

# ENNIS PARISH NEWSLETTER

## Mass Times

Cathedral-[www.ennisparish.com/webcam](http://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-](http://www.ennisparish.com/our-parish/st-josephs-church-webcam)

[josephs-church-webcam](http://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-](http://www.ennisparish.com/our-parish/franciscan-friary-webcam/)

[friary-webcam/](http://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](mailto: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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B) 24th December, 2023

### So Happy Christmas

The moment has arrived after a prolonged lead-in, Christmas has arrived!! The Pogue's song 'Fairytale Of New York' has been aired countless times these past few weeks.

**'So Happy Christmas**

**I Love you baby.**

**I can see a better time**

**When all our dreams come true.'**

We all have dreams both whilst asleep and awake!!! We share dreams with one another and sometimes they come true. The lyrics of 'Fairytale of New York' wish each one a Happy Christmas, shares an expression of love, holds out for better times ahead and even tells us that dreams come true.

The dream shared by Mary and Joseph comes true at the birth of their child, Jesus. Their dream stayed alive even within unimaginable circumstances. Beginning with Mary explaining the visit of the Angel Gabriel, Joseph receiving his role in a dream, acceptance of each other and then the upheaval. Having to travel to Joseph's homeplace for the census meant that a heavily pregnant Mary had to endure much discomfort and then the social rejection of no place to stay in Bethlehem. But the welcome to stay, do we call it in a cave or a shed, meant that the new born baby was welcomed by Mary, Joseph and the shepherds who really were at the bottom rung of society. But the dream came true.

**'Glory to God in the highest heavens,  
And peace to people who enjoy his favour.'**

Christmas is a dream come true. The birth of a child brings so much into a family. Life is never the same again with the arrival of the new born. Never does this hold so true as when Jesus Christ is born. A dream comes true. The dream shared by the angel Gabriel with Mary comes true!!

*'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour.*

*Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son,  
and you must name him Jesus.*

*He will be great and will be called  
Son of the Most High.'*



**'So Happy Christmas!**

**I Love you baby.**

**I can see a better time**

**When all our dreams come true.'**

**Priest on Duty 24th December 2023**  
**Contact: Fr. Tom Ryan 065 6869098**



**Cathedral**

**Remembered in Masses this Week:**

**6.30pm:** Joe Callinan, Gallows Hill.  
 Gertrude Vaughan, The Market.  
 Brian Malone, Castlelawn & 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.  
 Alicja & Karole Krystianowicz, Poland.

**4.30pm:** Fiona Knox, Clarecastle. **1st Anniv**

**Mon: 7.40am: No Mass.**

**11am:** No Intention Booked.

**7.30pm:** No Intention Booked.

**Tues: 7.40am No Mass.**

**11am:** Anna Murphy, Ashfield Park, Gort Rd.  
 Vincent & Nonie Meehan & Michael O'Connell Tulla.

**7.30pm:** Joe Daly, College Road.  
 Joan Cronin, Shannon Park.

**Wed 7.40am: No Mass.**

**11am:** Gerard O'Meara Tulla Road.  
 Dan, Peggy, Margaret & Seán Mullins, Ennistymon.

**7.30pm:** John White, McNamara Park.  
 John, Mary & Gerard Davoren Kilcorney, Kilfenora.  
 Roger Fox, Clancy Park.  
 Frederick Ensko, Turnpike Road.

**Thurs 7.40am: No Mass.**

**11am:** Danny & Gina Higgins, Clancy Park.  
 John, Maisie, Jim & Martin Bradley, Limerick Rd.  
 Una Ryan nee McNamara, Brookville.  
 Mary Browne, Circular Rd.

**7.30pm:** Michael Quinn, Cahercalla.

**Fri 7.40am: No Mass.**

**11am:** Mass for the People.

**7.30pm:** Tony O'Loughlin, St. Flannan's Terrace. **MM**

**Sat: 11am:** Packie Vaughan, Cahercalla Rd. **1st Anniv**

**6.30pm:** Anne Doyle, Cusack View. **1st Anniv**  
 Teresa Murphy, Hermitage.  
 Carol Spaight, Sixmilebridge.

**Sun 31st 8am:** Teresa Corcoran O'Neill, Springfield.

**9.30am:** Michael, Imelda, Johnny Hayes, Rockmount & Pat Fitzgerald.

**11.30am:** Bridie Connellan, Cahercalla Woods.  
 Frank Roughan, Ballynealon. Fountain.  
 Mary Quinn, Carlow & Watford.

