

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's and Ss John & Ailbe – The First Sunday of Advent – 30th November 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 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 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountain and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, ♦ 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
- 2 And now our feet are standing ♦ within your gates, O Jerusalem;
- 3 Jerusalem, built as a city ♦ that is at unity in itself.
- 4 Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, ♦ as is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 5 For there are set the thrones of judgement, ♦ the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ♦ 'May they prosper who love you.'
- 7 'Peace be within your walls ♦ and tranquillity within your palaces.'
- 8 For my kindred and companions' sake, ♦ I will pray that peace be with you.
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, ♦ I will seek to do you good.

THE EPISTLE READING: ROMANS 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

THE GOSPEL: SAINT MATTHEW 24:36-44

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.'

But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our deliverer, awaken our hearts to prepare the way for the advent of your Son, that with minds purified by the grace of his coming, we may serve you faithfully all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMNS					
Saint Michael's	135	324	121	132	
The Cathedral	145	695	127	132	

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.



SERVICES & EVENTS			
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday 30 th November The First Sunday of Advent		No Service	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Advent Service	St Michael's
	11.15	Holy Communion	
	19.00	Advent Procession	The Cathedral
Monday 01 st December	10.30	Morning Prayer	
	18.00	Echoes In Stone Launch	The Cathedral
Tuesday 02 nd December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Wednesday 03 rd December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Thursday 04 th December	10.30	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
Friday 05 th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Saturday 06 th December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Sunday 07 th December The Second of Advent	10.00	Morning Prayer	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Gift Service	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)

Advent Procession: The advent procession will take place in Saint Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 30th November 2025 at 7:00pm. Following the service, we warmly invite you to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies.

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.

Advent & Christmas Services: Please note that a list of upcoming services across the Parish is available in the cathedral and parish churches. The list has also been included as an email attachment.

Advent Trail: An Advent trail exploring the Nativity will be set up in the cathedral over the coming weeks. The trail is designed to encourage children to engage with our sacred space and to deepen their understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. Dates to be confirmed.

Food Donation Box: The clergy are seeking contributions of non-perishable food items and festive treats for the cathedral's food donation box. All donations will be shared with some of the most vulnerable members of our local community through Limerick Island Community Partners. Your support is greatly appreciated, as each contribution makes a meaningful difference.

Candelabra Cleaning: The Dean is seeking volunteers to assist with the cleaning of the cathedral's Candelabra in the lead up the session of Advent. Please speak to a member of the clergy for further details.

Concert in Abington: The annual Christmas charity concert by the Slieve Felim Singers takes place in Abington Church on Sunday November 30th at 3pm.

Mothers' Union Hamper Appeal: It's that time of year again when we are asking for donations for our Christmas Hampers for Thomond House, Women's Refuge, Adapt House, Women's Refuge and Br. Russell House for Men. We are asking for non perishable food items, toiletries, biscuits, sweets etc. We also give items of NEW CLOTHING to the Men's Hostel, i.e. socks, tracksuit bottoms, tee shirts or underwear if you have any that are not needed. As always we are blown away with the generosity of all in the parish so "thank you" in advance! Items can be left in the back of St. Michael's or St. Mary's or ring Lucy, 087 2078850 and I can collect from you.

Fundraising at Saint Michael's Church: As referenced in the Building Works presentation at the end of September, we need to raise funds for the painting of the church. Approx. €30k needs to be raised by Easter 2026. The Villiers Christmas Market has now taken place and more news on how it went next week. The next fundraiser is the Saint Michael's Christmas raffle for which tickets are now on sale. We would like to thank everyone in advance for their support on these two fundraising efforts. *Richard Allen & the Fundraising team*

Christmas Raffle: This will be coordinated by Gillian Cheatley (mobile - 0871254687) and we are looking for donations of items suitable for a Christmas hamper e.g. wine, biscuits, chocolates, crackers, crisps, jam, napkins etc., etc., (please ensure all donations of food items are within best before dates). This Sunday is the last day for receipt of donations and there is a basket in the back of the church for all generous gifts. The raffle will take place at the Christmas Carol Service in Saint Michael's on the 21st of December.

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.

Echoes in Stone: Join us in Saint Mary's Cathedral as the Artist in Residence, Nici Le Gear unveils her three works of art at the Unveiling Reception on Monday 01st December 2025 at 6:00pm.

Evergreen Update: Please note that all scheduled Evergreen meetings for the remainder of the year have been cancelled. The group will be relaunched under the working title The Tuesday Club, with a festive lunch planned for early January. Further details will be shared soon.

Saint Michael's National School Applications: Please note applications for enrollment (2026/27) are open from next week. Please contact Saint Michael's National School for further details on the application process.

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.

Limerick Council for Mission Representative: The parish is looking for a parishioner to represent LCP on the diocesan Council for Mission. For more information, please speak with the Dean.

Christmas Raffle – This will be coordinated by Gillian Cheatley (mobile - 0871254687) and we are looking for donations of items suitable for a Christmas hamper e.g. wine, biscuits, chocolates, crackers, crisps, jam, napkins etc., etc., (please ensure all donations of food items are within best before dates). The basket is at the back of the church for all generous gifts/donations commencing this Sunday. The raffle will take place in December at the Christmas Carol Service and if you wish to buy a line for €5 please contact Gillian or Tracey.

Cycles of prayer: Porvoo: Scottish Episcopal Church: Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Australia

Remembrance Book: Denis Leonard, Anne Reidy, Linda O'Donaghue, Patsy, Alice Hanley, Edward McConkey, Jonathan White, James Frederick Howes, Stuart Edward Gray, Olive Casey, Robert Thomas Evans

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.

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

	30 th November	7 th December	14 th December	21 st December
Refreshments				
St Michael's	Richard & Sheila Allen	Keith & Sheelagh Morrow	John & Kayt Shier	Richard & Sheila Allen
Cathedral	Shawn & Carrie Jamieson	Lillian Okechukwu	Alyson McHugh	Keith O'Neil
Readers				
St Michael's	Sheelagh Morrow	Cormac O'Connell	John Shier	Richard Allen
Cathedral	Frank Sheehan	Lindsay Boyle	Sean Casey	Paul Cable
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, V94 E068.

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