

Pro Life Trust will have their annual **CHURCH GATE COLLECTION** on the weekend of **4th and 5th January**.

CONFIRMATION DATES 2020

Saturday 25th January ~ Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál ~ 12 noon

Saturday 25th January ~ Scoil Cholmcille ~ 4 pm

Thursday 30th January ~ Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Illistrin ~ 5 pm

HOLY COMMUNION DATES 2020

Saturday 25th April ~ Gaelscoil Adhamhnáin ~ 11 am

Saturday 9th May ~ Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Illistrin ~ 11 am

Saturday 16th May ~ Scoil Cholmcille ~ 11 am

Saturday 23rd May ~ Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál ~ 11 am

GRAVEYARD SERVICES 2020

Sunday 5th July ~ Conwal Cemetery ~ 4 pm

Monday 6th July ~ Aughaninshin Cemetery ~ 7 pm

Sunday 12th July ~ Old Leck Cemetery ~ 4 pm

Sunday 12th July ~ New Leck Cemetery ~ 5 pm

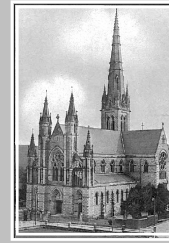
RAPHOE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES with Fr. Michael McKeever VG will depart on the **24th May (Please note change of date)**. Please phone the Lourdes Office on 9125090 for further information.

The Divine Mercy Centre, Letterkenny is organising a **DIVINE MERCY PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND** from the 7th - 14th July 2020. Spiritual director: Fr. Eamonn Kelly and the Sisters of Merciful Jesus. We will visit: Vilnius (the place where the original Divine Mercy image was painted and is now venerated), Bialystok (the place of burial of Bl. Fr. Sopocko), Ostrowek (where St. Faustina served before entering the convent), Warsaw (where St. Faustina entered the convent), Krakow and Wadowice. Price: €930. For bookings and further information please phone: 9169934 or email: dmcletterkenny@gmail.com, or check our Facebook site: (@divinemercycentreletterkenny)

RAPHOE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA with Fr. Michael McKeever will depart on the **14th 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE will take place on the **8th September** for 7 days with Spiritual Director. Cost: €735 per person. Please contact Kathleen on 9121641/086-3721962 for details.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDUGORJE ~ The Annual Donegal N/W Pilgrimage with Marian Pilgrimages will leave Letterkenny on the **30th September**. Flight ex Knock to MOSTAR. 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 29th December 2019

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

CHANGE OF MASS TIMES FOR SATURDAY EVENING AND SUNDAY EVENING will commence next weekend the **4th/5th January**. The Saturday Evening Vigil Mass will be at **6 pm** and the Sunday Evening Mass will be at **6 pm**.

THANKS - YEAR END 2019

As a parish community, we have walked together another year. Like each passing year, the Cathedral has been host to a myriad of different celebrations, from the weekly and seasonal high points of Sunday Mass, Christmas, Holy Week, Confirmations and First Communions, to less frequent Diocesan celebrations, such as the Ordination on 15th August of Father Anthony Briody, now ministering in Stranorlar.

For an extraordinary number of families, the Cathedral has been the place of their most cherished moments of encounter with God and of celebration: Baptisms, Marriages, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Cathedral and its community have consoled the bereaved and walked with them during those difficult days as a loved one is given back to God and entrusted to His care and mercy. Day by day, the quiet places of this beautiful building envelop parishioners, members of the wider diocesan family and visitors alike in prayer and quiet. Hearts lifted up, consoled, guided, making their way in faith; this has been the life of the Cathedral this past year.

The fabric of the building continues to demand care and attention, often with unexpected turns. In the course of 2019, work was completed on the strengthening of the internal floors of the bell tower. By chance, the Cathedral bells decided to be silent, and, after necessary maintenance, and a new system for ringing them, they are now sounding again to call us to prayer, to ring out in celebration, and to mark the journey of our days in both joys and sorrows. The Cathedral pews also required some urgent attention, as woodworm decided to make a feast in some of them to a serious degree.