**Tiles for the Aisles Appeal**

Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge €5,000, €500, €500, €300, €200x2, €100x3, €50, €20x2 received in the past week.

**Praying out the Old  
 Praying in the New**



There will be a time of Prayer and Reflection in the Cathedral from 11.30pm on New Year's Eve to 12.15am on New Year's Day.

**Ennis Blood Donation Clinic**

West County Hotel, Wednesday 27th December from 1.50pm - 5.10pm



**New Donors welcome**

Please phone 1800 222 111 for appointment.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Shannon Doc** for out of hours service.  
 Contact: 0818 123500

**Parish office**

The Parish Office will be closed all week and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January @ 9am

**Friary Office**

The office will be open on Saturday 23rd Dec from 9.30am to 2.30pm  
 Reopening on Wed, Thurs, Fri, Dec 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>  
 9.30am to 2.30pm

Closed Sat 30th Dec, Sun 31st and Mon 1st.  
 Reopening Tues 2nd Jan @ 9.30am

**St. Joseph's**



**Remembered in Masses this Week:**

**7pm:** Paddy Moroney, Kincora Park. **1st Anniv.**  
 Michael Roughan, Ballaghboy, Doora. **MM.**

**Sun 24th 10am:** No intention booked.

**11.45am:** No intention booked.

**Vigil Mass 5pm & 7pm**

**Monday:** Christmas Day 10am & 11.45am

**Tues 10.30am: No Mass**

**Wed 10.30am:** Joan Cronin, Shannon Park.

**Thu 10.30am:** Dr. Brian Gallagher, Tulla Rd.  
 Martin Slattery, Kevin Barry Avenue.

**Fri 10.30am:** Noel Ballinger, Gort Rd.  
 Maureen & Paddy Shanahan, St. Senan's Rd.  
 Paddy & Mary O'Donoghue, Corofin.

**Sat: 10.30am:** No intention booked.

**7pm:** Kieran O'Connor, Clover Hill. **1st Anniv**  
 Dan & Mary Doorty, Tulla Rd.

**Sun 31st 10am:** Winifred Leydon, Sligo.

**Poor Clare Monastery**

Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at 7.45am in the Poor Clare Chapel.

**Mass from Dec 26th to 30th @ 8.30am**

**Mass Sunday 31st Dec @ 7.45am**

**Mass from Jan 1st to 5th @ 8.30am**

**Mass on Sat 6th and Sun 7th @ 7.45am.**

*Christmas Greetings from all the Sisters and Every Blessing for 2024*

**Our Parish Calendars**

Our Parish Calendar for 2024 is now available, free of charge from any of our Churches. Our thanks to Pat Hanrahan, Fr. Damian Casey OFM, Pat Brennan & Peter Carvil for capturing moments of parish life. Our calendar is produced in association with our Diocesan Vocations' Committee in this year in which we are praying for vocations.

**Rest in Peace**

**Michael Fitzpatrick**, Hazlewood House, Clonroadmore;

**Sr. Zita (Margaret) Reidy**, St. Xavier's Convent & Cooraclare;

**Jack Hennen**, brother of Kathleen Morrissey, Kilrush Rd and brother in law of Rita Cassidy, Cusack Rd;

**Masses for Christmas Week**

Monday to Friday

**8.30am:** Poor Clare Monastery

**10.00am:** Friary

**10.30am:** St. Joseph's Wed, Thurs, Friday only

**11.00am & 7.30pm:** Cathedral

**Happy Christmas to all Parishioners and Visitors to our Parish**

**Cloughleigh**

**Remembered in Masses this Week:**

**Sun 24th Vigil Mass 5.30pm**  
**Mon 11am:** Christmas Day  
 No weekday mass this week

**St Michael's Villas Football Club**

The Annual St. Stephen's Day mass for deceased members will take place in the Cathedral at 4pm

Ennis Parish  
 Development Fund  
 for Sunday 17th December 2023

Fund **€5,902.00**  
 Online **€313.50**

## Priest's Christmas Collection

The Christmas Collection for the Bishop and Priests of the parish takes place at all masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Envelopes are available in all our churches. As one of only four appeals in the year, your support and your generosity are very much appreciated.

## Unwanted Christmas 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 to help complete the restoration of the floor.

Please, only gifts that are unopened and not used can be accepted. This annual fundraiser has become a important source of fundraising for the Cathedral.

## Bethlehem Peace Light

The peace light of Bethlehem is an Austrian initiative that began in 1986.



