

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's and Ss John & Ailbe - The Second Sunday of Advent - 7th December 2025

COLLECTS AND READINGS

Almighty God, Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

THE FIRST READING ISAIAH 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

- 1 Give the king your judgements, O God, ♦ and your righteousness to the son of a king.
- 2 Then shall he judge your people righteously ♦ and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains bring forth peace, ♦ and the little hills righteousness for the people.
- 4 May he defend the poor among the people, ♦ deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, ♦ from one generation to another.
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, ♦ like the showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall righteousness flourish, ♦ and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, ♦ who alone does wonderful things.
- 19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever. ♦ May all the earth be filled with his glory.

Amen. Amen.

THE EPISTLE READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles,

with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE GOSPEL: SAINT MATTHEW 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 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. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, here you have nourished us with the food of life. Through our sharing in this holy sacrament teach us to judge wisely earthly things and to yearn for things heavenly.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMNS					
Saint Michael's	136	125	138	141	
The Cathedral	136	385	140	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.



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SERVICES & EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday 7 th December The Second Sunday of Advent	11.00	Morning Prayer	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Gift Service	St Michael's
	11.15	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
Monday 8 th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Tuesday 9 th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Wednesday 10 th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Thursday 11 th December	10.30	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
Friday 12 th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
	17.30	Come And Sing Carols	

Saturday 13 th December			
	19:30	Whist Drive	St Michael's
Sunday 14 th December The Third of Advent	09.30	Holy Communion	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
	11.15	Holy Communion	The Cathedral

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

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

Sympathy: We offer our prayers and sympathy to Dan, Clive and the Lawless family on the death of Dan's mother, Nancy. We also remember the Davies' family on the recent passing of Mark. We hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations:

- To our Curate, the Rev'd Scott E. Elliott who this week graduated from the University of Dublin (T.C.D.) with a Masters in Theology
- To our former Bishop, the Rt Rev'd Edward Darling who this weekend celebrates the 40th anniversary of his consecration as Bishop.
- We extend our warmest congratulations to Bishop Burrows and Claire Jackson on the birth of their new grandson, Ruari.

Appeals (Please contact either the Dean or the Curate for further details):

- The clergy are seeking donations of winter foliage (holly, branches, leylandii etc) and Christmas Trees for a project.
- The Dean is seeking a donation of 2 large flat screens for zoom facilities in the cathedral.

Advent Trail: An Advent trail exploring the Nativity will be set up in the cathedral from Tuesday 9th December 2025. The trial is designed to encourage children to engage with our sacred space and to deepen their understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. Contact the Curate for further details and to organise a guided tour.

Other Advent Activities: Wanting to keep Children entertained? Come and take part in the Lego Minifigs Treasure Hunt, Children's Pilgrimage or Come & Draw Activity in the cathedral throughout the Christmas holidays. An electronic jigsaw is also available on: <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/SaintMarysLimerick>

12 Cribs of Christmas: Booklets will be available in cathedral for those wishing to partake in the Twelve Cribs of Christmas. The 12 Cribs of Christmas is a family orientated pilgrimage visiting 12 churches around Limerick.

Update on Cathedral Food Donation Box: The clergy wish to extend their thanks to those who have donated to our cathedral foodbank. Last week we were able to fill the entire Clancy Bench with donations. Please keep up the good work!

Saint Mary's Cathedral features on - Neven's Christmas in Limerick, sponsored by Bord Bia, airs Thursday, December 4th and December 11th on RTÉ One at 8pm.

Used Postage Stamp Collection: A large consignment of used postage stamps was very gratefully received by Barnardo's in Dublin recently. Please continue to collect, perhaps especially in the run up to Christmas, and leave them for the attention of Claire Jackson in St Mary's Cathedral.

Mothers' Union Planning Meeting: Our AGM and Planning Meeting will take place next Tuesday 9th December at the earlier time of 2pm in St. Michael's Church Hall. If anyone would like a lift, please let Lucy know (087 2078850).

Winter CFM Magazine – The winter edition of CFM is available to view through the following link:

<https://cfm.ireland.anglican.org/winter-newsletter-2025/>

Dea-Sceala – Winter editions of the diocesan magazine are available at the back of the porch of each of the churches and cathedral.

Register of Vestry Persons – Please note registrations for new additions to the General Vestry are open until 22nd January 2026. You must be registered to vote or be eligible to stand for the Select Vestry later in the year. Forms are available in each of the churches.

Cathedral Christmas Card: A limited supply of this year's custom cathedral Christmas card is now available in the Cathedral Shop. The 2025 design showcases the iconic West Doors.

Mothers' Union Hamper Appeal: We are asking for new clothing and non-perishable food items, toiletries, biscuits, sweets etc. Items can be left in the back of St. Michael's or St. Mary's or ring Lucy, 087 2078850.

The Christmas Whist Drive takes place in Saint Michael's Church Hall on Saturday 13th of December at 7.30pm sharp with super prizes. Please note that there will be a raffle on the night. Look forward to seeing you there.

Sunday Clubs: Meet in all three churches throughout the month (Cathedral 1st and 3rd, St Michael's 2nd, Abington on 2nd and 4th). Children are welcome at all of these gatherings.

Preserve sale/Raffle - a small amount of preserves will be available after the Gift Service in Saint Michael's Church along with lines at €5 each for the wonderful raffle prizes. Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

Cycles of prayer: Porvoo: Church of England: Diocese of Chester, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland: Diocese of Kuopio **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of Bangladesh

Remembrance Book: Robert Thomas Evans, Caral Anne Cable, Adelaide Sirr, Jack Shorten, Muriel Williams, Freda Cowpar, William Carey, Peggy Stockil, Tommy Hayes, Jimmy Keays, Gladys Blackledge, Margaret McDonnell, Gloria Bezuidenhout, Archie Brown, May McKie

Prayers for the Sick: Terry Gibson, Martin Hogan, Sarah B, Mary Alicia Downes, David, Elayne and Hilary Noonan, Hazel, Mac, Dean Sandra Pragnell, Layla, Karine Egan, Uzoma Kabi. Lillian O'Connell, Kevin Sullivan, Alan Kennedy, Noah Copley-Brown, Mark. Tailgated

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

	7 th December	14 th December	21 st December	28 th December
Refreshments				
St Michael's	Keith & Sheelagh Morrow	John & Kayt Shier	Richard & Margaret Brickenden	Daire McNamara
Cathedral	Lillian Okechukwu	Alyson McHugh	Keith O'Neil	None
Readers				
St Michael's	Cormac O'Connell	John Shier	Richard Allen	Daire McNamara
Cathedral	Lindsay Boyle	Sean Casey	Paul Cable	Noreen Ellerker
Flowers				
Cathedral	Advent	Advent	Advent	Advent

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

The Rev'd Scott E. Elliott (Curate): The Curatage, 50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Dooradoyle Email: curate@limerick.anglican.org; Mob: 0871951766. Day off: Monday

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

The Parish Office: Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street, Limerick,
V94E068.

Limerick City Parish

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