



ENNIS PARISH



Ss. Peter & Paul Cathedral

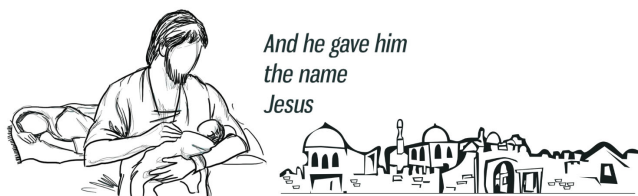
NEWSLETTER



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR A

Matthew 1:18-24

Sunday 21st December 2025

And he gave him
the name
Jesus

In this fourth and final Sunday of Advent, the Gospel guides us towards Christmas through the experience of Saint Joseph, a figure seemingly in second place, but whose attitude encapsulates all Christian wisdom. He is one who does not preach, does not speak, but tries to do God's will; and he does it in the style of the Gospel and the Beatitudes. Let us think of: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Mt 5: 3). And Joseph is poor because he lives on what is essential, he works, he lives by his work; it is the poverty typical of those who are aware that they depend on God for everything, and place all their trust in Him.

Today's Gospel passage presents a situation that is in human terms embarrassing and conflicting. Joseph and Mary are betrothed; they do not yet live together, but she is expecting a child by the work of God. Joseph, faced with this surprise, is naturally disturbed but, instead of reacting in an impulsive and punitive manner – as was the custom, the law protected him – he seeks a solution that respects the dignity and integrity of his beloved Mary. Joseph knew that if he denounced his betrothed, he would expose her to serious consequences, even death. He had full faith in Mary, whom he chose as his bride. He does not understand, but he seeks another solution.

This inexplicable circumstance leads him to question their bond; therefore, with great suffering, he decides to detach himself from Mary. But the Angel of the Lord intervenes to tell him that the solution he proposes is not the one desired by God. On the contrary, the Lord opened a new path for him, a path of union, love and happiness, and said to him: *"Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife. For that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit"* (v. 20).

At this point, Joseph trusts God totally, obeys the Angel's words and takes Mary with him. It was precisely this unshakable trust in God that enabled him to accept a humanly difficult and, in a certain sense, incomprehensible situation. Joseph understands, in faith, that the child born in Mary's womb is not his child, but the Son of God, and he, Joseph, will be the guardian. The example of this gentle and wise man exhorts us to lift up our gaze and push it further. It is a question of recovering the surprising logic of God which, far from small or great calculations, is made up of openness towards new horizons, towards Christ and His Word.

May the Virgin Mary and her chaste husband Joseph help us to listen to Jesus Who comes, and Who asks to be welcomed in our plans and in our choices.
(Pope Francis)



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>



Priest on Duty 21st December, 2025
Contact: Fr. Joy Tel. 065 6869098



Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat: 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: Bridie & Geoff Molyneaux,
 Inagh & Manchester.
 Special Intention.

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

11.30am: Padraic Flynn, Cahercalla Estate. **MM.**
 Joe Callinan, 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.
 O'Doherty & Hynes Family, St. Michael's Villas.
 John & Mary Gibbons, Co. Mayo.
 Nancy Kearney, Elm Hill, O'Callaghan's Mills.
 Jim Harnett, Rockmount.

1pm: Mass for the Polish Community

Mon 7.40am: Ellen Boland, Kilrush.

11am: Paddy & Mary Shanahan, St. Michael's Villas.
 Michael McGuane, Corrovvorrin Drive.
 Mary, Denis & Pat Joe Kelly, Kinturk, Connolly.

7.30pm: Carmel McSherry, Paisley, Scotland **MM.**
 Stuart Daly, Knocknagraigue, Corofin.
 Philomena Casey, Turnpike & Cappahard.
 Seán McMahon, Lissycasey Upper.

Tues: 7.40am Book of Intentions.

11am: Stephen & Eileen O'Sullivan, Cork
 Stephen O'Sullivan, Ruan.
 Frankie Hogan, St. Flannan's Tce.

7.30pm: Eileen Bradley, Clonroadbeg. **1st Anniv.**
 Jackie, Patricia, Declan & Anne Hayes
 & Phyllis O'Grady, McNamara Park.
 Moyra Cosgrove, Clancy Park.
 Danuta & Tadeusz, Zelasko, Poland

Wed Christmas Eve:

11am: Thomas & Margaret Collins, Honan's Tce.
 Anthony Breen, Mill Rd.

Thurs: Christmas Day

2pm: Mass for the Polish Community.

Fri 7.40am: No 7.40am Mass.

11am: Anna Murphy, Ashfield Park.
 Seán Francis McArdle, Doora.

7.30pm: Kevin Keane, Connolly Villas. **MM.**

4pm: Annual St. Michael's FC Mass.

Sat: 11am: Della **1st Anniv.**, Eugene
 & Seamus Curley, Limerick Rd.
 Krystyna & Stanislaw Ostrowscy, Poland.

