

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>

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B) 17th December, 2023



GAUDETE SUNDAY REJOICE BECAUSE THE LORD IS VERY NEAR!

This Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday, a day when we are called to rejoice, to find joy in the midst of our waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord. Gaudete Sunday calls us to embrace joy as an integral part of our Advent journey. It challenges us to find joy not only in the fulfilment of our desires but, more importantly, in the promises of God. As we continue our Advent pilgrimage, let us heed the words of St. Paul today: *"Be happy at all times; pray constantly and for all things give thanks."* The pink candle we light on the Advent wreath today symbolizes this sense of joy. Amidst the violet candles representing penance and preparation, the pink candle reminds us that even in the midst of our spiritual disciplines, there is room for joy. It is a joy that anticipates the coming of the Light of the World, the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

At the beginning of St. John's Gospel, we encounter the profound imagery of the Word becoming flesh, the Light shining in the darkness, and the darkness not overcoming it. Within this tapestry of theological beauty, the figure of John the Baptist emerges today as a crucial character, a herald preparing the way for the One who is to come. He himself was not the light, but he came as *"a witness to speak for the light."* In a world shrouded in shadows and uncertainty, John the Baptist stands as a beacon, a herald, a voice crying out in the wilderness, calling us to turn our hearts toward the coming Light. John the Baptist did not seek the spotlight for himself; rather, he directed attention to the true Light. As we navigate our lives, do we radiate the light of Christ in our words and actions, or do we contribute to the prevailing darkness?

John's acknowledgment of his unworthiness challenges us to examine the posture of our hearts. Are we filled with a sense of entitlement, self-importance, or pride? Or, like John, do we humbly recognize the surpassing worth of Christ and acknowledge our dependence on His grace? The Gospel invites us to kneel before the majesty of Christ, recognising that our worth comes from being beloved children of God, and not from worldly achievements or accolades.

May this Gaudete Sunday be a moment of profound rejoicing, a joy that emanates from the knowledge that our Saviour is near. Let us prepare our hearts with hope, penance, and generosity, so that when the Christ child comes, He may find in us a dwelling place filled with the true and lasting joy that comes from a deep relationship with Him.

Priest on Duty: 17th December 2023
Fr. Tom Fitzpatrick 065 6869098



Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Tom Meaney, Limerick Rd. **MM.**
 Mary McVeigh, Shanaway Rd. **MM.**
 Frank & Tess White, Clare Rd.
 Dr. Donogh Moylan, Bindon St.
 Annie O'Brien, Dysart, Corofin.
 O'Connell & Murphy Family.
 PJ Daly, Cahercalla.
 Denis & Nellie Wylde, Clonroad.

Sun 17th 8am: No intention booked.

9.30am: Michael Bugler, Ballygireen.

Donal O'Brien, Turnpike Rd.

Peggy Kearney, Summerhill.

11.30am: Frances & Michael McNerney,

Parnell St. & Park Ave.

Donal Cahill, Hazelgrove.

Michael & Teresa McMahon, Clounlaheen, Mullagh.

Paddy & Amy Molloy, Dalcassian Park.

Donor's Intention.

Mon 7.40am: Kelly Family, Limerick Rd.

11am: Ryan Family, Birr, Co. Offaly.

7.30pm: Advent Reconciliation Service.

Tues:7.40am: Book of Intentions.

11am: Vivian Thomas Lee, Gallows' Hill.

Fr. Jim Kennedy & Lee & Kennedy Families.

Tommy Lorrigan, College Park.

Michael McGuane, Corrovorrin Drive.

Denis, Mary, Pat Joe & Lily Kelly,

Kanturk, Connolly.

7.30pm: Michael, Margaret & Martin Fitzpatrick,
 St. Patrick's Tce.

Wed 7.40am: No intention booked.

11am: Christine O'Sullivan, Shragh & London.

Guinan Family.

7.30pm: Michael McMahon, McNamara Park.

1st Anniv.

Patrick Stephens, Summerhill & Kilmaley.

Thurs 7.40am: Holy Souls.

11am: Stephen & Ellen O'Sullivan, Cork &

Stephen O'Sullivan, Ruan.

7.30pm: Michael O'Brien, Ballybeg.

