

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

*Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's and Ss John & Ailbe – The Second Sunday before Lent – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026*

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**COLLECT AND READINGS**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

**THE FIRST READING GENESIS 1:1-2:3**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

**PSALM 138**

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; ♦  
before the gods will I sing praise to you.
- 2 I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness; ♦  
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
- 3 In the day that I called to you, you answered me; ♦  
you put new strength in my soul.

- 4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, ♦  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 5 They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, ♦  
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 6 Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly; ♦  
as for the proud, he regards them from afar.
- 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me; ♦  
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand will save me.
- 8 The Lord shall make good his purpose for me; ♦  
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; forsake not the work of your hands.

### THE EPISTLE ROMANS 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 6:25-34

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the Bread of life at the heart of your Church. May we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s Cross and enjoy the delights of eternity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

HYMNS					
<b>Saint Michael’s</b>	365	594	416	84	
<b>The Cathedral</b>	324	6	365		

Services are recorded and may be viewed online on <https://www.churchcamlive.ie/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 <https://www.churchcamlive.ie/limerickstmarys> 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.*



SERVICES & EVENTS			
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> February <i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i>	10.00	Morning Prayer	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
	11.15	Morning Prayer with Holy Baptism	The Cathedral
	19.00	Choral Evensong & The Community Awards	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
	11.00	The Friends Coffee Morning	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
	20.00	Musical Concert	
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Sunday before Lent</i>	09.30	Holy Communion	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Morning Prayer	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 sympathy to the friends and family of Patricia Hadnett on her recent passing.

**Tuesday Club:** Next meeting is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2:30pm in the Cathedral.

**Office Works:** Please note that, due to upcoming building works, the Parish Office will relocate to Saint Mark's Chapel. During this period, the Parish Office area will be **strictly out of bounds to all members of the public and parishioners.**

**Saint Michael's Sunday School:** The next Sunday School will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February during the Church service.

**Livestreaming:** Please note services from the Cathedral are now accessible on the following hyperlink

- <https://www.churchcamlive.ie/limerickstmarys>.

**Cathedral Community Awards Scheme:** The Award ceremony will be held today in the Cathedral at 7pm. The Awards Scheme, which was established in 2018, hopes to highlight the 'unsung heroes' of Limerick. Awards will be presented to the candidates in the context of a service of Choral Evensong. All are welcome to attend.

**The Friends Coffee Morning:** The Friends will meet in the Cathedral for a coffee on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February after the morning service.

**Family Carers Ireland** invites family carers in our parish to take part in the State of Caring 2026 survey, Ireland's largest study of unpaid caring. The online survey takes 30 minutes and closes 4 March 2026. Paper or phone support: Joanne Murphy, [jmurphy@familycarers.ie](mailto:jmurphy@familycarers.ie), 086 032 6187.

**Pancakes & Prayer returns for Lent 2026**, aiming to support 7,300 young people in South Sudan with food and clean water. Youth groups and schools can fundraise and pray together through Bishops' Appeal. Even €3 can help feed a child for a year.

**Parishioners are invited to Wellspring, Brook, Lake, Sea**, a new online journaling series facilitated by Dr Jessica Brown. Sessions take place on Zoom in March. All are welcome.

**Musical Concert:** Eve Strafford's Valentines by Candlelight in the Cathedral on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm. Tickets available on [www.evestafford.ie](http://www.evestafford.ie).

**Bishops Peregrinating:** On 7<sup>th</sup> March, the Bishop will be visiting Limerick at 1:30pm and Abington at 4:00pm. As part of the festivities, the clergy are appealing for vintage vehicles. If you would like to bring a vehicle, please contact the clergy or the parish office.

**Dates for the Diary:** Whist Drive on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026 at 7:15pm in Villiers Square. For further details, please contact Gillian Cheatley.

**Intergenerational Café:** Friday Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 11am–1pm at the Pavilion, UL North Bank Campus. Join older people and student nurses for discussion, learning and connection. Tea, coffee and scones provided. Bridging Generations initiative, Department of Nursing & Midwifery. Highly recommended event.

**Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme:** Please note, Information leaflets for the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme are available at the back of the church.

**Candelabra Cleaning:** The Dean is seeking volunteers to assist with the cleaning of the cathedral's Candelabra on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February from 11am. Please speak to a member of the clergy for further details.

**UDYC Senior Day Trip:** The UDYC Senior Day Trip to Dublin, including attendance at the Winter Madness event, will take place on Saturday, 21st February. Please see the attached booking form. The closing date for bookings is Monday, 16th February.

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

- The Clergy are seeking expressions of interest for the donation of two memorial brass vases for the Cathedral.

**Volunteers Needed:** Please note that several events will be taking place in the Cathedral over the coming months, and the Dean is seeking volunteers to assist with serving refreshments. For further details, please contact Dean or the Curate.

**Cathedral Flower Rota:** If you would like to assist during the period of 2026-2027, please contact Adrienne as soon as possible.

**Vocations Retreat:** Information is attached about the upcoming Church of Ireland Vocations Retreat, which will take place at the Manresa Retreat Centre, Clontarf, Dublin 3, from 20–22 February. The cost of the retreat is €75. Anyone wishing to participate should complete the registration form and return it to [Linto.John@rcbcoi.org](mailto:Linto.John@rcbcoi.org).

**Update on Cathedral Food Donation Box:** The Clergy wish to express their sincere gratitude for the food donations received in recent months. We are appealing for further donations of long-life food items and hygiene products (soap, toothpaste etc.).

**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:** The Sunday Club is open to those of primary school age. It meets regularly with appropriate vacation breaks. Accompanied by a carer those not yet attending Primary School are welcome too. Clubs meet in all three churches throughout the month (Cathedral 1st and 3rd, St Michael's 2nd, Abington on 2nd and 4th).

**Accommodation Wanted:** My name is Adeola. Please feel free to contact me if you know any Landlords or Agent willing to assist, I can be reached on 0899791976.

**Cycles of prayer: Porvoo:** Church of England: Diocese of Worcester, Church of Norway: Diocese of Hamar

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

**Prayers for the Sick:** Irene Trousdell, 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.

**Remembrance Book:** John Mc Conkey, Ernest William Lyons, Samuel Francis Shier, Jim manning, Joe Mc Evoy, Mages Al-Sbaiy, Alice McKee, Geraldine Lyner.

*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

	8 <sup>th</sup> February	15 <sup>th</sup> February	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> March
<b>Refreshments</b>				
<b>St Michael's</b>	Ruth Lillie O'Connell	Nicholas & Annabelle Griffin	Susi Eckhardt	Keith & Sheelagh Morrow
<b>Cathedral</b>	Avril Gill & Ann Oakley	Keith O'Neil	Karen Wilson & Evelyn Sloane	Liz Lynam & Joe Lynam
<b>Readers</b>				
<b>St Michael's</b>	Keith Morrow	Sheelagh Morrow	Cormac O'Connell	Richard Allen
<b>Cathedral</b>	Keith O'neil	Frank Sheehan	Noreen Ellerker	Lindsay Boyle

#### 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)