

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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Year B) 31st December, 2023

How does God fit in?

I recently read a story about a schoolteacher in England who supervised the construction of a manger scene in a corner of her classroom by her students. The students were excited and enthusiastic as they set up the little barn and covered the floor with real straw and then arranged all the figures of Mary and Joseph and the shepherds and the Wise Men and all the animals. The students had all the characters facing the little crib in which the tiny Infant Jesus lay.

One little boy just couldn't get enough. He was absolutely enthralled. He kept returning to it, and each time stood there completely engrossed but wearing a puzzled expression on his face. The teacher noticed him and asked, "Is anything wrong? Do you have a question? What would you like to know?"

With his eyes still glued to the tiny manger scene, the boy said slowly, "*What I'd like to know is, it's so small, how does God fit in?*"

The truth of Christmas and this weekend's feast of the Holy Family is that the fulness of God's grace is not always found in the spectacular or miraculous but rather in the small, simple and ordinary. Our challenge as Christians is to see

God present in the ordinary and everyday experiences of our lives.

Even when our families are broken or hurting, Jesus is present in them inviting us to see his healing presence. The Son of God born into the mess of humanity at the stable in Bethlehem is also born into our sometimes messy lives and relationships. **Our task is to find Jesus in the ordinary everyday moments of our lives and families, good and bad, even when it may seem like he does not belong there. Jesus knows the trembling hands that hold on to him with unflinching tenacity. He recognises his faithful follower's tender touch.**



31st December 2023

Feast of the Holy Family

Priest on Duty: Fr. David Carroll



Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

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

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 & Waterford.

Mon: 7.40am: No 7.40am Mass.

11am: Mary & Dan O'Keeffe, Ardlea Rd.
Ann Ryan, Childers' Rd.

7.30pm: Matt Talbot Prayer Society.

Tues: 7.40am: Book of Intentions.

11am: James O'Sullivan, Westfields, Limerick Rd. **MM.**
Mary Keane, Hermitage.

7.30pm: PJ Killeen, Milton Malbay. **1st Anniv**
Michael O'Donoghue, Ennis & Australia.
Patrick & Thomas McMahon, Carmody St.

Wed 7.40am: No intention booked

11am: Hannah Ahern, Limerick.

7.30pm: Fionnuala Fitzpatrick & Fitzpatrick
& Blake Families, Springfield.

Thurs 7.40am: No intention booked

11am: John & Mary Hayes, Hermitage.
Susan Keating, Cork.
Haulie & Martin Reidy, Shannon & Martin Reidy Jnr,
Golf Links Rd.

7.30pm: Frank & Agnes Fox, Circular Rd.
Rose Culligan, Bunnaw, Doora.

Fri 7.40am: Mass for the People.

11am: No intention booked.

7.30pm: Glenise Downes, Drumbiggle Rd. **MM**
Mary Connery, Dalcassian Park. **MM.**

Sat: 11am: Mary & Flan Hynes, St. Michael's Villas.
Andrew & Patrick Woods, McNamara Park.
Jerry O'Callaghan, Willow Park.

6.30pm: Michael & Anne Tierney, Kilrush Rd.
Michael Lynch, Clare Rd.
Martin Shannon, Kilnaboy.
Bernard McNeill, Limerick Rd.
Michael McMahon, Gallows Hill.

Sun 7th 8am: Thomas & Kathleen Scanlon,
Newcastlewest.

9.30am: Patrick Feeney, St. Michael's Villas.
Noel Bolger, New Rd.
Costelloe & O'Donoghue Families, Ennis & Cork.
Brian McSweeney, Lissycasey.

11.30am: Luke Coote, Considine Rd. **1st Anniv.**
Paddy Loftus, Buttermarket. **1st Anniv.**
Austin Smith, Ballymacahill, Roslevan.
Liam & Eoin Madigan, St. Michael's Villas.
Seán & Mary Connolly, Lower Limerick Rd.
Peggy & Jim Casey, 'The White House', Shanaway.
PJ Malone, Beechpark.

Tiles for the Aisles

Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge the following contributions received over Christmas for the appeal, €2,500, €500, €200, €100 x2, €50x2. These once off contributions are very much appreciated and are helping to complete the renovation work at the Cathedral. €7,700 (proceeds of the Cantare Concert in the Cathedral. Our thanks to Michael Hennessy and all who made it possible).

Our Parish Calendars

Our parish calendar for 2024 is now freely available from any of our Churches to share with family and friends.