6.30pm: John White, McNamara Park.
 Teresa Murphy, Hermitage.
 John & Maisie Bradley & Family Limerick Rd.
 Gerard O'Meara, Tulla Rd.
 Frederick Ensko, Turnpike Rd.
 Packie Vaughan, Cahercalla Wood.
 Bernard McNeill, Limerick Rd.

Sun 28th 8am: Mass for the People.

9.30am: Teresa Corcoran O'Neill, Springfield.

11.30am: Special Intention.
 Gerard Bennis, Bramble Lane.
 & Joseph St., Limerick. **1st Anniv.**
 Una Ryan (nee McNamara), Brookville.
 Mary Browne, 'St. Anthony's', Circular Rd.
 Anne Doyle, Cusack View.
 Martina O'Dea Wilson, Kikerrin, Labasheeda.

**Wishing all our
 parishioners
 a very safe & happy
 Christmas**



Cathedral Renovation Appeal

In the past week Fr. Tom wishes to acknowledge donation of €10. Your generosity to the Cathedral Renovation Appeal is much appreciated. Thank you.

Confessions for Christmas

The sacrament will be available this week each day until Christmas Eve from 11am to 12 noon and from 4pm to 5pm in the Friary and in the Cathedral from 7pm to 7.25pm Monday and Tuesday and on Christmas Eve from 10am to 4pm.

Come to the Crib

Year after Year the same invitation goes out – 'Come to the Crib'. Stand or kneel or sit before the crib and take in the beauty of it. Close your eyes and allow the peace, the quietness and the calm to surround you, come to the crib.

Priests' Christmas Collection

The Christmas Collection for the Bishop and Priests of the Pastoral Area will take place at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The priests who serve in our parish and Pastoral Area are grateful for your continued support and generosity. Envelopes are available for this appeal.

Ennis Parish



Don't carry cash but want to make a donation? Scan the QR code with your phone to make a donation. Ennis Parish is a Parish of the Killaloe Diocese, a designated Religious Charity RCN 20014056.

Newly Baptised



We welcome into the Christian Community through the Sacrament of Baptism:
Séamie Andrew Jansen

St. Joseph's

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat 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.

Mon 10.30am: Michael Kearns, Galway.

Tues 10.30am: Book of Intentions.
 May Costelloe, Edenvale. **1st Anniv.**
 Maura Nevin, Corrovvorrin Crescent.

Wed: Christmas Eve.

Thu: Christmas Day.

Fri 10.30am: No 10.30am Mass.

Sat: 10.30am: No intention booked.

7pm: Kieran O'Connor, Cloverhill.

Sun 28th 10am: Jean Bailey, Glenoir. **1st Anniv.**
 Dan & Mary Doorty, Tulla Rd.

11.45am: Dymrna Mullin, Woodlands, Kilrush Rd.
 Dr. Brian Gallagher, Tulla Rd.
 Joan & Brian Cronin, Shannon Park.
 Margot & Frank Mulqueen, Abbey St. & Highfield.

Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week

Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.

Fri 9.30am: No. 9.30am Mass.

Sun 28th 11am: Nancy Cosgrove, Drumcliffe Rd. **MM.**
 Patrick Crowe, Knockerra.

Information evenings for all Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, in the Abbey Pastoral area, which includes the parish of Ennis, will be held in St Joseph's Church on the following dates:

Eucharistic Ministers Tuesday 13th January,
 Wednesday 14th January
Readers Tuesday 27th January, Tuesday 3rd February.

Anyone involved in these ministries is asked to attend ONE of the relevant meetings which begin at 7.30pm each evening. The meetings are open to those interested in becoming a reader or Eucharistic Minister. We take this opportunity to thank all those who serve the parish in these roles with such dedication.

Parish Calendar

Our Parish Calendar is now available free of charge in the Parish Office and in all our churches. Our thanks to Pat Hanrahan, John O'Neill, Bro. Denis Aherne, OFM, John Kelly, Mick Mulcaire, Fr. Jibin and Margaret in the Parish Office and Real Print for production and print.

Thanks also to our Parish Representatives who have delivered the calendar to homes in the parish.

The Parish Office will close at 5pm on Tuesday 23rd December and re-open at 9am on Friday 2nd January, 2026.

The Friary Office will close at 12 noon on Christmas Eve and re-open on

Monday 29th December 9.30am—2.30pm;
 Tuesday 30th December 9.30am—2.30pm;
 Wednesday 31st December 9.30am—2.30pm;
 Closed on Thursday 1st January & re-opening on Friday 2nd January at 9.30am.



Masses for Christmas Week

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December

Normal Times.

Christmas Eve Morning:

7.40am	Cathedral
7.45am	Poor Clare Monastery
10am	Friary
11am	Cathedral

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

St. Stephen's Day 26th December

8.30am	Poor Clare Monastery
10am	Friary
11am, 4pm & 7.30am	Cathedral

Saturday 27th December

8.30am	Poor Clare Monastery
10am	Friary
10.30am	St. Joseph's Church
11am	Cathedral

Normal Weekend Mass Times in all Churches

Mass in the Poor Clare Monastery from St. Stephen's Day until the Baptism of Our Lord on Sunday 11th January will be at 8.30am each day.