Ann, Jackie, Patricia, Declan & Ann Hayes &

Phyllis O'Grady, McNamara Park.

Maureen Martin, Woodstock, Shanaway Rd.

Fri 7.40am: Mass for the People.

11am: Frankie Hogan, St. Flannan's Tce.

Paddy & Mary Shanahan, St. Michael's Villas.

7.30pm: Tina Dunne McMullan, Tulla & Ennis. **MM.**

Slawomir Grala, Poland. **MM.**

Michael Kearns, Galway.

Sat:11am: Thomas & Margaret Collins, Honan's Tce.

Elizabeth Holmes, Wexford & Bernard Kennedy,

Limerick.

6.30pm: Joe Callinan, Gallows Hill.

Gertrude Vaughan, The Market.

Brian Malone, Castletawn & O'Connell St.

Sheila & William McCarthy, Cork.

Noel Scanlan, Willow Park.

Sun 24th 8am: No intention booked.

9.30am: Juliette & TJ O'Connor, Shanballa, Lahinch Rd.

11.30am: John Costin, Gallows Hill.

Jim Harnett, Rockmount.

Lana & Mikie McNamara, Carrigaholt.

Tile for the Aisles Appeal

Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge
 €500, €400, €200, €100 & €50 x 2
 received in the past week.

Fridge Magnets & Tea Bags

Our Christmas appeal this year to
 support the Cathedral Floor
 Restoration Appeal is the sale of
 fridge magnets (Fresco of the
 Ascension in the Cathedral and the
 sale of the Christmas Tea Bags. €3
 each or 2 for €5). We very much
 appreciate your support and they are
 ideal for posting with your Christmas
 Cards or as a stocking filler. We are
 also very grateful to those who are
 making once off contributions to the
 Tiles for the Aisles Appeal.

Cathedral Floor

We welcome you back to the full use of
 the Cathedral this weekend. Our
 thanks to Martins Construction who
 have carried out this work on the
 floor since last August.
 The final touches and stages of the
 work will be completed in January.

We are grateful to the many people
 who have made once off
 Contributions to the Tiles for the
 Aisles Appeal. Such generosity is
 helping us to reduce the cost of the
 project.



Advent Reconciliation Service

The Abbey Pastoral Area Advent
 Reconciliation Service takes
 place on this Monday 18th
 December at 7.30pm in the
 Cathedral. Parishioners from the
 parishes of the Pastoral Area will
 come together to pray, reflect and
 celebrate the Sacrament of
 Reconciliation with the help of a
 number of priests from the
 Pastoral Area and Friars.

**Friary and Poor Clare Heating
 Appeal**

Both the Franciscan Friars and Poor
 Clare Sisters appreciate the
 generosity of so many who have
 contributed to their appeal. If you
 wish to contribute, please leave your
 contribution in the Friary Office or
 Parish Office, marked "Friary and
 Poor Clare's Heating Appeal"
 The sisters and Friars pray each day
 for their benefactors and appreciate
 the goodness of so many people.



St. Joseph's

Remembered in Masses this Week:

7pm: Shannon Family, Cornmarket St.

Gerard Gammell McCarthy, Limerick & Ennis. **MM.**

Sun 17th 10am: Catherine & Michael Griffin,

Maurice's Mills.

11.45: Margaret Girlie Young, Sixmilebridge.

Paddy Kearney & Kearney Family, Kincora Park.

Mon 10.30am: No intention booked.

Tues 10.30am: Book of Intentions.

Wed 10.30am: No intention booked.

Thu 10.30am: No intention booked.

Fri 10.30am: Special Intention.

Sat: 10.30am: Maura Nevin, Corrovorrin Crescent.

7pm: Paddy Moroney, Kincora Park. **1st Anniv.**

Michael Roughan, Ballaghboy, Doora. **MM.**

Sun 24th 10am: Christmas Eve.



Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sun 17th 11am: Paddy & Kathleen Shannon,

Cloughleigh Rd.

Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.

Fri 9.30am: Patrick Crowe, Knockerra.



Ecumenical Carol Service

We welcome Rev. Vicki Lynch and her congregation
 from St. Columba's Church, Bindon St. to join us in the
 Cathedral this Sunday Evening for our Annual Carol
 Service. All are welcome to the Carol Service which
 begins at 7pm.