Every year since then a flame has been carried from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to Vienna on the country's national airline, then distributed throughout the world by the scouting association. The light arrived in Dublin during the week and was collected by members of the first and Fourth Clare Scouts.

This year because of War and Conflict that light is needed more than ever before. Please pray for Peace in our Lord's birth place and throughout the world.

## Sr. Zita Reidy



In her ninety-sixth year, and after a short illness, Sr. Zita Reidy died very peacefully on Sat. 16 Dec. 2023, in Cahercalla Community Hospital, Ennis.

Margaret Teresa was born in Cooraclare to Mary Gallagher and Michael Reidy, one of a family of seven girls and five boys. She joined the Sisters of Mercy, St. Xavier's, Ennis, on 24 September 1946 and took the name Zita.

Gifted with a happy disposition and wonderful sense of humour Zita cheerfully used her outstanding house-management and catering skills in Ennis, Killaloe and Spanish Point convents; she was renowned as an exceptional cook. She had spent twenty-four years in Spanish Point when that house closed in 2019. She was sad to move away from the people of the area whom she had grown to know and love and from the 'wild Atlantic' in which she was a year-round swimmer.

A generous supporter of missions abroad, both by prayer and practical help, her particular interest was the work of the Redemptorist Fathers; she was a keen promoter of their 'Reality' magazine.

Zita will be sadly missed for her cheerful presence and her willingness to always 'give a hand'! Her 'Advent' is over - may her gentle soul rest in peace this Christmas and always.

## Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

### An Nollaig.

Táimid ag tnúth go dílis le féile na Nollaig, Breith ár dTiarna Beimid ag ceiliúradh le dicheall is le dúthracht ar an Luan seo chugainn. Tá na cártaí Nollaig seolta na bronntanais dáilte agus is comharthaí grá iad seo go léir. Féile ghrá is ea an Nollaig. Ghráigh Dia chomh mór sin, sinne gur sheol Sé a Mhac chugainn mar Shlánaitheoir. Déanaimis ullmhúchán spioradálta as seo amach. Bhíodh an phaidir seo á rá i mBéarla ag ár sinisir mar ullmhúcháin do bhreith an Linbh Íosa. Seo leagan Gaeilge de:

*Is beannaithe an nóiméad a rugadh Mac na hOige, ag meán oíche i mBeithil i lár an ghéimhrídh ghairbh. Deonaigh a Dhia, trí idirghuif Íosa Críost agus Muire, Máthair Íosa, éist le mo ghul agus glac le m'achainí. Aiméan*

Tá an Cró Nollaig againn le beagnach ocht gcéad bliain. Naomh Proinsias as Assisi san Iodáil a chuir tús leis an gCró Nollaig san Eoraip. Sa bhliain 1220 thug sé cuairt ar Bheithil agus thaitin an tsli inar ceiliúradh an Nollaig ansin go mór leis. Nuair a d'fhill sé abhaile rinne sé mainséar as 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 Nollaig agus d'fhás an nós as sin.

*Nollaig bheannaithe agus athbhliain faoi mhaise go raibh agaibh go léir agus is é seo mo ghul daoibh: Síocháin an Naí Íosa a gealladh do lucht na dea-thola, go raibh ag lucht léite mo Chúinne Domhnach i ndiaidh Domhnaigh.*

Christmas is near and we must prepare for it. We look forward with anticipation and excitement to the feast of Christmas, the Birth of our Lord and we will soon celebrate with effort and commitment on Monday next. The cards have been sent and the presents distributed which are signs of love. God loved each of us so much that He sent His son into the world to be our Saviour. Let us prepare spiritually from now on. Friendship with Christ is the light that leads us in this world. This prayer was said by our ancestors in preparation for the birth of the Child Jesus. *Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born, of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my petition through the intercession of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary His Mother. Amen.*

May you have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year. This is my wish for all who read the cúinne each Sunday. May peace of the Infant Jesus, promised to people of good will be with you all who read my Cúinne each Sunday.

Adoration takes place each day Monday to Friday including Christmas Day from 5pm to 7pm in the Cathedral



## 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

### 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

## Donations to Our Parish



CATHEDRAL  
RESTORATION  
FUND

[Donate to Our Parish / Ennis Parish](#)

Donations can now be made directly to the Cathedral Restoration Fund by using the donate button on Ennis Parish Website.

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

# 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 second book of Samuel

2Sm 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

*Response: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all the ages my mouth  
will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love  
lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established  
as the heaven.

R

'I have made a covenant  
with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.'

R

He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure.

R

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

Rom 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!*

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be

afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

## 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.