

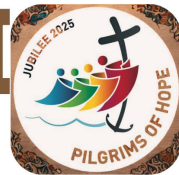


ENNIS PARISH



Ss. Peter & Paul Cathedral

NEWSLETTER



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Gaudete Sunday)

YEAR A

Matthew 11: 2-11

Sunday 14th December 2025

REJOICE IN THE NEARNESS OF THE LORD

The third Sunday in Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. It takes its name from the Latin word "Gaudete" meaning "Rejoice". In the midst of Advent's penitential and prayerful waiting, the church pauses to remind us that our anticipation is filled with joy, for the coming of Christ is close at hand. In this Jubilee Year, the Church's call to rejoice takes on an even deeper meaning. Gaudete Sunday reminds us of our call to rejoice in the Lord in the midst of Advent. Even when life is heavy with trials, burdens, or unanswered prayers, we still can rejoice because the Lord is near.

OUR JOY IS ROOTED IN CHRIST

To prevent the faithful from becoming weary, the Church inserted this Sunday of joy as a reminder that our waiting is filled with hope. We are invited, to ask ourselves, where do I find my joy? If Christ is the reason for our joy, nothing can take it away from us. Jesus said, "Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (Jn 16:22)

BECOME MESSENGERS OF JOY

In the Gospel, we meet John the Baptist in prison, struggling with doubt. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come?" Instead of giving a direct answer, Jesus points to the signs, the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the poor have the good news preached to them. Jesus reveals that joy is found not in explanations, but in God's saving action. Even in prison, John is invited to trust and

rejoice in God's unfolding plan. This resonates with our own lives. When we face confusion or doubt, God calls us to look at the signs of His love and rejoices in His presence. Joy is found not in knowing all the answers, but in trusting and witnessing God's work in our lives. This is Advent's invitation to rejoice not because everything makes sense, but because God is coming to save us. When Jesus says "Go and tell John what you hear and see" (Mt 11:4). He's inviting John's disciples to observe God's works and become messengers of Joy.

It is also our Christian vocation to become a messenger of joy. We become messengers of joy when our lives reflect the presence of Christ in the world. Rooted in His love, we allow his grace to transform our hearts so that even in struggles, fear, or uncertainty, our hope and peace shine through. Like John the Baptist pointing to Jesus, we witness God's saving action by noticing His work in our lives and sharing it with others, through words of encouragement, acts of kindness, patience in trials, and forgiveness. Joy is not merely a feeling but a gift we live and give, showing others that the Lord is near and inviting them to share in the hope, healing, and love that only Christ can bring. May the joy we find in Christ keep us rejoicing in all the circumstances of our lives.



I will send my messenger ahead of you



Mass Times

Cathedral-www.ennisparish.com/webcam

Radio link:106.4fm

Monday to Friday 7.40am, 11am & 7.30pm

Saturday 11 am & Vigil 6.30pm

Sunday 8am, 9.30am & 11.30am

St. Joseph's- www.ennisparish.com/our-parish/stjosephs-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:- 6797 489;

Friary:- 6828751

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

Facebook : <http://www.facebook.com/ennisparish>



Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat: 6.30pm: James Langan, Limerick Rd. **1st Anniv.**
 Loretta Ryan, Shallee Drive.
 Dr. Donough Moylan, Bindon St.
 Rigoberto Aguilar Maracaibo, Venezuela.
 Mary Conway, Station Rd.

Sun 14th 8am: Stokes Family, Limerick.

9.30am: Donal O'Brien, Turnpike Rd.

Paddy, Maura & Peter Keane, Kilrush Rd.

11.30am: Peggy Corry, Loughville.

Liam Slattery & Torpey Family, St. Michael's Villas.

Joe & Mary Nevin, Loughville & Mary O'Neill, Dysart.

Ignatius McCarthy, Tulla Rd.

Eileen & Jack O'Donovan, Turnpike Rd.

Nellie Ryan (nee O'Donovan), Murroe, Limerick.

Jim Whyms, Cusack Rd.

Joe & Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Tuamgraney.

Paddy & Kitty Casey, College Park.

5pm: Brazilian Mass

Mon: 7.40am: Holy Souls.

