

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's and Ss John & Ailbe – The Third Sunday of Advent 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### COLLECTS AND READINGS

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

### THE FIRST READING ISAIAH 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### PSALM 146

4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, ♦ whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
 5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; ♦ who keeps his promise for ever;  
 6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong ♦ and bread to those who hunger.  
 7 The Lord looses those that are bound; ♦ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
 8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; ♦ the Lord loves the righteous;  
 9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow; ♦  
     but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.  
 10 The Lord shall reign for ever, ♦ your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.

### The EPSTLE JAMES: 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father, we give you thanks for these heavenly gifts. Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit that when Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

HYMNS					
Saint Michael's	146	712	433	119	
The Cathedral	324	126	128	104	

Services are recorded and may be viewed online on [www.churchservices.tv/limerickstmarys](http://www.churchservices.tv/limerickstmarys) and [www.saintmaryscathedral.ie](http://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](http://www.churchservices.tv) and [www.saintmaryscathedral.ie](http://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.



Scan me to donate online!

SERVICES & EVENTS			
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday 14th 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
Monday 15th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Tuesday 16th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Wednesday 17th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
	20.00	Community Carol Service	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
Thursday 18th December	10.30	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
Friday 19th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Saturday 20th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Sunday 21st December The Third of Advent	10.00	Carol Service	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Carol Service	St Michael's
	11.15	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
	19.00	The Civic Carol Service	

## THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

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

**Condolences:** We offer our sympathy to our School secretary, Annette O'Neil, on the sudden death of her brother. We also offer our sympathy to The Rev'd Jackie McNair and his family on the death of his father, John. We hold them all in our thoughts and prayers.

**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.

**The Community Carol Service** will be held in Abington on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm. All welcome!

**Update on Cathedral Food Donation Box:** The clergy are seeking donations of Christmas food items for the cathedral foodbank. Donations must be brought to the cathedral by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please keep up the good work!

**Advent Trail:** An Advent trail exploring the Nativity will be set up in the cathedral from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Park and Play:** We wish to extend our thanks to Carolyn Jamieson, who has decided to step down from leading Park and Play. Thank you, Carolyn, for your dedication to the group.

**Cathedral Christmas Decorating:** We are seeking volunteers to assist in decorating the cathedral for Christmas. This is scheduled for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 11:00am. Donations of flowers are sought.

**Sunday Club Cinema Trip:** St Nicholas Day was the perfect date for this year's cinema trip! The film being shown in the Castletroy Cinema was after all Arthur's Christmas. A heartwarming story which truly entranced its audience! Thanks are due to the Dean and to the parish for funding this much-loved annual outing.

**An Abhainn:** The Christmas edition of An Abhainn has been attached to the weekly newsletter email.

**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.

**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 Saint Mary's Cathedral.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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

**Saint Michael's Church Raffle** - lines at €5 each are on sale through Gillian Cheatley (Saint Michael's) and Frank Sheahan (Saint Mary's). The raffle will take place at the Carol Service on Sunday 21st of December. There are 14 wonderful prizes to be won thanks to our very generous parishioners.

**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.

**Dialogue of Friendship:** The event will take place on Saturday, 16 May 2026, at Dundrum Methodist Church in Dublin. See attachment for further details.

**Update from Saint Michael's:** Repairs to one side of Saint Michael's Church are complete, with plans to repair the remaining roof section at an estimated cost of €110k. Grant funding applications are underway to limit costs to the congregation. Once weatherproofed, painting will follow at a cost of €30k, which must be fundraised locally. €1,430 has already been raised, a raffle is ongoing, and a larger fundraising campaign will launch in early 2026. Full report: <https://www.scribd.com/document/965190060/Fundraising-Saint-Michael>

**Cycles of prayer: Porvoo:** Church of England: Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, Church of Norway: Diocese of Borg; **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

**Remembrance Book:** Odile Knight, Fritz Eckhardt, Sylvia Morrow, Joe Connolly, Bridget Casey, Valentine Robert (Roy)McCormack, Marie-Louise Kearney, Anthea Barley, Olive Stanley-Wetzel, Jo Ischner, Edward Richardson, Jean O'Connor

**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.

**NOTE:** If you wish to place a name on the list, please email it to [limerickcityparishnews@gmail.com](mailto: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

	14 <sup>th</sup> December	21 <sup>st</sup> December	28 <sup>th</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Refreshments</b>				
<b>St Michael's</b>	John & Kayt Shier	Richard & Margaret Brickenden	Daire McNamara	Trevor & Tracey Lyttle
<b>Cathedral</b>	Alyson McHugh	Keith O'Neil	None	Jemimah Egbulam
<b>Readers</b>				
<b>St Michael's</b>	John Shier	Richard Allen	Daire McNamara	Margaret Schutz
<b>Cathedral</b>	Sean Casey	Paul Cable	Tamasin Plowman	Muyiwa Okeneye
<b>Flowers</b>				
<b>Cathedral</b>	Advent	Advent	Christmas Flowers	

## CONTACT DETAILS

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

Castletroy Email: [dean@limerick.anglican.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

Email: [cathedral@limerick.anglican.org](mailto:cathedral@limerick.anglican.org); Tel: 061-310293 [www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org](http://www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org)