Given the expense of treating each pew, and the need to conserve them faithfully, their treatment will be ongoing, as finance allows.

A word of thanks is most necessary at the end of the year, towards all those who give of their time and energy to make the Cathedral what it is. Our Sacristans give of themselves with extraordinary generosity, and we are particularly grateful to them. We thank all those who ensure that the liturgy can be celebrated with dignity and smoothly, particularly the Ministers of the Word, the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and our dedicated and generous Altar Servers.

Thank you to all who lend their voice and their musical talent to the worship of God as soloists and in choirs. The Altar Society ensures that the altar linens and other requisites for the liturgy are clean and worthy of divine worship, while the members of the Flower Society lend their creativity to add the beauty of God's work in creation to embellish the Cathedral, particularly at the high points of the year.

Visitors will often remark that the Cathedral is clean and well-maintained: we thank the cleaners, men and women, who are so attentive to the cleanliness of the Cathedral. Our sincere appreciation to the collectors, who circulate the baskets, and to those who help count the collection. Likewise our appreciation goes to those who help in ushering at ceremonies, particularly the Knight St. of Columbanus, who are always ready to step in when needed. The many demands of this large and busy parish would overwhelm the clergy but for the help of the parish staff, to whom we express our very sincere thanks.

We encourage all in the various parish apostolates: the Legion of Mary; the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul; the Knights of Saint 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; the NET ministries team working in our parish - youth evangelising youth.

The dedication of the Committee and all who commit themselves to an hour in the Adoration Chapel continues to be a source of blessings in the parish and the diocese. Thanking them, we encourage them in this important apostolate. 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.

Please note from **Saturday 4th January** the **TIME FOR BAPTISMS** will **CHANGE - Baptisms will take place at 4.30 pm** due to the change of time for Evening Mass.

MASS IN HONOUR OF BLESSED ALEXANDRINA will be held in Termonbacca on **Sunday 29th December** at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

The **FIRST ANNIVERSARY MASS** for the late **Louise Murphy (nee O'Donnell)** RIP, will take place on **Friday 3rd January** at 9.30 am in the Church of the Irish Martyrs.

The **Sisters of Merciful Jesus** annual '**CHRISTMAS PLAY**' with our three Priests, Sisters, Parishioners and the 'Little Rays' will take place on **Sunday 5th January** at **7.15 pm** in Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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 ARE 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 and in PARTICULAR WITH FLOWER ARRANGING.**

The Sanctuary area is 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.

CATHEDRAL BASKET COLLECTION ~ We have dedicated men and women who help with the Sunday Basket Collection. We would appreciate more **VOLUNTEERS** to help with this. Please give your name to Fr. Gillespie if interested.

LIST OF WINNERS for our recent Parish Youth Ministry Christmas Draw
1st Prize: 50 inch TV - Linda Kavanagh; **2nd Prize:** €300 - Colmcille Hostel; **3rd prize:** €250 Liberty Travel Voucher - Mena Drein; **4th Prize:** €200 - Tony O'Donnell; **5th Prize:** €150 Gift Card - Vera McElhinney; **6th Prize:** €125 Spar Voucher - Daniel Hannigan; **7th Prize:** €100 Tinney's Oil Voucher - Bernadette Devlin; **8th Prize:** €100 Voucher - Bernadette Devlin; **9th Prize:** €75 Voucher - Caoimhe Quinn and **10th Prize:** €50 Voucher - Donegal Hospice. Thanks to all who purchased lines. Sincere thanks to all local businesses who sponsored and supported prizes: Duds n Suds; Dunnes Stores; Liberty Travel; Letterkenny Post Office; Spar, Glencar; Mark & Spencers; McDonald's and McCallion's Jewellers.

SCHEDULING OF MASSES REMINDER

- 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.
- 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 Lent**, we will have a earlier time of **7 am for Morning Mass** - a change to our normal 8 am Mass Time.
- 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 10 am 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 7.30 pm.
- Mass times and their variations will be published each week in the Newsletter as normal.

