



Limerick City Parish

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's and Ss John & Ailbe: 22nd December 2024~Advent Sunday 4

COLLECTS AND READINGS

Collect for the week: God our redeemer, who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: Grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5: 2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

New Testament/Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 39-45

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Post-Communion Prayer: Heavenly Father, you have given us a pledge of eternal redemption. Grant that we may always eagerly celebrate the saving mystery of the incarnation of your Son. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymns					
Saint Michael's	125	143	419	152	141
The Cathedral	492	136	135	124	

Services are recorded and may be viewed online on www.churchservices.tv/limerickstmarys and www.saintmaryscathedral.ie within the following 90 days. After that time recordings will be destroyed; however, exceptions may apply and recordings could last longer if the Cathedral requires it. Occasional services may be recorded and will be advertised on www.churchservices.tv and www.saintmaryscathedral.ie other Cathedral communication channels. If you would like further information on a particular event, please contact the Cathedral office. If you do not wish to appear in the recording, please advise Churchwardens who will guide you to an area which will not be filmed and will make arrangements for you to receive Holy Communion there. NRSV (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America; Material in this service reproduced from BCP under licence © RCB 2004; One License Number: A738650; Use QR code to donate to Saint Mary's online.



UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 22nd December – Advent IV

10.00am – Carol Service, Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square
10.00am – Morning Prayer, Ss John & Ailbe Church, Abington (Murroe)
11.15am – Choral Eucharist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street
4.00pm – A Blue Christmas Service, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street
(a reflective service for those who find Christmas a challenging season)
7.00pm – The Civic Carol Service, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

10.00pm – Choral Eucharist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.30am – Holy Communion, Ss John & Ailbe Church, Abington (Murroe)
10.00am – Holy Communion, Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square
11.15am – Choral Eucharist, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

Sunday 29th December – Christmas I

10.00am – A Christmas Service, Saint Michael's Church, Pery Square
11.15am – A Christmas Service, Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

www.saintmaryscathedral.ie

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"
St Luke 2:13-15*



THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

(Where attachments are mentioned, hard copies are available through the parish office upon request)

Note from the Dean: In this the final Newsletter of 2025 may I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Newsletter: There will be no Newsletter for the next two weeks. There will be one for Sunday 12th January.

An Abhainn: The winter edition has now been published, with thanks to the Editor (Jeanne). You may request an electronic version or hard copy by contacting the Cathedral office (see contact details below)

Sympathy: We offer our deepest sympathy to Douglas Blennerhasset on the death of his brother, Stanley. We hold Douglas and the family in our prayers at this time.

Decorating:

Thank you to all those who decorated our churches for the festive season.

- We will decorate the cathedral on Monday 23rd December after service. All are welcome to help out and donations of flowers and greenery are welcome!

- St Michael Church sanctuary flowers are kindly provided in memory of the deceased members of the Clayton & Eckert families.
- Thank you to the Brickenden family for the gift of the beautiful tree in the Cathedral, in memory of Gordon, Sylvia and Emma Brickenden

St Michael's Church Preserves/Bake Sale - Following our day at the Villiers School Craft Fair and subsequent sales in St Michael's and St Mary's, our income to date is **€1,200**. This is an excellent outcome and we thank all those who supported it via their purchases. In addition, we very much appreciate and thank all those who donated and made all the various jams, chutneys and homebakes, namely Val Beck, Margaret Brickenden, Gillian Cheatley, Barbara Clayton, Oliver Deegan, Susi Eckhardt, Noreen Johnston, Lucy Kavanagh, Tracey Lyttle, Keith Morrow, Sheelagh Morrow, Pat O'Brien and Alison Wills.

Healer Prayer Group: The next gathering will be at 2.30pm on Thursday 9th January in St Mark's Chapel (Cathedral). For more information please contact the Dean.