11am: No intention booked.

7.30pm: Abbey Pastoral Reconciliation Service.

Tues 7.40am Book of Intentions.

11am: No intention booked.

7.30pm: Jackie O'Neill, Dalcassian Ave. **MM.**

Austin & Nancy Mooney, Cornmarket St.

Lilian & James Rooney, Co. Leitrim & New York.

Wed 7.40am: No intention booked.

11am: Peggy Kearney, Summerhill & Market St.

7.30pm: Tess & Frank White, Clare Rd.

Patrick & Lily Greene, Clonroad.

Thurs 7.40am: Brian, Tessie & Brian Jr. Kelly,
 Limerick Rd.

11am: John & Bridie Morrison, Dooneen, Sligo.

7.30pm: Frances & Michael McInerney, Parnell St.
 & Park Avenue.

Michael & Beenie Fitzpatrick, Clonroadmore.

James & Lil Gleeson, McNamara Park.

Colette O'Donovan (nee Gleeson), Bantry.

Fri 7.40am: Mass for the People

11am: Vivian Thomas Lee, Gallows Hill, Fr. Jim
 Kennedy, Lee & Kennedy Families.

7.30pm: No Mass - Cantare Concert

Sat: 11am: Christine O'Sullivan, Shragh & London.
 Colin Barton, Cahercalla Heights.

6.30pm: Anthony Ward, Dalcassian Ave. **MM.**
 Michael O'Brien, Ballybeg.

Gertrude & Patrick Vaughan, Lr. Market St.

Patrick & Michael Stephens, Summerhill & Kilmaley.

Paddy & Amy Molloy, Dalcassian Park.

Fiona Knox, Clarecastle.

Noel Scanlan, Willow Park.

Sun 21st 8am: No intention booked.

9.30am: Michael & Teresa McMahon, Coore,
 Kilmurry Ibrickane.

11.30am: Joe Cullinan, Gallows Hill.

Anne Quinn, Ivy Hill & Lr. Salthill, Galway. **1st Anniv.**

John Costin, Gallows Hill.

Donal Cahill, Hazelgrove, Roslevan.

Maureen Martin, Woodstock View, Shanaway Rd.

Frank & Angela Lyons, Orchard Lane.

Cathedral Renovation Appeal

In the past week Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge donations of €1,000, €100, €100. Your generosity to the Cathedral Renovation Appeal is much appreciated. Thank you.

Cathedral Renovation Update

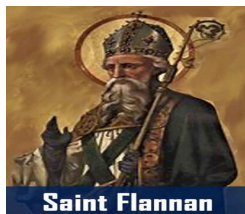
In the past week a Planning Application was lodged with Clare County Council for the removal of the existing flagstone paving and access steps to the Cathedral entrance Plaza, the construction of a new reconfigured stepped stone access together with new stone paving to the entrance Plaza, the refurbishment of the existing Marian Shrine and associated works and development.

It is hoped, subject to permission being granted, for this work to start after Easter. It is necessary as serious flooding issues have emerged at the side of the Cathedral and to bring the Cathedral grounds in line with the new street scape. It is estimated that this work will cost over €250,000 and we are grateful for your continued generosity to the Cathedral Renovation Fund.

No Evening Mass

Please note that due to the Penitential Rite on Monday and the Cantare Concert on Friday, there will be no evening mass on Monday and Friday this week.

St. Flannan's Day



Thursday next 18th December is the Feast of St. Flannan, our Diocesan Patron. Bishop Fintan and the priests of the Diocese will join with the students from St. Flannan's College on Thursday at 1pm for Mass in the College Chapel to celebrate the feast.

St. Joseph's



Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat 7pm: Carmel Long, The Crescent. **MM.**

Mary Murphy Jordan, Ashfield Park. **1st Anniv.**

Seán Dee, Clover Hill. **1st Anniv.**

Ciss & Seán McInerney, Shannon Park.

Sun 14th 10am: Michael O'Connor, Oak Park.

11.45am Seán & Clare McGrath, Lifford Rd.

Seán & Vera Moloney, 'Rahona', Tulla Rd.

