

ENNIS PARISH NEWSLETTER

Mass Times

Cathedral-www.ennisparish.com/webcam

Radio link:106.4fm

Monday to Friday 7.40am, 11am & 7.30pm

Saturday 11am & Vigil 6.30pm

Sunday 8am, 9.30am & 11.30am

St. Joseph's-www.ennisparish.com/our-parish/st-josephs-church-webcam

Monday to Friday 10.30am

Saturday 10.30am & Vigil 7pm

Sunday 10am & 11.45am

Friary-www.ennisparish.com/our-parish/franciscan-friary-webcam/

Monday to Saturday 10am

Vigil Mass Saturday 7.30pm

Sunday 10.30am

Christ the King Oratory Cloughleigh

Monday to Friday 9.30am

Sunday 11am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Cathedral & Friary

Cathedral: Monday to Friday 7pm to 7.25pm

Saturday after the Vigil Mass

Friary: Tuesday to Saturday 11-12 noon & 4-5pm

Baptisms

Can be booked through the Parish Office.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place

Monday to Friday in the Cathedral from 5pm until 7pm

Phone Numbers: Cathedral:- 6824043;

Email: info@ennisparish.com

St. Joseph's:- 6829584

Cloughleigh:- 6797489;

Friary:- 6828751

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

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

The Nativity of the Lord (Year A) 25th December, 2022

God, Down to Earth

In the year 1223, three years before his death, Francis of Assisi was invited by a good friend, John; to come celebrate midnight mass with the poor people of Greccio, a small town not far from Assisi. Francis agreed and fifteen days beforehand, he sent word that he wanted, "to recall the memory of the child of Bethlehem" in a most special way. He sent word to the peasants of Greccio to have ready, a manger with hay, an ox and an ass standing near.

All was prepared when Francis arrived. The crowds came with their torches at midnight from the village to the little Hermitage of Francis and his brother Friars. We are told that the priest celebrant was over awed and consoled at the sight of the humanness and simplicity of the worlds first crib.

Francis dressed in Deacon's Vestments sang the Gospel and preached a homily on "the child of Bethlehem". Francis saw the Jesus of Christmas as "someone to love and care for." God was surely like us now, a child in a manger, vulnerable, needing our love.

So Greccio on December 24th 1223 became Bethlehem and the poor simple people of that remote village passed on word about how Francis had made their Christmas so alive, so simple, so joyous, by having the manger, the ox, the ass, and hay; word went round.

And so, the crib that you see today here in our church and the crib that you too will have in your home, is all because a young man in Assisi, all those years ago decided that Christmas should be real, simple, down to earth and of course that's exactly what the crib does, it brings God down to earth, to us.



This Christmas with the crib in your home, it is not an ornament but an opportunity to bring Christ down to earth in your home.

Happy Christmas.