Priests Christmas Collection

The Christmas Collection for the Bishop and Priests of
 the parish will take place at all Masses on Christmas
 Eve & Christmas Day.

As one of only four appeals in the year, the Bishop
 and priests appreciate the generosity of all who
 contribute and support. Envelopes are available in the
 porch of all the churches.

Feast of St. Flannan

On Monday 18th December we celebrate the Feast of
 St. Flannan, our Diocesan Patron.

Bishop Fintan and the priests of our Diocese will
 gather to celebrate Mass at 1pm in the Cathedral.
 This is a Diocesan celebration of our faith and all are
 welcome.

Fifty years ago on that day, 18th December, 1973, the
 Cathedral was re-opened after extensive renovations
 and the late Bishop Michael Harty rededicated the
 Cathedral on that day as a house of prayer for the
 people of Ennis and the Diocese of Killaloe.

REST IN PEACE

Mike O'Connor, Oak Park.

Sr. Madeleine McNerney, Little Company of Mary
 Sisters, Dublin & Doora.

Gillian Shannon (née Brace), Cuan an Chláir,
 Cahercalla.



Confessions for Christmas

Monday: Advent Reconciliation Service
7.30pm at Cathedral.

Tuesday to Friday:

Friary: 11am to 12 noon; 4pm—5pm.

Cathedral: 7pm to 7.25pm.

Saturday 23rd December

Cathedral: 10am to 6pm & after Vigil Mass.

Friary: 11am to 12 noon & 4-5pm.

Please note there will be no Confessions on Christmas Eve.

St. Anthony's Magazine

The Christmas Edition of St. Anthony's Magazine supporting the missionary work of the Franciscan Friars is available for sale in both the Friary and the Cathedral for just €2. Your support is very much appreciated.

Composer Ernest De Regge 100th Anniversary CD launch.



On the one hundredth anniversary of his arrival in Ennis in 1923 a new CD featuring the music of Ernest De Regge was launched by Rowe Street Church Choir Wexford and their Musical Director Donagh Wylde. The CD features music from the pre Covid Wexford International Opera Festival Mass of 2019, the St Oliver Plunkett Mass and the post Covid Festival Mass of 2022, the St. Michael Mass.

The distinguished international organist Gerard Gillen, Professor Emeritus Maynooth was the organist for both masses.

The Ennis Cathedral organ was installed ninety years ago in 1933 and the St Michael Mass on this CD was composed especially for that occasion and was broadcast nationally with Eva Meehan, Donagh's Godmother singing the Benedictus Solo. The CD is €12 and will be available to buy from Ennis Parish Office.



CANTARE Choir & Orchestra.

Featuring special guest tenor Dean Power with Young Notes Youth Choir Quin at Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul on Wednesday December 20th @ 8.15pm.

Tickets €20 available at Parish Office. Proceeds to Ennis Cathedral Floor Restoration Appeal.

A Weekend in July

This year St. Michael's Villas celebrated its 70th Birthday. A weekend of celebration and Thanksgiving Mass took place in July.

The story of that weekend was captured on camera and with the leadership of Cora Hahessy McNulty the latest St. Michael's publication was launched last week.

It is available for sale in the Parish Office, O'Connor's Newsagent & Ennis Bookshop at €20 with the proceeds going to the Tarmac Fund for the Grotto in St. Michael's Villas.

This is Cora's third publication of the story of St. Michael's and its people. An ideal Christmas gift for anyone passionate about local history and the people of Ennis. It contains over 600 photos.

Church Envelopes 2024

In recent days thanks to our Parish Representatives the annual box of envelopes with the parish calendar for 2024 are being distributed.

Our thanks to those Parish Reps who do this very important and valuable work for the parish. Our thanks also to those who use envelopes. No matter where you go to Mass, the envelope used makes its way back to the home parish.

For any changes or updates, please contact the Parish Office.

These boxes enable the parish to make a claim to Revenue each year for tax rebates. In the past week, we received €38,958.12 as tax rebate for 2022

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

An Tríú Domhnach den Aidhínt Gaudete!

