introductory Rites. When the priest arrives at the altar he kisses it. This is a sign of respect. He then goes to the special chair which is near the altar. We call this the ‘Presider’s Chair’. The priest arrives at the altar he kisses it. This is a sign of respect. He then goes to the altar. This is a special time when we make the Sign of the Cross together.

INTRODUCTORY RITES: THE PENITENTIAL ACT - This time in the Mass offers us an opportunity to prepare to receive the Eucharist by reflecting on the things that we might have done during the past week for which we need forgiveness. We are reminded that God always loves us. One of the ways in which God shows this love is by always forgiving us for those times when we haven’t been as good as we might have been. There are different kinds of prayers that the priest can use at this part of the Mass. These prayers do two things. They help us to remember the times when we haven’t been as good as we might have been. More importantly they remind us of God’s love for us. Sometimes the priest may replace the Penitential Act with the blessing and sprinkling of water as a reminder of our Baptism.

Excerpt from “Learning About the Mass with Kath and Quemen”

Sr. Eileen’s Chúinne

An Dara Domhnach tar éis na Nollag.


Is mise an Tiarna do Dhia, ná biodh déithe bréige agat i mo chomhairlín.
Ná tabhairt airm an Tiarna do Dhia gan áthar.
Coinnigh lá na Sabóide a naomhú.
Tabhair do d’athair agus do dháthair onóir.
Ná déan marú.
Ná déan drúis.
Ná déan goid.

Tabhair fianaise bhreáige i agaidh do chomharsan.
Ná santhaig bean do chomharsana.
Ná santhaig cuid do chomharsana.

Moladh go deo le Dia. I mí Eanáir, bí linn, a Thiarna. Áiméan.

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on 6th January. This feast is also called Little Christmas and Women’s Christmas. The Three Kings arrived from the East to honour the Infant Jesus. They represented the Gentiles and were directed by a star to Bethlehem. They knew that a King was born who deserved homage and respect. They knelt to worship Him and offered Him precious, symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They returned home a different way disregarding Herod’s request. Most people make New Year’s Resolutions. We can focus our attention on the Ten Commandments.

I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have any strange gods before Me.
Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
Honour thy father and mother.
Thou shalt not kill.
Thou shalt not commit adultery.
Thou shalt not steal.
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife.
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s goods.

Comhrá For a chat as Gaeilge over coffee why not drop in at 11:00 to Zest, DÉ Luain; FreshnGreen, DÉ Céadáin agus DÉ Aoine; Glór, DÉ Sathairn; nó, Temple Gate DÉaradáin 8.00pm. Visitors and newcomers always welcome. Fáilte roimh chách. Info: caingtaguscomhra@eircom.net
**Today’s Scripture Readings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entrance Antiphon</th>
<th>Respondorial Psalm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of it’s course, Your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven’s royal throne</td>
<td><strong>Response:</strong> The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PENITENTIAL RITE</strong> 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.</td>
<td>O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God! He has strengthened the bars of your gates, He has blessed the children within you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNION ANTIPHON</strong> R. He established peace on your borders, He feeds you with finest wheat. He sends out his word to the earth And swiftly runs his command.</td>
<td>R. He makes his word known to Jacob, To Israel his laws and decrees. He has not dealt thus with other nations; He has not taught them his decrees.</td>
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</tbody>
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| **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. | A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians Ep: 1:3-6. 15-18

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved. That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May He enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories He has promised the saints will inherit. |

**The word of the Lord**

| Responsorial Psalm Response: | **The word of the Lord** |
| The Word was made flesh, and lived among us. | | a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. |
| **O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God!** | The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or of will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, He lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. |
| **He has strengthened the bars of your gates,** | **The Gospel of the Lord** |
| **He has blessed the children within you.** | PROFESSION OF FAITH |
| **R.** | 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. |
| **R.** | **Amen.** |
| **He established peace on your borders,** | **Responsorial Psalm** |
| **He feeds you with finest wheat.** | **Alleluia!** |
| **He sends out his word to the earth** And swiftly runs his command. | Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia! |
| **R.** | **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John** Jn 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, |

**The word of the Lord**

| Responorial Psalm | Amen. |
| Response: | **Communion Antiphon** To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God. |