Sunday Missals 2024

Sunday Missals for the coming year are now available in the parish office. €8 each

First Friday of January

Friday 5th January is the first Friday of the month. Sick and housebound parishioners will receive the Sacraments at home. If you know of any sick or housebound parishioners who would like to receive the Sacraments, please contact the Parish office.

Bereaved by Suicide.
The Christmas Season can be a difficult time for people bereaved by suicide. Clare Suicide Bereavement Support volunteers are available to help you. Support and help are only a phone call away. You could phone us at one of our numbers given below and we will take it from there. We promise complete confidentiality.
086 0565373. 087 3698315.
www.claresuicidebereavementsupport.org.com

Cois na hAbhna

Frank Custy will host a music session on Monday 1st January at 6.00pm in Cois na hAbhna

St. Joseph's



Remembered in Masses this Week:

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

Sun 31st 10am: Maureen & Paddy Shanahan,
St. Senan's Rd.
Winifred Leydon, Sligo.

11.45am: No intention Booked

Mon 10.30am: No 10.30am Mass.

Tues 10.30am: Book of Intentions.
Maura Hegarty, Elm Park.

Wed 10.30am: No intention booked.

Thu 10.30am: No intention booked.

Fri 10.30am: No intention booked.

Sat: 10.30am: Imelda Micks, The Crescent, Lifford.

7pm: Pauline Gibbons, Kincora Park.

Sun 6th 10am: No intention booked.

11.45am: Toss O'Sullivan, New Rd.
Paddy & Mary Darcy, "Arbutus House", Glenoir.

Cloughleigh



Remembered in Masses this Week:

Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.

Sun 7th 11am: May Molloy, nee McNamara, Ennis
& Dublin & Carol Harrold, Dublin.
Barbara Smith, nee Daffy, York, England. **MM.**
John & Mary Hunt, Dublin & Kilkee.

Priests' Christmas Collection

Our thanks to all who supported the Priests' Christmas Collection. If you were away or forgot, your contribution would still very much be appreciated.

Matt Talbot Prayer Society



The Monthly Mass praying for all suffering or sharing in life of addictions will take place this Monday at 7.30pm in the Cathedral.

Rest in Peace

Brian Cronin, Shannon Park;
Tom Nestor, Birr, late of Castlewood Park;
Darren Long, Kilrush Road & Ballyea;

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

Newly Baptised

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

Caoimhe Nollaig Lynch;
Aoife Clare Lynch;
Kate Elizabeth Forde



Praying out the Old Praying in the New



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

Unwanted Christmas Gifts

We welcome unwanted Christmas Gifts, which can be left into the Cathedral or Parish Office 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 an important source of fundraising for the Cathedral.

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday 6th January, a Holyday.

Masses for the Feast

Friday: 7.30pm Cathedral
(Vigil Mass)

Saturday:
7.45am Poor Clare Monastery
9.30am Cloughleigh
10.00am Friary
10.30am St. Joseph's
11am Cathedral

Normal Saturday Vigil Masses in the Cathedral, St. Joseph's and the Friary.

Poor Clare Monastery

Mass times this week:

Sunday 7.45am
Monday to Friday 8.30am
Saturday & Sunday 7.45am

New Year's greetings and every blessing for 2024 from the Sisters in Francis Street.

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

An Teaghlach Naofa, Íosa,
Muire agus Íosaf. 2023.

Inniu tá an Eaglais ag ceiliúradh fhéile an Teaghlach Naofa Íosa, Muire agus Íosaf. Ag tráth na Nollag bímid go léir dírithe níos mó ar ár dteaghlach idir teacht agus imeacht agus cártaí agus bronntanais a roinnt. Chuir an Teaghlach i Nasaireit a muinín i nDia agus lean siad a dtoil agus chuir siad i gcriche é ina iomláine. Tugann an Fhéile seo deis dúinn smaoineamh ar Theaghlach Nasaireit agus ar ár dteaghlach féin. Más gá déanamid iarracht bhreise, go háirithe inár dtiinteán féin cairdeas agus síocháin a chothú agus a bhunú. Is é seo a leanas an chomhairle a thug an Pápa Proinsias dúinn. cúpla bliain ó shin. "Nach i bhfad níos fearr a bheadh ár saol teaghlach dá n-úsáidimis na focail 'le do thoil, buíochas leat agus tá cathú orm.' *A Íosa, déan teaghlach na hEaglaise a dhaingniú i do ghrásta agus i do shíocháin. Áiméan.*



Cuirimis fáilte mhór na taoide tuile roimh an bhliain úr, nua atá thar tairseach isteach chugainn ar an Luan seo chugainn agus sinn ag fágáil sláin le 2023. Ní fios dúinn cad atá i ndán dúinn i rith na bliana ach rud amháin atá cinnte, beidh Dia linn gach uile lá.