REST IN PEACE

Teresa deBrún, Ballyalla & former Teacher in Scoil Chríost Rí, Cloughleigh;

Kathleen O'Shea, Shannon, mother of Paul, Bruach na hAbhann.

Nuala O'Dell (nee Pilkington), Corofin & late St. Michael's Villas;

Nora Griffin, Lissycasey, mother of Lucy Casey, Willow Park.

Betty Whyte (nee Boland), Lahinch, sister of Gertrude Hanrahan, Gallows Hill.

Blood Donation Clinic



There is urgent need for blood at this time of year. A clinic to receive Blood Donations will be held at Treacy's West County Hotel on Sunday, December 28th from 11.50am to 3.10pm and on Monday and Tuesday 29th and 30th December from 1.50pm to 5.10pm. If you have never donated you might consider for this occasion or you might encourage family or friends to donate. To book an appointment call 1800 222 111.

Carol Service

Our Annual Carol Service with the combined choirs of Ennis will be held this Sunday Evening, 21st December at 7pm in the Friary.

St. Michael's Football Club

Annual Mass for deceased players, supporters and their families will be celebrated on St. Stephen's day in the Cathedral at 4pm.

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. 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.

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 Lords' birth place and throughout the world. The light will be presented to Bishop Fintan at the 9pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

Adoration

There will be no Adoration in the Cathedral on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Give Hope This Christmas with Double the Love:

Mary's Meals provide life-changing school meals to more than 3 million children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future.

It costs just €22 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day. Through 'Double the Love', we can transform the lives of many more desperately hungry children waiting for Mary's Meals. To donate, go to www.marysmeals.ie or phone 01 853 5163. Every donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sr. Eileen's Cuinne

An Nollaig

Táimid ag tnúth go dílis le féile na Nollag, Breith ár dTiarna. Beimid ag ceiliúradh le dícheall is le dúthracht ar an Déardaoín seo chugainn. Tá na cártaí Nollag seolta, na bronntanais dáilithe. 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 Shlánaítheoir. Bhíodh an phaidir seo á rá i mBéarla ag ár sinsir mar ullmhúcháin do bhreith an Linbh Íosa. Seo leagan Gaeilge de:

Is beannaithe an nóiméad a rugadh Mac na hÓighe, ag meán oíche i mBeithil i lár an gheimhridh ghairbh. Deonaigh a Dhia, trí idirghuí Íosa Críost agus Muire, Máthair Íosa, éist le mo ghuí agus glac le m'achainí. Áiméan

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 tslí 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.

Nollaig bheannaithe agus athbhliain faoi mhaise go raibh agaibh go léir. Is é seo a leanas mo ghuí daoibh: Síocháin an Naí Íosa a gealladh do lucht na dea-thola, go raibh agaibh uile.

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 celebrate it with enthusiasm and eagerness. 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. 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 purest 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. May the peace of the Infant Jesus, promised to people of goodwill be with you all *this* Christmas and in the New Year.

Shannon Doc

For out of hours service during Christmas
Contact 0818123500.

Wren Trad Session on St. Stephen's day in Cois na hAbhna @ 4-6.30 pm. All musicians, bodhrán players, singers, dancers, & listeners welcome. Cupán Tae.



Ennis Parish Development Fund for Sunday, 14th December, 2025

**Fund €4,213
Online €434.50**

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 prophet Isaiah *Is 7:10-14*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above'. 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test'.

Then Isaiah said:
'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the
patience of men
without trying the patience of my
God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means
'God-is-with-us'.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

**Response: Let the Lord enter!
He is the king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

R

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

R

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him, seek
the face of the God of Jacob.

R

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans *Rm 1:1-7*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who
has been called to be an apostle, and
specially chosen to preach the Good
News that God promised long ago
through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God
who, according to the human nature he
took, was a descendant of David: it is
about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the
order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness
that was in him, was proclaimed Son
of God in all his power through his resur-
rection from the dead. Through him we
received grace and our apostolic mission
to preach the obedience of faith to all
pagan nations in honour of his name.

You are one of these nations, and by his
call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all,
then, who are God's beloved in Rome,
called to be saints, may God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace
and peace.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to
a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.
Alleluia!

A reading from holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Mt 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be
born. His mother Mary was betrothed to
Joseph; but before they came to live to-
gether she was found to be with child
through the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a man of
honour and wanting to spare her
publicity, decided to divorce her
informally.

He had made up his mind to do this
when the angel of the Lord appeared to
him in a dream and said, 'Joseph

son of David, do not be afraid to take
Mary home as your wife, because she
has conceived what is in her by the Holy
Spirit.

She will give birth to a son and you must
name him Jesus, because he is the one
who is to save his people from their sins.'
Now all this took place to fulfil the words
spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give
birth to a son and they will call
him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.
When Joseph woke up he did what the
angel of the Lord had told him to do: he
took his wife to his home.

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 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
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**