

CONFIRMATION DATES 2019

Saturday 9th February ~ Gaelscoil Adhamhnáin ~ 4 pm
Thursday 14th February ~ Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Illistrin ~ 5 pm
Saturday 16th February ~ Scoil Cholmcille ~ 12 noon
Saturday 16th February Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál ~ 4 pm

HOLY COMMUNION DATES 2019

Saturday 6th April ~ Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Illistrin ~ 11 am
Saturday 11th May ~ Scoil Cholmcille ~ 11 am
Saturday 18th May ~ Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál
Saturday 25th May ~ Gaelscoil Adhamhnáin ~ 11 am

GRAVEYARD SERVICES 2019

Sunday 7th July ~ Conwal Cemetery ~ 4 pm
Monday 8th July ~ Aughaninshin Cemetery ~ 7 pm
Sunday 14th July ~ Old Leck Cemetery ~ 4 pm
Sunday 14th July ~ New Leck Cemetery ~ 5 pm

We encourage all couples **PLANNING ON GETTING MARRIED** in St. Eunan's Cathedral or any other Church during 2019 to contact the Civil Registration Office, Tirconaille House, Letterkenny (inside the gates to the St. Conal's Campus), to give notification of their intention to marry. Please remember, you have to give a minimum of **three months notice** to the Cathedral and to the Civil Registration Office.

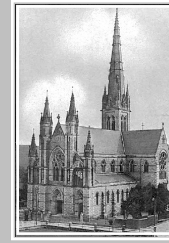
RAPHOE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES with Fr. Michael McKeever VG will depart on the **26th May (Please note change of date)**. Please phone the Lourdes Office on 9125090 for further information.

RAPHOE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA under the patronage of Bishop Alan McGuckian will depart on the **15th July** ex Dublin for seven nights. Cost: €769 (includes insurance) - free bus Letterkenny/Dublin Airport return
Spiritual Director: Fr. James Sweeney. For further details please phone Mena on 9121748.

RAPHOE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK will take place on Saturday **17th August**.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE will take place on the **5th September** for 7 days with Spiritual Director. Cost: €735 per person. Please contact Kathleen on 9121641/086-3721962 for details.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE ~ The Annual Donegal N/W Pilgrimage with Marian Pilgrimages will leave Letterkenny on the **29th September**. Flight ex Belfast. A discount will occur if a deposit is paid before mid February. For bookings and information please ring Michael on 087-2922499.



ST. EUNAN'S CATHEDRAL LETTERKENNY NEWSLETTER

Sunday 30th December 2018

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

THANKSGIVING

As 2018 draws to a close, we can look back as a Parish Community to many moments of grace. There are so many to be thanked! To name the various groups risks forgetting the generous and dedicated individuals behind them, without whom the Cathedral would not look as it does, nor would the work of the parish continue to progress.

Our Sacristans give of themselves with dedication and generosity: we are deeply indebted to them. The Ministers of the Word, the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and the Altar Servers ensure that the sacred liturgy is celebrated with dignity and good order. Likewise, the various Choirs, Soloists, Organists and Musicians help us to "pray twice", raising our minds, hearts and voices to God, whose praise is our joy. The holiness of the Sanctuary, High Altar and side altars is shown forth by the beautiful work of the Altar Society, daily, weekly and for the great feasts, in the altar linens, flowers and more.

Again and again one meets people who remark at the care with which the Cathedral is kept clean and maintained. For this we are greatly indebted to the Cleaners, Polishers and Dusters, Male and Female. To circulate, collect and deposit collection baskets is an unglamorous but very necessary thing, as is the task of counting and sorting the offerings taken up. We thank these Men and Women for stepping up to ensure these tasks are carried out efficiently and quickly. We need more help! Please volunteer!

On various occasions during the year, ushers help to ensure the safety and decorum of large congregations and those unfamiliar with the Cathedral from near and far. We are grateful to them.

