

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's and Ss John & Ailbe – The Fourth Sunday of Advent, 21st December 2025

COLLECT AND READINGS

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.

THE FIRST READING ISAIAH 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

PSALM 80:1-8,18-20

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦ you that led Joseph like a flock;

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦ before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength ♦ and come to our salvation.

Turn us again, O God; ♦ show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, ♦ how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦ you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦ and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦ show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, ♦ the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

And so will we not go back from you; ♦ give us life, and we shall call upon your name.

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; ♦ show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The EPISTLE ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE GOSPEL SAINT MATTHEW 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and

said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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	174	182	149	188	201	172
The Cathedral	712	462	175	119		

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 21st December <i>The Fourth of Advent</i>	10.00	Carol Service	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Carol Service	St Michael's
	11.15	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
	16.00	A Blue Christmas Service	
	19.00	The Civic Carol Service	
Monday 22 nd December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Tuesday 23 rd December	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Christmas Eve	22.00	Christmas Eve Eucharist	The Cathedral
Christmas Day	9.30	Christmas Day Communion	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Christmas Day Communion	St Michael's
	11.15	Christmas Day Communion	The Cathedral
Friday 26 th December		Cathedral Closed	
Saturday 27 th December		Cathedral Closed	
Sunday 28 th December		No Service	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Christmas Service	St Michael's
	11.15	Christmas Service	The Cathedral

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

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

Today's edition will be the last newsletter for this year. They will resume on the weekend of the 11th January.

Gratitude: We wish to express our sincere thanks to:

- The Brickenden family for the generous donation of this year's Christmas tree in the Cathedral, given in loving memory of Gordon, Sylvia and Emma Brickenden.
- All those who donated Christmas decorations and foliage, and those who generously gave their time to assist with the preparations in all our churches.

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

- The Dean is seeking a donation of 2 large flat screens for zoom facilities in the cathedral.

Accident at Abington: Following a fatal road accident at Abington Church on Thursday 11th December in which a lone driver was involved, the clergy and parishioners, extend their deepest sympathy to the family to the family and friends of Elish Cooney. We hold them in our prayers.

Abington New Year Eve's Service – Please note their will a short order of service on New Years' Eve in Abington at 6:00pm.

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>

Mothers' Union Hamper Appeal (An update from Lucy): I would like to sincerely thank all those who have donated to our hamper appeal. We are delivering gifts and a hamper to Thomond House, a hamper and children's clothing to Adapt House and a hamper and clothing to Br. Russell House. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, thank you!

Update on Cathedral Food Donation Box: The Clergy wish to express their sincere gratitude for the food donations received in recent months. As a result of your generosity, we were able to support the work of Limerick Island Community Partners this Christmas. We will continue to receive donations beyond the New Year.

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.

Advent Trail: An Advent trail exploring the Nativity will be set up in the cathedral from Tuesday 9th December 2025. The trail 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.

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 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.

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.

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

Cycles of prayer: Porvoo: Church of Norway: Diocese of Oslo, Church of England: Diocese of Durham, Scottish Episcopal Church: Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness; **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Anglican Church of Burundi

Remembrance Book: Anne Woodrow, Patrick Moort, Breda Thompson, Tom Meaney, Phil Brosnahan, James (Jimmy) Clancey, John Pomperoy, Jane (Jennie) Brislane, James Sheahan, James Edward (Teddy)

Hanley, Donal (Donie) O'Brien, Trevor William Craig, David (Don) Quinlivan, Tom O'Donnell, Helen McMahon, Finnula Gradon, Mary Thelma Newman, Maureen Clancy, Florence Boyle, Patrick Hearne.

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. 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

	21 st December	28 th December	4 th January	11 th January
Refreshments				
St Michael's	Richard & Margaret Brickenden	Daire McNamara	Trevor & Tracey Lyttle	Gillian Cheatley
Cathedral	Keith O'Neil	None	Liz Lynam & Joe Lynam	Jemimah Egbulam
Readers				
St Michael's	Richard Allen	Daire McNamara	Margaret Schutz	TBC
Cathedral	Paul Cable	Tamasin Plowman	Muyiwa Okeneye	TBC
Flowers				
Cathedral	Advent	Christmas Flowers		

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.

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This being the last newsletter of 2025, the clergy
wish all our readers a happy Christmas and a
peaceful New Year.