



ENNIS PARISH



Ss. Peter & Paul Cathedral

NEWSLETTER



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR A

Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday 7th December 2025



*Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven
has come near*

Mt 3:2

We are constantly being told to prepare – the weather forecast tells us what to expect in rain, wind or whatever; plan for the exams, plan for retirement, prepare for the match. There are some things for which we cannot prepare – sudden bad health, an accident, the actions of others.

John the Baptist is the expert in how to prepare for a dramatic future event: the coming of the kingdom of heaven is his message. He says, "Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire". John's teachings are to the point and sum up the theme of preparation that is central to the Gospel of Matthew.

In Matthew's gospel there are numerous instructions regarding how we are to prepare for the final days and for eternal life. We are not only to hear Jesus' words,

but we are to do them. We prepare for the coming kingdom by active obedience to the teachings of Jesus. Matthew's gospel features many parables that tell us to get ready, to be ready; the ten bridesmaids, the talents, the great feast and others. And here in Advent, John the Baptist is shouting it loudly but what we learn is that many will not listen to his instructions. In a way, we are being prepared for the rest of the Gospel and indeed life generally where people do not listen to that which will lead us on a pilgrimage of faith.

John also tells us the way not to prepare; by simply relying on our spiritual credentials. "We have Abraham as our ancestor" – this is the thinking that our unchanged rituals will do us fine. Presumably, relying on any other assurance or past accomplishment than God is not the way to prepare. Inaction is not the way to prepare. Making excuses is not the way to prepare. Being distracted from Jesus' coming kingdom by possessions, prestige, and power is not the way to prepare. Not then and not now.



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 7th December, 2026
Contact Fr. Ger Jones - 065 6869098

Cathedral

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat: 6.30pm: Frank & Florrie Burns, Clare Rd.
 Christy Burns, Kilkee.
 Mary & Joe Connery, Dalcassian Park.
 Humphrey & Margaret Counihan, Fergus Lawn, Tulla Rd.
 Nicola Davis O'Sullivan, Ballyalla & Kilkenny.
 William Bloomfield & Family.
 Vincent & Nonie Meehan & Michael O'Connell, Tulla.
 Brian Malone, O'Connell St.
Sun 7th 8am: Patrick & Christy McInerney, Doora.
 Michael Hogan, England & St. Flannan's Tce.
 Costelloe & O'Donoghue Families, Ennis & Cork.
 Leyden Family, Carmody St. & Cloughleigh Rd.
9.30am: Eamon & Josephine Murphy, Kilkee.
11.30am: Peter Gilleran, Barrack Court, Barrack St. MM.
 Anne & Jack Wall, Ballymaley.
 John & Patrick Quinn, Edenvale.
 Mary Ellen Quinn, Kincora Park.
 Margaret (Peggy) Malone, Dalcassian Drive.
 Peter Cullinan, Cooper's Place.
 John & Daragh O'Halloran, Ard na Gréine.
 White Family, Hermitage.
 Patrick & Mary Cullinan, Gilroe, Tubber.
 Denis & Nellie Wylde, Clonroad.
1pm: Mass for the Polish Community.
Mon 7.40am: Special Intention.
11am: Michael Moloney, McNamara Park.
 Helen Casey, Parnell St.
7.30pm: Mary O'Loughlin, St. Michael's Villas.
 Jane & Felix O'Dwyer, Carrigaholt.
Tues: 7.40am Book of Intentions.
11am: No intention booked.
7.30pm: Dermot Molloy, Cahercalla Estate.
Wed 7.40am: No intention booked.
11am: Eileen Queally, Surrey, England.
 Nicholas & Catherine McMahon, Fountain House.
7.30pm: Seamus Guinnane, Fountain.
 Patrick, Mary & Tina Shannon, Cornmarket St.
Thurs 7.40am: Holy Souls.
11am Michael Meere, Turnpike Rd. MM.
 Joseph, Caroline, & Brian Ensko, Connolly Villas.
 Geraldine & Sarah McCarthy, Ballynacally.
7.30pm: Eileen & Patrick Morrissey, Cornmarket St.
 Ella Burke, Phoenix Court & Mill Rd.
 PJ, Bridget & Michael Quinn, Hermitage.
8pm: Gaelscoil Carol Service.
Fri 7.40am: Mass for the People.
11am: No intention booked.
7.30pm: Mary Cosgrove, Gallows Hill. **1st Anniv.**
 Ciss, Paddy and Michael Hanrahan, St. Michael's Villas.
Sat 11am: Barry Connellan, Ard na Gréine. **1st Anniv.**
 Don Farrell, Cahercalla Estate.
 Lucy Leahy, Ruan.
 Maeve, Seán & Deirdre Casey, Cusack Rd.
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, Murroe, Limerick.
 Jim Whyms, Cusack Rd.
 Joe & Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Tuamgraney.