Without the "backup" of the Parish Staff, it would be impossible for the Priests to dedicate themselves to the work of the parish as they do, and we thank them for their readiness and patience!

There are many more who simply keep an eye on things, do a good turn and show their love of God and their pride in the Cathedral. Our thoughts go to those who gave of their time and energy in organising Fr. Kelly's farewell function, the welcome to the Sisters of the Merciful Jesus, and those who helped in the various events to celebrate the World Meeting of Families and the visit of Pope Francis to Ireland.

This Parish is blessed to have many groups that are active in it. We thank them and encourage them in their various apostolates: the Legion of Mary; the St. Vincent de Paul; the Knights of St. Columbanus; the Charismatic Prayer Group; the Divine Mercy Prayer Group; the Grandparents' Rosary Group; the Holy Face Prayer Group; the Youth 2000 Prayer Group (young adults); Junior and Senior Youth Groups; Mothers' Prayer Group; the Children of the Eucharist and the NET Ministries Team.

Recently the Adoration Chapel marked thirty years of continuous adoration of the Blessed Eucharist. The grace flowing from this apostolate is immeasurable and more necessary than ever. We thank the Committee for their careful and attentive work, and those who commit themselves to particular hours, especially in the course of the night.

We are indebted to the guidance, advice and time given by the Members of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Committee, and the Parish Safeguarding Committee.

A word of appreciation to those engaged in the ongoing maintenance of the Cathedral, the Parish Buildings, Grounds and Cemeteries, and those called upon for certain major works.

Without the ongoing support of Parishioners and Visitors to the Cathedral, none of this would be possible. Your sacrifice and generosity is never taken for granted. Thank you! As a Parish Community, we need to pull together as best we can to ensure the ongoing vibrancy of the Parish, and the upkeep and improvement of the Cathedral. Please continue in your generosity and don't forget to make use of the CHY forms to get the greatest benefit for the parish from your donations. Details available from the Parish Office.

The Priests of the Parish deeply appreciate the support of prayer and the many acts of kindness we encounter each day. Above all we appreciate the encounters of living faith with souls in search of God. The sacred ministry of Priesthood is our joy; may it also be yours. May the Lord bless us all as we enter a new year of grace.

BOXES OF SUNDAY ENVELOPES are available at the back of the Cathedral, if anyone would like to take one. Please fill out the little card inside and return it with your first envelope. If you live outside the Parish area, please call to the Sacristy to collect your box of envelopes.

GIFT IT FORWARD ~ If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts; things you received that you won't use or don't need, then please bring them to the crib room in the Cathedral after any Mass **BETWEEN Sunday 30th December and Sunday 6th January inclusive**. These gifts will be given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to be given to those who are in need.

All are welcome to attend the **ALL IRELAND ROSARY RALLY FOR FAITH & LIFE on Tuesday, 1st January 2019** at Dáil Éireann, Dublin at 12 noon. For further information regarding transport from Letterkenny/Donagall, please contact Margaret on 086-2521297. Alternatively, please join us in spirit at the same time praying the Rosary in reparation for Ireland voting to approve and legalise abortion.

NEW YEAR'S DAY DINNER for people living on their own will be held in Conwal Parish Hall from 1 pm to 4 pm. The event is being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Radisson Blu hotel. Transport can be arranged if required. Please contact Kathy on 0868676565 for further information.

The **National PRO-LIFE CHURCH GATE COLLECTION** will take place on the **5th/6th January**. Your support would be much appreciated.

An **ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES FAIR** will take place at the Letterkenny Community Centre on **Sunday 6th January** from 11 am to 5 pm. This is a fundraising event for the Centre. €2 admission per person.

CATHEDRAL CLEANING ~ The environment in which we pray is very important. It is no accident that our Cathedral is always kept to a high standard. This is largely due to the dedication of a small number of people, women and men, who clean the main body of the Church. This involves hoovering, dusting, cleaning glass etc. **MORE VOLUNTEERS AND URGENTLY NEEDED TO SHARE THE WORKLOAD.**

ALTAR SOCIETY ~ The Altar Society Members clean the Sanctuary area, arrange flowers, clean the brasses etc. A sincere word of thanks to each and every one of you. Please phone the Parish Office on 9121021 if you can lend a helping hand.