'Bígí 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)

Inniu Domhnach Gaudete nó Domhnach na Lúcháire; an tríú Domhnach san Aidhínt nuair a thógann dath rósach na lúcháire áit chorcra an aithrí i bhFleasc na hAidhínte agus i gculaith Aifrínn an tsagairt.

Táimid breis agus leath shlí tríd an Aidhínt agus iarrtar orainn féachaint ar aghaidh le gairdeas d'Fhéile na Nollag. Lastar an choinneal rósdaith i bhFleasc na hAidhínte. Meabhraíonn an t-aithrí datha dúinn misneach a bheith againn agus leanúint ar aghaidh lenár n-ullmhúcháin spioradálta go mór mór le paidreoireacht agus le troscadh. Ba é Naomh Eoin Baiste a d'ullmhaigh an bealach don Tiarna. Bíodh sé ina inspioráid againn go léir. Cuireann Eoin Baiste in iúl dúinn inniu go bhfuil an solas tagtha isteach sa saol. Is é Críost an solas. Glac an chomhairle seo a leanas:

Lean an riail a lean gach naomh. Lean go críoch í go caoin, glan séimh. Is beannacht Dé dhil gheobhaidh tú ar feadh do shaol is ar neamh de shíor.

A Dhia, go dtuga tú neart agus misneach dúinn tréithe fóna a chothú ionainn féin i gcónaí. Áiméan.

'Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: rejoice! Let your dominion be seen by the world, for the Lord is not far from us.' (Phil 4: 4-5)

Today is Gaudete Sunday or Joyful Sunday; the third Sunday in Advent when the rose colour of joy replaces the purple colour of repentance in the Advent Wreath and in the priest's vestments. We are more than halfway through Advent and we are invited to look forward joyfully to Christmas. The pink candle is lighted on the Advent Wreath. The change of colour reminds us to have courage and to continue our spiritual preparation especially by prayer and fasting. Saint John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord. Let him be an inspiration for us. He reminds us today that a light has come into the world. Christ is that light. Take the following advice:

Follow the rule followed by every saint. Follow it tenderly, freely, gently. And God will shower his blessings on you in your life and in heaven too.

Lord, grant us strength and courage that we may always nurture in ourselves goodness and virtue. Amen

A Dhia, go dtuga tú neart agus misneach dúinn tréithe fóna a chothú ionainn féin i gcónaí. Áiméan.



Masses for Christmas in Ennis Parish

Christmas Eve

4.30pm	Cathedral
5pm	St. Joseph's
5.30pm	Cloughleigh
6.30pm	Cathedral
7pm	St. Joseph's
8pm	Friary
8.30pm	Cloughleigh
9pm	Cathedral
12 midnight	Cathedral
	Polish Mass.

Christmas Day

7.45am	Poor Clares
8am	Cathedral
8.45am	Ennis Hospital
9.30am	Cathedral
10am	St. Joseph's
10.30am	Friary
11am	Cloughleigh
11.30am	Cathedral
11.45am	St. Joseph's

Ennis Parish
Development Fund
for Sunday, 10th December

Fund €5,342.50
Online €617.50

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 61:1-2.10-11

The spirit of the Lord
has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news
to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me
in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me
in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.'
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and
praise spring up in the sight of nations.'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm
My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant
in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

R

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

R

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

R

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

1 Th 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly;
and for all things give thanks to God,
because this is what God expects you
to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit
or treat the gift of prophecy with con-
tempt; think before you do anything -
hold on to what is good and avoid every
form of evil.

May the God of peace make you
perfect and holy; and may you all be
kept safe and blameless, spirit and
body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ. God has called you and he will
not fail you.

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 John. Jn 1:6-8.19-28**

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through
him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a
witness. When the Jews sent priests
and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
'Who are you?' he not only declared, but
he declared quite openly, 'I am not the
Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you
Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the
Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they
said to him, 'Who are you? We must
take back an answer to those who sent
us. What have you to say about your-
self?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah
prophesied:

a voice that cries in the
wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the
Pharisees, and they put this further
question to him, 'Why are you baptising
if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah,
and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I
baptise with water; but there stands
among you - unknown to you - the one
who is coming after me; and I am not fit
to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened
at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan,
where John was baptising.

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 Fa-
ther 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 apos-
tolic Church. I confess one Baptism for
the forgiveness of sins and I look for-
ward 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,