Reminder - The St Michael's Christmas Raffle: for the lovely hampers takes place in St Michael's Church next Sunday 22nd December after the service. Lines are still available to buy up. Thank you again to everyone for their generosity and support.

Thank You from Mothers' Union! Once again our Christmas Hamper Appeal has been a huge success thanks to the generosity of all those who donated either food, toiletries or cash to our appeal. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will enable us to give food hampers, gifts, clothes and toys to Thomond House Women's Refuge, Adapt House Women's Refuge and Br. Russell Home for Men. I would like to sincerely thank you all once again for supporting us in what we do for those less fortunate than ourselves. Wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Christmas Whist Drives: Please note St Michael's next Whist Drive is on Saturday 4th January at 7.30pm.

Batteries for Barretstown: Recycling tubes for your used batteries can be found in each of the three churches.

Notice of the annual revision of the register of vestry members: Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the select vestry of this parish has been arranged for Thursday the 30th day of January, 2025, to revise the register of vestry members, by adding the names of any qualified persons, and removing the names of those no longer qualified, since the last revision of the register.

Parking Bollard: As many readers will be aware this has recently been installed in the Cathedral grounds. It will not be in action until the New Year. More details attached.

Choir Supervision: The Dean and Organist are looking for volunteers to help with supervision (a panel of adults that can be present in the room to adhere to Safeguarding guidelines) of the Junior Choir. Enquires to either individuals.

Sunday Club: If any post primary children would be willing to help out with children's activities, please speak with the Dean. Sunday Club meets during the 11.15am Service in the Cathedral on the First and Third Sundays of the month with vacation breaks. Normally on the First Sunday of the month it takes the form of Godly Play. It is open to primary school going children. Preschoolers are welcome if accompanied by a carer and the assistance of post primary schoolers would be greatly appreciated.

Cycles of prayer: *Porvoo:* Church of England: Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. Church of Norway: Diocese of Borg. *Anglican:* The Anglican Church of Tanzania.

Remembrance Book: Syliva Morrow, Joe Connally, Bridget Casey, Roy McCormack, Marie Louise Kearney, Aurther Barley, Olive Stanley-Wetzel, Jo Ischner, Edward Richardson, Jean O'Connor and Anne Woodraw.

Prayers for the Sick: Terry Gibson, Martin Hogan, Jerry Murphy, Sarah B, Mary Alicia Downes, Kathleen Leddin, John Sparling, Pat & Mary O' Donnell, Patricia Bourke, David, Elayne and Hilary Noonan, Hazel, Mac, Dean Sandra Pragnell, Pashcal and Karine Egan. *NOTE: If you wish to place a name on the list, please email it to limerickcityparishnews@gmail.com. Under GDPR please ensure you have the consent of the named person(s). For confidentiality reasons the clergy would appreciate NOT being asked on the status of people. Whilst we appreciate people are showing care and concern, it can compromise the relationship between pastor and parishioner. Thank you.*

ROTAS

	22 nd Dec	24 th Dec	25 th Dec	29 th Dec
REFRESHMENTS				
St Michael's	John & Kayt Shier	No Service	None	Richard & Margaret Brickenden
Cathedral	Karen Wilson & Evelyn Sloane	None	None	Cathedral
READERS				
St Michael's	Stephen Fairbrother	No Service	Richard Allen	Oliver Deegan
Cathedral	Tamasin Plowman	TBC	Noreen Ellerker	Tony O'Connell

CONTACT DETAILS

The Very Rev'd Niall J.W. Sloane (Dean): The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy

Email: dean@limerick.anglican.org; Tel: 061-338697. Day off: Friday

Clergy Emergency Number: Tel: 087-3524046. (Strictly Emergency Calls Only).

The Parish Office: Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street, Limerick, V94 E068.

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Limerick City Parish ~ Weekly Newsletter – Deadline for notices 12 noon every Wednesday.

To be added to the email circulation list: please email limerickcityparishnews@gmail.com

Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2025