During the year, the Cathedral Altar and Sanctuary area are always looking well with the colour and beauty of the flower arrangements. If anyone would like to give a **DONATION TOWARDS THE CATHEDRAL FLOWERS**, this would be deeply appreciated. Envelopes are available in the Cathedral.

CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULING OF MASSES


On Bank Holiday Mondays, there will be **one scheduled Mass only, at 10 am**. In addition, on Bank Holiday Mondays there will be **no scheduled confessions at 8 pm**.

During Easter Week and in the days following Christmas (depending on which day it falls), Mass will be scheduled for 10 am only, along with the Friday evening Mass at 7.30 pm.

In June, in order to allow as many of the priests as possible to attend the diocesan retreat, there will be one scheduled daily Mass at 10am from Monday – Thursday (dates vary from year to year). The normal summer schedule will resume on the Friday.

In October, in order to allow as many of the Priests as possible to attend the Diocesan Seminar for Priests, Mass will be scheduled at 10 am only from Monday – Wednesday, and at 10 am and 7.30 pm on the Thursday (dates vary from year to year). The normal Summer Schedule will resume on the Friday. As usual, from June – September inclusive, there is no scheduled evening Mass at 7.30pm.

Mass times and their variations will be published each week in the newsletter as normal.



This weekend, we wish to **ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK**, Liam Sweeney and the Sweeney Family, Tullygay for their many years of service in providing the Grave-digging in our Graveyards in Letterkenny. Liam has retired as the Gravedigger after many, many years, both as a young man with his uncle Albert (RIP) and later with his own siblings. We express our sincere

THANKS to Liam, for his professional and gentle manner in dealing with Families in their times of sadness, and for his care of the graveyards in general. We thank him for always being kind, helpful and courteous to the Priests and Parish Staff down through the years. May God bless him with good health to enjoy your retirement.

MASS IN HONOUR OF BLESSED ALEXANDRINA will be held in Termonbacca on **Sunday 30th December** at 7.30 pm. Everyone is very welcome.

Please **CHECK** if meetings are on this week before attending

Priest on Duty: Fr. Damien Nejad

Sunday 30th December ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Masses ~ 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon and 6.30 pm
Baptisms - 1.30 pm
St. Pius X Adoration Chapel is open at 1 pm
AA Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 11 am and 8.30 pm
Al-Anon Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 8 pm

Monday 31st December ~ St. Sylvester

8 am Mass ~ Frank Maguire Snr. and Frank Maguire Jnr.
10 am Mass ~ Jim and Mary Carr
7.30 pm Mass ~ Geraldine Griffin
St Pius X Adoration Chapel is open
Confessions ~ 8 pm
Grow Mental Health Meetings in the Pastoral Centre - 7.30 pm
AA Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 8.30 pm

Morning Prayer
(9.40 am)
Monday to Saturday
Evening Prayer
(7.10 pm)
Monday to Friday

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Lord God, whether we are leaving behind a year of joy and blessing or trials and difficulties, we pause to give You thanks.

We thank You, that You are always with us every minute, of every day. Please remind us of Your presence in the year ahead, even when life is so busy.

We are blessed that we serve a God who makes things new and gives us the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings. Amen.