**Feast of the
Immaculate Conception**



This Monday 8th December, a Holyday. Mass times as follows:
 7.40am Cathedral
 7.45am Poor Clare Monastery
 9.30am Cloughleigh
 10am Friary
 10.30am St Joseph's
 11am & 7.30pm Cathedral
 Please note there is no vigil Mass this Sunday Evening.

Bambenelli Sunday



Next weekend the 3rd Sunday of Advent we celebrate Bambenelli Sunday when we invite you to bring the figures of your Baby Jesus from the crib for a blessing for you and your families this Christmas.

Christmas Reconciliation Service



On Monday 15th December, the Abbey Pastoral Area will hold the Annual Advent Reconciliation Service with the opportunity for individual confession in the Cathedral at 7.30pm.

An ideal Spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Newly Baptised



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

Jack JJ Murray;
Vincent David Barron;
Céala Rose Donovan.

St. Joseph's

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sat 7pm: Maura Beakey, Cahercalla Estate.
 Frances Murphy, Riverdale, Tulla Road.
 Towey & Duffy Families, Mayo & Roscommon.
Sun 7th 10am: Margaret, Jim, Johnny, Jimmy & Con Butler, Clonroad.
11.45am: Anne McNamara, Turnpike Rd.
 Bill & Margaret Hanrahan, Ashfield Park.
 Seán Curtin, Willow Park.
 Margaret Mee & Mee Family, Miltown Malbay.
Mon 10.30am: Tom & Christina Hogan, Shannon Pk.
Tues 10.30am: Noel & Bernadene Moloney, Marian Ave.
 Peter Cosgrove, Kincora Park.
Wed 10.30am: No intention booked.
Thu 10.30am: No intention booked.
Fri 10.30am: Bridget Orchard & John McMahon, Ennis & Dysart.
Sat: 10.30am: Eileen Leydon, London.
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.
St. Paul's Missals are available for collection in the Sacristy for readers in St. Joseph's

Cloughleigh

Remembered in Masses this Week:

Sun 7th 11am: John & Mary Rutherford, Claureen Drive.
Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.

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.

Columbarium

Work is continuing this week on the new extension to the Columbarium in the Cathedral which will be known as St Anthony. We apologise for the present closure while work continues.

Joseph O'Neill from Eternum Columbarium will be available in the Cathedral on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week and next to discuss with anybody interested in reserving a Niche in St Anthony's section. To book an appointment with Joseph text 085 2148301.

School Patronage

A survey is currently being conducted nationally by the Department of Education and Youth to ascertain parents and schools' views on the Patronage of Primary Schools. The survey is online and open to parents /guardians of school going children, members of Boards of Management and Teaching Staff.

Please contact your local school for details and please take a few minutes to complete the survey to have your say. The survey is open up until Tuesday 16th December.

**New Readers' Rota &
St. Paul's Sunday Missals
available in Sacristy for collection.**

We have received copies of the Missal for 2026 and invited our Readers of the Word to collect their copy with their new roster for the coming year.

A small number of copies are available for sale from the Parish Office at a cost of €8. An ideal Christmas Gift for housebound parishioners who watch or listen to mass.

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 dePaul 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.

Tea Bags



Tea Bags €3 each or 2 for €5. Also available a Candle and Tea Bag gift set for €8. On sale at Parish Office and after all Masses this weekend. All proceeds to the Cathedral Restoration Fund.

Christmas Retreat

Maranatha Christmas Retreat at 2- 4pm at Christ the King Church, Cloughleigh on Sunday, 14th December. Bishop Fintan will celebrate Mass at 3 pm. All welcome.

Ecumenical Carol Service



Our annual Ecumenical Carol Service will take place this year in the Friary on Sunday 21st December at 7pm

REST IN PEACE

Teresa Corcoran nee Lyons,
Highfield Park;

Nancy Cosgrove, Drumcliffe Rd;

Agnes Cronin, Barntick, Clarecastle
& formerly of Market St., Ennis.

Patrick (Packie) Nestor, Considine Road.

Patricia (Patsy) Cawley, Shanaway Road.



**Ennis Brass Band
Annual Christmas Concert**

With special guests Quin & Tonics Choir at St. Columba's Church, Bindon Street, Ennis on 7th December at 7.30pm.

Retiring collection on the night.

**Cantare Choir & Festival Orchestra
Christmas Concert**

Musical Director: Michael Hennessy, Assistant

Musical Director: Anne Larkin

Conor Prendiville (Tenor)

Helen Catherine Ball (Soprano)

Guest Choir: Quin and Tonics

Conducted by Carol O'Neill

Ennis Cathedral on 19th December at 8pm

Tickets €20 available from Glor Box Office

065 6843103 or from www.glor.ie

In support of the Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust.

In loving memory of Olivia Tuohy

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.

Blood Donor Clinic



Blood donors urgently needed at Irish Blood Donors Clinic at Treacys' West County Hotel Wednesday 10th December 4:50pm – 8:10pm.

