
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's and Ss John & Ailbe – Epiphany IV & Presentation of Christ in the Temple- 1st February 2026

COLLECTS AND READINGS

Almighty and everliving God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our mortal nature: May we be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

PSALM 24

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, ♦ the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas ♦ and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, ♦ or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, ♦ who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, ♦ a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, ♦ of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦ and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 'Who is the King of glory?' ♦ 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦ and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 'Who is this King of glory?' ♦ 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

THE EPISTLE: HEBREWS 2:14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

THE GOSPEL: SAINT LUKE 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God, for whom we wait, you fulfilled the hopes of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah. Complete in us your perfect will, that in Christ we may see your salvation, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

HYMNS					
Saint Michael’s	193	88	418	203	
The Cathedral	52	191	634		

Services are recorded and may be viewed online on <https://www.churchcamlive.ie/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 <https://www.churchcamlive.ie/limerickstmarys> 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 license © RCB 2004; One License Number: A738650; Use QR code to donate to Saint Mary’s online.*



SERVICES & EVENTS			
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Monday 1 st February The Presentation of Christ in the Temple		No Service	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Morning Prayer	St Michael’s
	11.15	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
Monday 2 nd February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral

Tuesday 3 rd February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Wednesday 4 th February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Thursday 5 th February	10.30	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
Friday 6 th February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Saturday 7 th February	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Sunday 8 th February 2 nd Sunday before Lent	10.00	Morning Prayer	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Holy Communion	St Michael's
	11.15	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

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

Saint Michael's Sunday Club: Resumes this Sunday during the Church Service.

Saint Mary Sunday Club: The Sunday Club resumes on 15 February.

Livestreaming: Please note services from the Cathedral are now accessible on the following hyperlink - <https://www.churchcamlive.ie/limerickstmarys>.

Sympathy: We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Fr Tom Ryan, sometime PP of Murroe and Boher and a great support to the community in Abington.

Bishops Peregrinating: On 7th 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.

St Brigid's Crosses will be available at the back of the church following the service. Sincere thanks to Oliver Deegan for leading the three-day workshop. You may use prayer when placing the cross in your home: "May Brigid bless the house wherein we dwell. Bless every fireside, every wall and door. Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof. Bless every hand that toils to bring its joy. Bless every foot that walks portals through. May Brigid bless the house that shelters us."

Dates for the Diary: Whist Drive on Saturday, 7th February 2026 at 7:30pm in St Michael's Church Hall, and Whist Drive on Saturday, 21st February 2026 at 7:15pm in Villiers Square. For further details, please contact Gillian Cheatley.

Tuesday Club: The newly named Tuesday Club had a most enjoyable meal in the Absolute Hotel last Tuesday – particularly watching the rain falling outside! It was great to see former friends and new faces! Thank you to Noreen Allen who organised it all with the hotel.

Intergenerational Café, Friday Feb 13th, 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 21st 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.

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

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.

For the Diary: The Friends Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday 12th February after 10.30am service.

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.

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 on the first and third Sundays of the month with appropriate vacation breaks. Accompanied by a carer those not yet attending Primary School are welcome too. Please note that there will be NO Sunday Club on Sunday 1 February. 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 Birmingham, Church of Ireland: Diocese of Cork, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark: Diocese of Elsinore.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Remembrance Book: Wally Battrick, Patrick Clayton, Gerry Duffy, Rosslyn Faull, Bill Lopham, martin Bezuidenhout, William John Millar, William Trevor Morrow, John Carey

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

	1 st February	8 th February	15 th February	22 nd February
Refreshments				
St Michael's	Tony O'Connell	Ruth Lillie O'Connell	Nicholas & Annabelle Griffin	Susi Eckhardt
Cathedral	Cathedral	TBC	Keith O'Neil	Karen Wilson & Evelyn Sloane
Readers				
St Michael's	Annabelle Griffin	Keith Morrow	Sheelagh Morrow	Cormac 'Connell
Cathedral	John St. George	Keith O'Neil	Frank Sheehan	Noreen Ellerker

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

Email: cathedral@limerick.anglican.org; Tel: 061-310293 www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org