Tuesday 1st January 2019 ~ Mary, The Holy Mother of God

10 am Mass only ~ ®
St. Pius X Adoration Chapel is open
Gamblers' Anonymous Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 8.30 pm
Al-Anon Meeting and AA Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 8.30 pm

Wednesday 2nd January ~ Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

8 am Mass ~ Living Benefactors of the Cathedral and all names in the Golden Book
10 am Mass ~ Maureen Dillon
7.30 pm Mass ~ Rose Hegarty (**Month's Mind Mass**)
St. Pius X Adoration Chapel is open
Cathedral Choir Practice in the Conference Room - 8 pm
Narcotics Anonymous in the Pastoral Centre ~ 8.30 pm

Please CHECK if meetings are on this week before attending

Thursday 3rd January ~ The Holy Name of Jesus

8 am Mass ~ Peter Gilleece

10 am Mass ~ ®

7.30 pm Mass ~ Raymond Cassisy

St. Pius X Adoration Chapel is open

Confessions ~ 12 noon - 1 pm and 8 pm

AA Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 5.30 pm

Charismatic Prayer Meeting in the Conference Room - 8 pm

Friday 4th January ~ First Friday ~ St. Charles and St. Andrew

8 am Mass ~ Patrick Joseph Giblin

10 am Mass ~ Canon Harry Allison

7.30 pm Mass ~ Pat Nicholls, Brigid Hannigan, Paul Gallagher and Michael Bohan

St. Pius X Adoration Chapel is open

Fr. Gillespie and Fr. Nejad will visit the Sick, Elderly and Housebound **today**

Fr. Kemmy will visit the Sick, Elderly and Housebound on the **10th & 11th January**

Grandparents Rosary after the 7.30 pm Mass in the Cathedral

8.30 pm ~ Mass in St. Pius X Adoration Chapel

Al-Anon Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 10.30 am

AA Meeting for Women in the Conference Room - 1 pm

AA Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 5.30 pm

Narcotics Anonymous in the Pastoral Centre ~ 7 pm - 8 pm

Saturday 5th January

10 am Mass ~ ®

Baptisms ~ 5 pm

7.30 pm ~ Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

Confessions ~ 12 noon - 1 pm and after the 7.30 pm Mass

AA Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 11 am

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday (9.30 am - 4.30 pm)

Phone: 074 - 9121021

Email: steunanscathedral@eircom.net

Website: www.steunanscathedral.ie  St. Eunan's Cathedral

Live **Web Streaming** from the Cathedral ~ churchservices.tv

MASSES IN ST. EUNAN'S CATHEDRAL

We are fortunate to have a choice of three daily Masses in the Cathedral on an average weekday. Attendance at daily Mass is a moment of prayer and encounter with the Lord for many, and you are strongly encouraged to make it part of your Christian life.

The Catholic faithful have always known the importance of having Mass offered for particular intentions, especially for our beloved dead. In this way the Holy Sacrifice is offered in suffrage for the soul of the deceased, or for the good of the living. You can ask to have Mass offered for a specific intention by contacting the Parish Office or by speaking with a Priest in the Sacristy after Mass. Early reservation is recommended if you have a particular date and time in mind. Please note that 7.30 pm Mass on Friday evening is offered for more than one deceased person.

Customarily, an offering is provided for the support of the Celebrant. The offering (stipend) recommended in the Diocese of Raphoe is €10, which can be provided when reserving a Mass, or directly to the Celebrant on the day. **No offering is taken for the Friday evening Mass at 7.30 pm.**

When reserving a Mass, you will sometimes notice that certain Mass times are marked "®". These Mass times are reserved for Month's Minds and First Anniversaries. In view of the number of funerals at the Cathedral, **Saturday morning Mass at 10 am will be reserved for Month's Minds only.**

Given the demands on Cathedral scheduling and on the Parish Clergy, Parishioners are asked to respect the long-standing practice at the Cathedral that funeral Masses will normally be celebrated at 10 am. This will, at times, necessitate transferring an intention from 10 am to the next available slot agreeable to the family, except in the case of a Month's Mind or First Anniversary.

ALTAR SOCIETY ROTA FOR JANUARY

4th and 11th January ~ B. Gallagher, J. Curran, A. Shevlin and M. McHale
18th and 25th January ~ A. Scanlon, B. Williams, R. Kelly and G. Kelly

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LETTERKENNY

Phone: 9129503/9122366