

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

*Saint Mary's, Saint Michael's and Ss John & Ailbe – Lent IV/Mothering Sunday – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026*

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### COLLECT AND READINGS

Lord God whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: Give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### THE FIRST READING I SAMUEL 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

#### PSALM 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦ therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦ and leads me beside still waters.

3 He shall refresh my soul ♦ and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; ♦ for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦ you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ♦ and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

#### THE EPISTLE EPHESIANS 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

#### THE GOSPEL SAINT JOHN 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others

were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father, through your goodness we are refreshed through your Son in word and sacrament. May our faith be so strengthened and guarded that we may witness to your eternal love by our words and in our lives. Grant this for Jesus' sake, our Lord

HYMNS					
<b>Saint Michael's</b>	541	20	642	472	
<b>The Cathedral</b>	324	630	549	361	

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.*



**Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona oraibh!**

SERVICES & EVENTS			
Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Lent IV</i>	09.30	Holy Communion	Ss John & Ailbe, Abington
	10.00	Morning Prayer	St Michael's
	11.15	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March <i>(The Feast of Saint Patrick)</i>	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
	19.30	<b>Lenten Course</b>	St Michael's
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	Holy Communion	The Cathedral
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	10.30	Morning Prayer	The Cathedral
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March <i>Lent V</i>	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).*

**Newsletter Notice:** Please note that items for inclusion in the weekly newsletter bulletins must be submitted by 12pm Wednesday each week. Items for inclusion must be 50 words or fewer.

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

**“Choose Your Pot”:** Saint Michael's Church is planning to repaint the church and is seeking donations to assist with the associated expenses. Please find the full details attached. Your support would be sincerely valued.

**Easter General Vestry:** The Easter General Vestry will be held in person at Abington Church on Monday 20th April at 7:30pm. Only Registered Vestry Members are eligible to vote in and be nominated in the elections. Contact the Dean (Chair) or the Curate (Hon. Secretary) for any further enquiries.

**Table Quiz: St Michael's Friday 27th March** - all tables now booked - we have a waiting list if you wish to add your name. In the meantime, we are looking for donations of raffle prizes - if you wish to donate a prize please contact Tracey on 086-6486197.

**Weekday Prayer:** Daily prayer services take place in Saint Mary's Cathedral at 10.30 am each weekday, with a midweek celebration of Holy Communion on Thursdays. All are welcome to attend. These short services last approximately 20 minutes.

**Appeal for Knitted Hearts:** The Dean and the Curate continue to appeal for donations of knitted hearts. These may be left inside the Cathedral or given directly to the Dean or the Curate.

**Lenten Course:** The last session of our Lenten Course will take place in St Michael's at 7:30pm. All welcome!

**The Tuesday Club:** The Tuesday Club will meet in Saint Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2:30 pm. The Rev'd Scott E. Elliott will speak about outreach initiatives. Please bring along your smartphones and/or tablets (electronic!!) These will be needed during the afternoon. Further details next week.

**Certificate in Christian Studies:** Enrolment now open for the 2026/27. Two-year online course validated by St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth. It costs €300 a year. Applications and enquiries to: The Very Rev'd Dr Richard Marsh, Dean of Killaloe. Email: [dean@stflannanscathedral.com](mailto:dean@stflannanscathedral.com) / mob: 089 245 1601.

**Cathedral Food Bank:** We continue to appeal for donations of long-life food items and hygiene products to support the work of Limerick Island Community Partners, who assist the most vulnerable in our local community. All donations are gratefully received, and the clergy wish to express their thanks for your continued support.

**“Love Your Neighbour”:** We are inviting parishioners to support a new Donation Box in Saint Michael's Church aiding the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Donate non-perishable foods and essential toiletries. Each gift helps a neighbour in need and makes Christ's command to love one another visible in our community.

**Sacred Spaces Colouring Book:** A cross-generational and inclusive colouring book is now available from the welcome desk at Saint Mary's Cathedral. The illustrations are based on photographs of the Cathedral taken by the Curate and offer a creative way to explore the beauty of our sacred space.

**Ordination:** Please note that the Rev'd Scott E. Elliott will be ordained to the Priesthood by the Rt Rev'd Michael Burrows at Saint Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 30th May 2026 at 4:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Gardening at the Cathedral:** If you are interested in helping care for the Cathedral grounds at Saint Mary's Cathedral, please contact the Dean or the Curate.

**Bookings open:** Dialogue of Friendship event on Saturday 16 May, at Dundrum Methodist Church in Dublin. The theme is 'Faithfully Caring for Creation' and the keynote speaker is the Revd David Coleman. Further details and online booking: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dialogue-of-friendship-faithfully-caring-for-creation-tickets-1979854887264?aff=oddtcreator>

**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:** I am Abiola, I need a room accommodation with the budget between €450-550 (bill inclusive). Please, if you have any or can help in whatever form, contact me on 0899525219.

**Cycles of prayer: Porvoo: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia;** Church of England: Diocese of Lichfield

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Anglican Church of Kenya

**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:** David McBurnie, Swig Stokes, William McGowar, John Boyle, Tom Marsden, Robin Wakely, Mabel O'Toole, Michael Holland, Teresa Barry, Connie Gardiner, Marianne Fenner, Harold Gordon Brown, Ruth Di Giralamo, Edie Jordon

*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

	15 <sup>th</sup> March	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	29 <sup>th</sup> March	5 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Refreshments</b>				
<b>St Michael's</b>	Richard & Margaret Brickenden	Daire McNamara	Keith & Sheelagh Morrow	tbc
<b>Cathedral</b>	Keith O'Neil	Brian Sheppard	Lillian Okechukwu	Shawn & Carrie Jamieson
<b>Readers</b>				
<b>St Michael's</b>	Daire McNamara	Margaret Schutz	Stephen Fairbrother	Lucy Kavanagh
<b>Cathedral</b>	Tamasin Plowman	Muyiwa Okeneye	Paul Cable	Alan Bunworth

### 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)