Priest on Duty 25th December 2022

Fr. Tom Ryan

0656869098



Cathedral

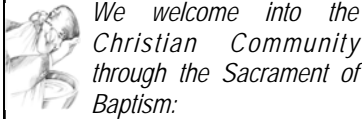
Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat: Christmas Eve
Sun 25th: Christmas Day
Mon 11am: Gerard O'Meara, Tulla Rd.
 Anna Murphy, Ashfield Park, Gort Rd.
4pm: Annual Mass St. Michael's FC.
7.30pm: Joe & Mary Daly, College Rd.
Tues 11am: Book of Intentions.
 Juliet & TJ O'Connor, Lahinch Rd.
 Special Intention.
7.30pm: John White, McNamara Park. **1st Anniv.**
 Denis Guthrie, Kilnaboy. **1st Anniv.**
 Bernard McNeill, Limerick, Rd.
 Roger Fox, Clancy Park.
Wed 11am: Una Ryan (nee McNamara), Brookville.
 John, Maisie, Jim & Martin Bradley, Limerick Rd.
 Mary Browne, Circular Rd.
 Sr. Josephine, St. Leger, USA,
7.30pm: John, Mary & Gerard Davoren,
 Kilcorney, Kilfenora.
 Mary Thomas & Marian Kelly, Knock, Kilrush
Thurs 11am: Joe Fennell, Gort Rd.
 Dan, Peggy, Margaret & Sean Mullins, Ennistymon.
 Teresa Murphy, Hermitage.
7.30pm: No intention booked.
Fri 11am: Mass for the People.
7.30pm: Special Intention.
Sat:11am: Bridie Connellan, Cahercalla Wood.
 Michael, Imelda & Johnny Hayes, Rockmount &
 Pat Fitzgerald.
6.30pm: Galvin Family, Glengarriff, Co. Cork.
Sun 1st 8am: No intention booked.
9.30am: Costelloe & O'Donoghue Families,
 Ennis & Cork.
 Joseph KaniyamKulam, India.
11.30am: Ann Ryan, Childers' Rd.
 Dan & Mary O'Keefe, Ardlea Rd.
 O'Connor Family, Connolly Villas.
 Frank Roughan, Ballyneillan, Fountain.

Cathedral Renovation Appeal

In the past week Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge donations of €5,000; €1,000; €500 & €50. We thank the many people who have made once off contributions to this appeal.

Newly Baptised



We welcome into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Emma Marian Madigan

Parish office

The Parish Office will be closed all week and will reopen on Tuesday 3rd January @ 9am

Franciscan Friary Ennis

Please note that our office will close on 24th December at 2.30p.m. and will be open on Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th Friday 30th December, from 9.30a.m to 2.30p.m. daily. Our office will be close again from Friday 30th Dec from 2.30.p.m. until Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 9.30a.m. Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

St. Joseph's



Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat: Christmas Eve
Sun 25th: Christmas Day
Mon 10.30am: Michael Keane, Fergus Lawn
Tues 10.30am: Martin Slattery, Kevin Barry Ave.
Wed 10: Dr. Brian Gallagher, Tulla Rd.
Thu 10.30am: Maureen & Paddy Shanahan,
 St. Senan's Rd.
Fri 10.30am: Winifred Leydon, Sligo.
Sat: 10.30am: No intention booked.
7.30pm: No intention booked.
Sun 1st 10am: Maura Hegarty, Elm Park.
 Dan & Mary Doorty, Tulla Rd.
11.45am: Noel Ballinger, Gort Rd.
 Paddy & Mary Darcy, 'Arbutus House', Glenoir.

Masses for Christmas Week

Monday to Friday
8.30am: Poor Clare Monastery
10.00am: Friary
10.30am: St Joseph's
11.00am: Cathedral.
7.30pm: Cathedral

Saturday 31st December 2022

8.30am: Poor Clare Monastery
10.00am: Friary
10.30am: St. Joseph's
11.00am: Cathedral
6.30pm: Cathedral (Vigil)
7.00pm: St. Joseph's (Vigil)
7.30pm: Friary

**Praying out the Old
Welcoming the New**

on Saturday night 31st December in the Cathedral from 11.30am to 12.15pm. An opportunity to pray together in the company of the Blessed Sacrament.

Cloughleigh



Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sun 25th 11am: Christmas Day
Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.
Sun 1st 11am: May Molloy (nee McNamara)
 Ennis & Dublin.

Our Parish Calendars

Our Parish Calendar for 2023 is now available, free of charge from any of our Churches. This year we look back on an Ennis from the past, that many will remember.

Our thanks to Pat Brennan for sharing his collections of Photographs and to Pat Hanrahan for capturing many moments of Parish Life in 2022, which in years to come will be treasured by future generations.

Ukrainian Christmas

**Christmas Day/
New Year's Day**
Ukrainians celebrate Christmas according to their Calendar on 7th January. Fr. Andrew, a Redemptorist Priest from Ukraine will celebrate Christmas Mass for the Ukrainian Community on Saturday 7th January at 3.30pm in the Cathedral.