Mon 10.30am: John Leydon, Sligo.

Tues 10.30am: Book of Intentions.

Wed 10.30am: Mai & Michael Tully, Shannon Park.

Thu 10.30am: St. Anne's School Mass.

Elizabeth & Thomas Nugent.

James & Maureen O'Keefe, Lifford Rd. .

Fri 10.30am: Tommy Lorrigan, College Park.

Sat: 10.30am: Seán O'Boyle, Castlerock, Tulla Rd.
1st Anniv.

7pm: Michael, Margaret & Martin Fitzpatrick, St.
 Patrick's Terrace.

Paddy & Ann Moroney, Kincora Park.

Myra & Patrick Kearney, Brookville.

Sun 21st 10am: Catherine & Michael Griffin,
 Maurice's Mills.

Jimmy & Celia Casey, Old Gort Rd.

Mary Moorhead, Ashfield Park.

11.45am: No intention booked.

Parish Office

Anniversary Masses & Baptisms for the Cathedral, St. Joseph's and Cloughleigh Churches are booked through the Parish Office. The contact number is 065 6824043 during office hours

Bambinelli Sunday



This weekend at all our Masses we bless the figure of Baby Jesus from your crib at home as part of our Advent Preparation for the Feast of Christmas

Advent Reconciliation Service



The Abbey Pastoral Area will hold its Advent Reconciliation Service with the opportunity for individual Confession in the Cathedral on this Monday at 7.30pm (Please note, no Mass). Twelve priests will be available for Confession on the night. An excellent opportunity to prepare spiritually for Christmas.

The Columbarium

St. Anthony's extension to the Columbarium in the Cathedral was completed during the week. There are now 144 extra niches available. Some have already been reserved. If you are interested in reserving a niche in St. Anthony's Section, Joseph O'Neill from Eternum Columbarium will be in the Cathedral on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week. To make an appointment please text 085 2148301.

Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.
 Special Intentions.

Tea Bags



Tea Bags €3 each or 2 for €5. Also available a Candle & Tea Bag gift set for €8. On sale at Parish Office and after all Masses this weekend.

All proceeds to Cathedral Restoration Fund.

Friary and Poor Clares' 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 Clares' Heating Appeal". The sisters and Friars pray each day for their benefactors and appreciate the goodness of so many people.

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

REST IN PEACE

Maura Verling, Summerhill;

Patrick (Pat) Madden, Kincora Park;

Stephen (Steve) Malone, Dalcassian Drive;

Johnny Flynn, Barefield & Annacotty, brother of Liam Flynn, Gordon Drive.

Kevin Walsh, Belmullet, Co. Mayo, father of John Walsh, Golf Links Drive.

Seán O'Reilly, Parnell St. & Newmarket.

Ian Doherty, Kilmorane & Dublin.

Gaudete Sunday



The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent Wreath.

Rose vestments are worn to emphasise our joy that Christmas is near. Gaudete means 'rejoice'. This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

Church Envelopes 2026

In recent days thanks to our Parish Representatives the annual box of envelopes with the parish calendar for 2026 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.

Priests' Christmas Collection

The Christmas Collection for the Priests of the Pastoral Area who serve the parish will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Envelopes are now available in all churches and in the Parish Office.

St. Vincent dePaul



We are blessed to have very committed people who give of their time and volunteer to work as part of the St. Vincent de Paul Team in our parish. St. Vincent de Paul reach out and support individuals and families in time of need. This work is made possible by the kindness and goodness of others who contribute and donate.

The Society of St. Vincent dePaul will hold its Annual Church Gate Collection at the Vigil Masses on Saturday 13th & Morning Masses on Sunday 14th December. You have the opportunity to show your appreciation and to give support to those most in need.

Your generosity is much appreciated

Christmas Bingo

Christmas Bingo on Sunday 14th December at 8pm, Cloughleigh Community Centre.