New & existing Donors welcome at all clinics.

Former UK residents now welcome to donate.

Phone 1800 222 111 for an appointment.

Over 65% of blood collected in Ennis will go to support Irish cancer patients.

With hospitals still requiring a steady supply of blood every day, the IBTS is asking regular donors and new volunteers to help make up donations.

Book Launch

Jackie Elger & Patricia Sheehan will launch their new book 'You Have Me Talking Now!

The Memories of George Nash from Co Clare' at The Local Inn, Drumquin on Sunday 7th December at 4pm.

Book will be launched by Cllr Tom O'Callaghan followed by a trad session with Colm Nestor (a nephew of George Nash who was from Newhall) & friends. All welcome.

Parish Calendar 2026

Our Calendar for 2026 is now available and will be distributed with the yearly box of envelopes.



Sr. Eileen's Céinne

An Aidbhint



Inniu an dara Domhnach den Aidbhint agus tá bliain úr, nua na hEaglaise tosaithe agus ár n-aird dirithe ar chomhlíonadh phlean Dé nuair a thiocfaidh a ríocht. Agus sinne Críostaithe ag feitheamh le Dia, ní le Dia anaithnid éigin, ach Dia dofheicthe a d'fhoilsigh é féin agus atá linn i gcónaí go deireadh an tsaoil i gCríost agus sa Spiorad Naomh. Is ionann feitheamh le Dia dúinn agus feitheamh le comhlíonadh ghealltanas Dé, teacht ríocht Dé, ríocht shíoraí gan teorainn, ríocht na firinne agus na beatha, ríocht na naofachta agus an ghrásta, ríocht an chirt, an ghrá agus na síochána.

Le linn na hAidbhinte 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 roimh losa nuair a thiocfaidh Sé.

Guimis:

A Dhia, a Athair uilechumhachtaigh,

impimid ort as ucht do thrócaire,

bi taobh linn i gcónaí

le cabhair an Spioraid Naoimh.

Go dtuga Féile tréimhse na hAidbhinte lúcháir,

sonas agus síocháin dúinn féin,

dár muintir agus don tír eile.

Sin é ár nguí chugat trí Chríost ár dTiarna.

Aiméan.

Today is the second 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.

At Christians we are waiting for God, not some unknown God but an invisible God who has revealed himself and is with us always to the end of time in Christ and the Holy Spirit. 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 the country.

We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

The Friendly Fox Forest School Open Day at

Lees Road Park, Ennis on Sunday 14th December 10am to 12 noon. Limited places.

Book your free place today. Drop in anytime.

Stay as long as you like. Low Ropes, nature crafts, Stories and songs, Hammocks, games, cooking on fire. Family Friendly event.

Entry Free. Donations welcome.

Book at www.the.feedingtree.ie.

The Clare Roots Society latest publication 'The Clare Road, Ennis' by Larry Brennan is now for sale in Ennis Parish Office for €25.

A lovely Christmas gift!



**Ennis Parish
Development Fund**

for Sunday, 30th November, 2025

Fund **€5,770**

Online **€167.50**

Today's Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon

**O People of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard in the joy of your heart.**

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 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict of hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of
the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobras hole;
into the vipers lair

the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the
Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

**Response: In his days justice shall flourish
And peace till the moon fails.**

O God, give your judgement to the King,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

R.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

R.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

R

May his name be blessed forever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his

R.

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

Rm 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the
scriptures was meant to teach us something
about hope from the examples scripture
gives of how people who did not give up
were helped by God. And may he who helps
us when we refuse to give up, help you all to
be tolerant with each other, following the
example of Christ Jesus, so that united in
mind and voice you may give glory to the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to
treat each other in the same friendly way as
Christ treated you. The reason Christ
became the servant of circumcised Jews was
not only so that God could faithfully carry out
the promises made to the patriarchs, it was
also to get the pagans to give glory to God
for his mercy, as scripture says in one place:
For this I shall praise you among the pagans
and sing your name.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,

Make his paths straight

**And all mankind shall see the salvation of
God.**

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Mt 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he
preached in the wilderness of Judaea and
this was his message: 'Repent, for the king-
dom of heaven is close at hand'. This was
the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he
said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of
camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist,
and his food was locusts and wild honey.
Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the
whole Jordan district made their way to him,
and as they were baptised by him in the river
Jordan they confessed their sins. But when
he saw a number of Pharisees and
Sadducees coming for baptism he said to
them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly
from the retribution that is coming? But if you
are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit,
and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We
have Abraham for our father," because, I tell
you, God can raise children for Abraham from
these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the
roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails
to produce good fruit will be cut down and
thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for
repentance, but the one who follows me is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to
carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the
Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in
his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and
gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff
he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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 for-
giveness of sins and I look forward to the resur-
rection of the dead and the life of the world to
come. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the
heights, and behold the joy which comes
to you from God.**