Our Poor Clare Sisters

Mass on Christmas Eve Morning at 7.45am as usual, in Poor Clare Chapel. Mass on Christmas Morning and from Dec 26th—Jan 8th inclusive at 8.30am

No Benediction on Christmas Day or New Year's Day; it resumes on Sunday January 8th. Christmas Greetings from all the Sisters and every blessing for 2023.

Shannon Doc 0818123500
for out of hours service.

Happy Christmas
to all Parishioners
and Visitors
to our Parish

Parish Envelopes and Calendars

In the past week distribution of Parish Envelopes and our Parish Calendar took place.

We are most grateful to the volunteers who distribute the box of envelopes and calendars and to our parish staff who prepare the boxes. These boxes enable us to make a claim to Revenue each year for tax rebates.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday to Friday from
5pm—7pm in the Cathedral.

Christmas Greetings

Fr. Michael O'Loughlin is currently convalescing in St. Columban's, Dalgan Park, Navan and he sends Christmas Greetings to all his friends in Ennis. We wish Fr. Michael every Blessing at this time.

St. Michael's football Club annual mass will take place in the Cathedral at 4pm.

Rest In Peace

Sr. Mary Cecilia Houlihan, St. Xavier's Convent of Mercy, Bothar na Trócaire;

Vera Bamford (nee Coghlan) late of Claireen, Ennis, who died in Essex, England.;

John Lysaght, Blackrock, Dublin, brother of Finbarr Lysaght, Fernhill;

Michael McMahan, McNamara Park;

Mary McMahan, Miltown Malbay, Mother-In-Law of Anne McMahan, Ballybeg.

Sr. Mary Walsh, St. Xavier's Convent of Mercy; Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday 28th December at 11am.

Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Tuamgraney, mother of Ken O'Shaughnessy, Abbeycourt;

Pat Brady, Dublin, brother of Fr. Harry Brady, Clarecastle;

William O'Neill, Turnpike Rd.

Sr. Cecilia Houlihan



Sr. Cecilia, known to her family as Mary died peacefully in Milford Hospice on Monday 19th December, not far from where she was born into the Houlihan family on 24th August 1934 in Castleconnell. She received her early education in Castleconnell and London and her secondary education with the Presentation Sisters in Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary and as a boarder in Colaiste Mhuire here in Ennis.

At the age of 19 on Mercy Day 24th September 1953, she entered the Convent of Mercy in Ennis, receiving the name Cecilia as her religious name.

St Cecilia is the Patron of Music and it was appropriate for one who had a great love and talent for music. Sr. Cecilia graduated from UCC with a degree in Mathematics and Music and she later completed a Masters in Mathematics in Trinity College, Dublin. She went on to teach Music and Mathematics for twenty years in Colaiste Mhuire. During these years she also taught music at the Christian Brothers' Secondary School, now known as Rice College. She served as Principal of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point and also taught in Birr Community School and St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh.

Sr. Cecilia then went on to volunteer for the Missions where she taught Mathematics for ten years in the Mercy School, Soweto, South Africa, a place that remained close to her heart for the rest of her life. In retirement she lived in Nenagh, Ennis and Limerick, Mercy Communities.

Cecilia brought enthusiasm and energy to everything she undertook, whether it be Choir Competitions or Mathematical problems. Her life as a Mercy Sister was nourished daily with a prayerful witness to the Lord. During her years in Ennis in retirement, up until the start of Covid 19, she spent one hour in prayer daily in the Adoration Chapel.

On Thursday last December 22nd her Funeral Mass took place in the Cathedral and she was laid to rest in the Mercy Plot at Drumcliffe Cemetery.

We offer our sympathy and thanks to her Family and the Mercy Community.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam usual.