Eircode: V95K31X

Christmas prizes to be won, tea, coffee and Christmas treats

Sr. Eileen's Cúinne

Mí na Nollag

I rith Mí na Nollag bí linn a Thiarna, mí Bhreith ár Slánaitheora, mí lár an Gheimhridh, mí dheiridh den bhliain, mí na mbronntanas. Inniu an tríú Domhnach den Aidhbhint agus sinne, Críostaithe, ag feitheamh le Dia, ní le Dia anaithnid éigin, ach Dia dofheicthe a d'fhoilsigh é féin i gCríost agus sa Spiorad Naomh atá linn i gcónaí agus go deireadh an tsaoil. Is ionann feitheamh le Dia dúinn agus feitheamh le comhlíonadh ghealltanas Dé, teacht ríocht Dé, ríocht shíoraí gan teorainn, ríocht na fírinne agus na beatha, ríocht na naofachta agus an ghrásta, ríocht an chirt, an ghrá agus na síochána.

Le linn na hAidhbhinte ba chóir dúinn iarracht a dhéanamh chun bealach an Tiarna a réiteach agus cúl a thabhairt dár bpeacaí ionas go mbeimid in ann fáilte a chur roimhe nuair a thiocfaidh Sé.

Guimis: A Dhia, a Athair

uilechumhachtaigh, impimid ort as ucht do thrócaire, bí taobh linn i gcónaí le cabhair an Spioraid Naoimh. Go dtuga Féile tréimhse na hAidhbhinte lúcháir, sonas agus síocháin dúinn féin, dár muintir agus dár dtír uile. Sin é ár nguí chugat trí Chríost ár dTiarna. Áiméan.

Lord, be with us during the Month of December, month of the Birth of Our Saviour mid-Winter, last month of the year, month of gift giving. Today is the third Sunday in Advent; the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. Our attention is focused on the fulfilment of God's plan for us when His kingdom will come.

As Christians we are waiting for God, not some unknown God but an invisible God who has revealed himself in Christ and in the Holy Spirit and is with us always to the end of time. Waiting for God means waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise, the coming of God's kingdom an eternal kingdom of justice, love and peace.

During Advent we ought to follow the way of the Lord and repent of our sins, so that we can welcome Jesus when He comes.

We pray: *Almighty God in your mercy, be with us always with the help of the Holy Spirit. May the season of Advent be a time of joy, happiness, peace for each of us, our people and our country. We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

Cribs Display — Ennis Library

Catherine Ryan will display her impressive personal collection of cribs, from around the world, in the new Ennis Library on Saturday December 20th from 11am to 4pm

All are welcome. Donations if desired to Children's Health Foundation — Crumlin Hospital

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

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
2pm	Polish Mass Cathedral



Ennis Parish Development Fund for Sunday, 7th December, 2025

Fund €6,318
Online €631

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 35:1-6.10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid'.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you'.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for those the Lord has ransomed shall re-
turn.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Come, Lord and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
The Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed
down, the Lord, who protects the
stranger and upholds the widow and
orphan. **R**

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **R**

A reading from the letter of St. James Jm 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's
coming. Think of a farmer: how
patiently he waits for the precious fruit of
the ground until it has had the autumn
rains and the spring rains! You too have
to be patient; do not lose heart, because
the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not
make complaints against one another,
brothers, so as not to be brought to
judgement yourselves; the Judge is
already to be seen waiting at the gates.
For your example, brothers, in submitting
with patience, take the prophets who
spoke in the name of the Lord.

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 Mathew Mt 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ
was doing and he sent his disciples to
ask him, 'Are you the one who is to
come, or have we got to wait for
someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go
back and tell John what you hear and
see; the blind see again, and the lame
walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf
hear, and the dead are raised to life and
the Good News is proclaimed to the
poor; and happy is the man who does
not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus
began to talk to the people about John:

'What did you go out into the wilderness
to see? A reed swaying in the breeze?
No?

Then what did you go out to see? A man
wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who
wear fine clothes are to be found in pal-
aces. Then what did you go out for? To
see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much
more than a prophet: he is the one of
whom scripture says: Look, I am going to
send my messenger before you; he will
prepare your way before you. I tell you
solemnly, of all the children born of wom-
en, a greater than John the Baptist has
never been seen; yet the least in the
kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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 heav-
en 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

Say to the faint of heart:

Be strong and do not fear.

**Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us.**