Is é seo an Cúinne deireanach do 2023. Gúim beannachtaí ó Dhia ar chách a léann é seachtain i ndiaidh seachtaine. Go mbeirimid beo ag an am seo arís, gan bhuairt, gan bhrón, gan duairceas croí.

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. At this time of the year we are more aware of family life visiting each other and exchanging cards and gifts. The Holy Family of Nazareth put their trust in God and fulfilled His will. This feast provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the Holy Family of Nazareth and on our own Christian families and if necessary, to endeavour to promote friendship and peace in our own homes. Pope Francis said, "How much better our family life would be if we used the words 'please, thank you and I am sorry'. *Jesus strengthen families of the Church with your grace and peace. Amen*

Let us welcome the New Year on Monday next as we say goodbye to 2023. We do not know what is in store for us during this year but we can be certain God will be with us.

This is the last Cúinne of 2023. I wish all who read it each Sunday God's blessings. May we live to see this time next year, free from vexation, sorrow and heartache.

A word of thanks

As we bid farewell to 2023 and stand ready to welcome a new year, may we all be open to the possibilities this new year may bring, it may reveal hidden treasures.

Our thanks to all who supported our parish and who are active in ministry. So many people give of their time and talents in the service of the parish. We thank all who helped with Liturgy, Readers, Eucharistic Ministries, Basket Collectors, Counters, Envelopes distributors, Sacristans, Safe Guarding Representatives, Choirs, Organists, Cantors. To those who serve on both the Pastoral and Finance Committees, Organisers of Eucharistic Adoration, Children's Liturgy in the Friary and those who take care of Parish Property.

To our office, housekeeping staff and the many volunteers who help each day make our parish active and vibrant.

We appreciate the support of our schools, Principals, Teachers and school staff who help and support handing on the faith. A special word of appreciation to both the outgoing and incoming boards of management who look after our schools.

To the Religious communities of the Franciscans, Poor Clares, Christian Brothers and Sisters of Mercy; thank you for your presence, witness and daily prayers for all of us.

Our virtual Congregation and those joining us through Parish Radio, Webcam and facebook bring our Parish directly into many peoples homes all over the world. While there can be no substitute for your presence at the Altar of the Lord and the building of community, we do appreciate you joining us in prayer every day.

It is a privilege and blessing for us priests to serve in the Abbey Pastoral Area and in this year of Prayer for Vocations, we highly recommend the priestly life and encourage any young and not so young men to listen out for a call from the Lord. We thank God for the two young men from the Parish who are discerning their vocations, Mark for Diocesan Priesthood and Ian for the Franciscan way of life. Please keep them in your prayers. So many people in their parish are living out their vocation calling by serving our parish in so many different ways everyday.

May 2024 bring Peace and Blessing.

THANK YOU

Today's Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste,
And found Mary & Joseph and the Infant
lying in a manger.

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 book of Genesis.

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram
in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your
shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord,' Abram replied, 'what do
you intend to give me? I go childless...'
Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me
no descendants; some man of my
household will be my heir'. And then this
word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He
shall not be your heir; your heir shall be
one of your own flesh and blood.' Then
taking him outside he said, 'Look up to
heaven and count the stars if you can.
Such will be your descendants' he told him.
Abram put his faith in the Lord, who
counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as
he had said, and did what he had promised
her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to
Abraham in his old age, at the time God
had promised. Abraham named the son
born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah
had given birth.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response:

He, the Lord, is our God.

He remembers his covenant for ever

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the
peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works!

R

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

R

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

R

He remembers his covenant forever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

R

A reading from the letter to the

Hebrews. Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the
call to set out for a country that was the
inheritance given to him and his
descendants, and that he set out without
knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah,
in spite of being past the age, was made
able to conceive, because she believed
that he who had made the promise would
be faithful to it. Because of this, there
came from one man, and one who was
already as good as dead himself, more
descendants than could be counted, as
many as the stars of heaven or the grains
of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when
put to the test, offered up Isaac. He
offered to sacrifice his only son even
though the promises had been made to
him and he had been told: It is through
Isaac that your name will be carried on.
He was confident that God had the power
even to raise the dead; and so,
figuratively speaking, he was given back
Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia

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.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Lk 2:22.39-40

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.

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

Our God has appeared on the earth,
and lived among us.