Ennis Parish
Development Fund
for Sunday 18th December 2022

Fund €2,804
Online €521.00

Sr. Eileen's Céinne

Lá Nollag

Is saoire mhór phoiblí í an Nollaig, atá á chomóradh ar fud an domhain inniu, fiú ina lán de na tíortha nach bhfuil cónaí ar mhórán Críostaithe iontu. Tá gealltanais Dé comhlíonta. Rugadh Íosa. Is é Íosa Solas an Domhain, ár ndóchas, ár lúcháir. Nach aobhinn go deo mar a chan na haingil do na haoirí ar an gcéad oíche Nollag 'Ná biodh eagla oraibh: óir féach, tá dea-scéala agam daoibh a chuirfidh áthas mór ar an bpobal uile: rugadh slánaitheoir daoibh inniu – is é Críost an Tiarna é - i gcathair Dháiví'. (Lúcás 2:10-12) Is deas Cró na Nollag a fheiceáil i ngach séipéal mar chomhartha ómóis don leanbh Íosa.

Tá an Cró Nollag againn le beagnach ocht gcéad bliain. Naomh Proinsias, Assisi a chuir tús leis an gCró Nollag san Eoraip. Sa bhliain 1220 thug sé cuairt ar Bheithil agus thaitin an tsíl inar ceiliúradh an Nollaig ansin go mór leis. Nuair a d'fhill sé abhaile rinne sé mainséar in uaimh. Chuir sé íomhá chloiche den leanbh Íosa isteach inti agus chuir sé ainmhithe beo timpeall uirthi. Bhí na daoine an-sásta leis an gCró Nollag agus d'fhás an nós as sin

Dia do bheatha a Íosa, Dia do bheatha i gclí ón Óigh, a ghnúis is áille ná an ghrian, na míle fáilte i d' Dhia óg. (Dia do Bheatha a Naí Naoimh)

Nollaig bheannaithe agus athbhliain faoi mhaise go raibh agaibh go léir.

Christmas is a great public feast celebrated worldwide even in countries where Christians are a minority. God's promise is fulfilled. Christ is born. He is the Light of the World, our hope, our joy. How lovely the angels sang to the shepherds that first Christmas Night 'Do not be afraid I bring you good news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord' (Luke 2:10-12). Cribs are displayed in Churches in honour of the Infant Jesus. This custom is almost eight hundred years old. St. Francis of Assisi started the custom in Italy and it spread throughout Europe. In 1220 he visited Bethlehem and he admired the way Christmas was being celebrated there. When he returned home, he created a manger in a cave. He placed a stone image of the Infant Jesus surrounded by live animals in it. People were very pleased with the Crib and the custom spread.

You are welcome, Jesus, you are welcome born of the Virgin, his countenance brighter than the sun, many thousand welcomes O Son of God.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Unwanted Gifts

We welcome unwanted Christmas Gifts, which can be left into the Cathedral this week for an online Auction in the New Year with the proceeds going to the Cathedral Restoration Appeal.

In 2023, a new floor will be completed in the Cathedral, fifty years since the present floor was put in place.

Please, only gifts that are unopened and unused.

St. Stephen's Day Céilí at Cois na hAbhna with The Star of Munster Céilí Band 3pm - 6pm. Admission €10. 065 68 24276=

Today's Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon

A child is born for us and a son is given to us,
His scepter of power rests upon his shoulder
And his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

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 Lord, 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 Isaiah

Isaiah 52: 7-10

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who bring good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, "Your God is king!"

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices; they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response:

All the ends of the earth have seen

The salvation of our God.

Sing a new song to the Lord
For he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
Have brought salvation.

R.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
Has shown his justice to the nations.
The Lord has remembered his truth and love
For the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
The salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
Ring out your joy. **R.**

Sign psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

A reading from the letter to the

Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: 'You are my Son, today I have become your father'; or: 'I will be a father to him and he a son to me.' Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: 'Let all the angels of God worship him.'

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia

A hallowed day has dawned upon us
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House

and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour".

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

All the ends of the earth have seen the Salvation of our God.