A sincere word of thanks to those who prepare families for the baptism of their first child, and in the preparation of children and adults for the Sacraments.

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. Their sensitivity to these buildings and places and their sacred purpose is very much appreciated.

Without the ongoing support of parishioners and visitors to the Cathedral, none of this would be possible. Thank you for your generosity. Your sacrifice and generosity is never taken for granted. Thank you! Remember, your donations go further if you avail of the CHY scheme – details from the parish office. While you are encouraged to maintain your generosity, more important is your readiness to make a sacrifice of time and effort to help at the Cathedral. It is YOUR parish: you are invited to step forward and get involved!

It is the joy of the priests of the parish to serve you in the sacred ministry. We do need your support and encouragement, at times your understanding and patience, but always your prayer. It is easy to allow things to become routine, or to let others take the slack. But we all feel satisfaction and a greater sense of belonging when we get involved. Our parish community will flourish the more we give of ourselves. God willing, we will continue to grow and flourish in the year to come. We wish you every blessing for the New Year.

Fr. Kevin Gillespie Adm.

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 29th December and Monday 6th January inclusive**. These gifts will be given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to be given to those who are in need.

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 Commence and the Radisson Blu hotel. Transport can be arranged if required. Please contact Kathy on 0868676565 for further information.

Please CHECK if meetings are on this week before attending

Priest on Duty: Fr. Damien Nejad

Sunday 29th 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

Morning Prayer
(9.40 am)
Evening Prayer
(7.10 pm) - except on
Wednesday

Monday 30th December

8 am Mass ~ Nair Nunes Vilas Boas and Elisa Tavares Basilo dos Santos RIP

10 am Mass ~ Joan McGee RIP

7.30 pm Mass ~ Geraldine Griffin RIP

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

Tuesday 31st December

8 am Mass ~ Bishop McGuckian, Bishop Boyce and Diocesan Priests

10 am Mass ~ ®

7.30 pm Mass ~ Special Intention

Midnight Mass ~ 12 Midnight

St. Pius X Adoration Chapel is open

Holy Face Devotions in the Crib Room ~ 6.30 pm

Legion of Mary Meeting in the **Divine Mercy Centre** after 10 am Mass

Legion of Mary Meeting in the Parochial House - 7 pm

Baptism Preparation in the Parochial House on **Tuesday 7th January - 8 pm**

Divine Mercy Prayer Group in the **CRIB ROOM - 8 pm**

Gamblers' Anonymous Meeting in the Pastoral Centre - 8.30 pm

Al-Anon Meeting and **AA Meeting** in the Pastoral Centre - 8.30 pm

Wednesday 1st January 2020 ~ Mary, The Holy Mother of God

10 am Mass only ~ ®

St. Pius X Adoration Chapel is open

Cathedral Choir Practice in the Conference Room - 8 pm

Al-Anon Meeting and **AA Meeting** in the Pastoral Centre - 8.30 pm

Please CHECK if meetings are on this week before attending

Thursday 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 RIP

7.30 pm Mass ~ ®

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 3rd January ~ First Friday ~ The Holy Name of Jesus

8 am Mass ~ May McCarron RIP

10 am Mass ~ Canon Harry Allison rip

7.30 pm Mass ~ Aaron Roulston, Brigid Hannigan, Paul 'Gazy' Gallagher, Margaret Callaghan, Michael McArdle and Tessie McArdle RIP

St. Pius X Adoration Chapel is open ~ **Mass at 8.30 pm**

The Priests will visit the Sick, Elderly and Housebound **today**

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

Gamblers Anonymous Meeting in the Pastoral Centre ~ 8.30 pm

Saturday 4th January

10 am Mass ~ Paddy Carr RIP (**Month's Mind Mass**) and Jim and Mary Carr RIP

Nuptial - 1 pm

Baptisms ~ 4.30 pm (**Please note - new BAPTISM Time**)

6 pm ~ Vigil Mass (**Please note - new MASS Time**)

Confessions ~ 12 noon - 1 pm and after the 6 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