


**Parish Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday: 9.30am - 4.30pm/Friday 9.30am – 1pm

**Phone:** 074 - 9121021

**Parish Email:** office@steunanscathedral.ie

**Website:** www.steunanscathedral.ie  St. Eunan's Cathedral  
Live **Web Streaming** from the Cathedral ~ churchservices.tv/letterkenny

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** ~ 17th December - €6,956

**PARISH EXPENDITURE** ~ €10,563.10

Thank you for your gift to God and His Church  
We deeply appreciate your continued Spiritual and Financial support.

To **BOOK A BAPTISM** please phone the Parochial House on 9121021. Please remember: Godparents: (1 male and 1 female over the age of 16).

**BAPTISM PREPARATION** ~ We have uploaded a number of videos under 'Featured Videos' for Parents, in Preparation for their child's Baptism on our website: www.steunanscathedral.ie

### **THE CRIB AT CHRISTMAS**

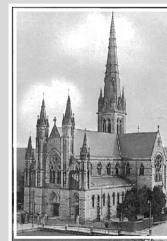
This year we celebrate 800 year of the Crib. Greccio located in central Italy is the location where St. Francis of Assisi created the first Christmas Crib in the year 1223. Since then, nativity scenes began to emerge in homes and churches in celebration of the birth of Jesus.

This wonderful Franciscan tradition continues to this day as we once again build and create the scenes of the first Christmas night. The crib that you see in the Church and the crib that you see in your own home, is all because a young man in Assisi, 800 years ago decided that Christmas should be real, simple, down to earth.

This is exactly what the Crib does, it brings God down to earth, to us. This Christmas as we celebrate 800 years of the first Crib, may the Crib in your home not be an ornament but as an opportunity to bring Christ back into Christmas.

**BOXES OF CHURCH ENVELOPES** ~ If you attend the Cathedral on a regular basis and would like to receive a **Box of Cathedral Envelopes for 2024**, please contact the Parish Office on 9121021 in early January. Boxes are currently available from the back of the Cathedral. If you take a box, please complete and return the little card inside. If you would like to set up a **Standing Order**, or wish to donate to the Parish, please use the following IBAN Number: **IE39BOFI90491556668632** ~ please ensure that your full name will appear on the Cathedral Bank statement. **Thank you for your continued generosity to the Parish.**

**DIVINE MERCY CENTRE, LETTERKENNY** ~ Phone: 0749169934



## **ST. EUNAN'S CATHEDRAL LETTERKENNY NEWSLETTER Sunday 24th December 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### **A GIFT FROM THE HEART OF GOD**

A young woman of faith who is going through a difficult time told me last week that she is really taken with the bible verse; 'the loving kindness of the heart of our God will visit us like the dawn from on high'. I asked her why and she explained that there is a lot of loss in her life right now. She said; 'I need hope and I choose to believe that for Christmas the gift of loving kindness is coming for me right from the heart of our God.'

We need hope. You, as you read this, may be lonely or sad or desolate for many personal reasons. Our world needs hope. Listen to the news from the Holy Land or Ukraine; here in Donegal our towns and villages are awash with drugs, and Mica is still a huge cloud over many people's lives; the sacred gift of life is cherished less and less among us. We are a weary world in need of a saviour, a prince of Peace.

The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

The hope of the Christians is not the same as optimism; it does not fear to look troubles in the eye. The Christmas story is about a God, all loving and all powerful, going looking for trouble. He searched out the poor and the outcast and the lowly and he was born as one of them because he loved them. Because he loves us.

"The Shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger." I invite you to make space to contemplate again the timeless tale of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. The shepherds – themselves lowly, miserable types, who were not well thought of - were guided by a heavenly light. They encountered the humble scene and they saw the embodiment of God's love wrapped in rags. The child Jesus – a gift from the heart of our God.

We don't all enjoy the festivities in the same way. If for some reason they drag on you, you can be like one of those shepherds. They were humble and lowly but open to the gift of seeing the presence of God, amazingly at home in the broken and imperfect world that we live in. If, on the other hand – praise

God – you delight in the togetherness and the giving and receiving of gifts you can choose to be like Mary. In her quiet strength ‘she treasured all these things and pondered on them in her heart’.

Whether you are caught up in the hustle and bustle these days or not, all of us Christians are invited to be still enough to ponder the extraordinary love that descended from the heavens into a humble manger.

Jesus did not come for the people with perfect lives, who have it all together. He came into a broken, war-torn world out of love for the lonely, the disregarded, the refugee, the sinner.

It is my fervent hope that everyone of us, this Christmas, will celebrate ‘the loving kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high.’

*Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ*

**A HAPPY AND PEACE-FILLED CHRISTMAS TO ALL**

We remember and pray for parents, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren who cannot be home for Christmas.

We pray in a special way for all Missionaries and Members of the Defence Forces from our Town and County who are helping and protecting others this Christmas.

We pray for the People of Ukraine, Gaza, Israel and other places in our world that is torn with war and conflict.

We pray for all who have gone to their eternal reward, remembering especially all who have died in our Parish throughout the year. May they rest in peace.

To each and everyone of our Parishioners, we wish you many blessings at Christmas and pray that you have a time of peace, enjoyment and rest.

**ADORATION CHAPEL CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

The Adoration Chapel will be closed from **Friday 22nd December at 8 pm and will RE-OPEN on Christmas Day (Monday 25th December) at 6 pm.**

The Adoration Chapel will close on **Friday 29th December at 8 pm and will RE-OPEN on New Year’s Eve (Sunday 31st December) at 6 pm**

**ALTAR SOCIETY ROTA**

**29th December/5th January:** Stainslous Mako, Florence Mako, Roman Martiny, Swapny Byjoy

**12th/19th January:** Mena McBride, Edwina Friel, Elizabeth McCormick, Lisa Geraghty

**Sunday 24th December ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Masses: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon**  
**Christmas Eve ~ Family Mass ~ 6 pm**  
**Midnight Mass ~ 12 midnight**

**Monday 25th December ~ The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Mass Times: 8 am, 10 am and 12 noon**

**Tuesday 26th December ~ St. Stephen, First Martyr**

**10 am Mass ~ Peter and Susan McGlynn RIP**  
**6 pm ~ Holy Face Devotions**

**Wednesday 27th December ~ St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**10 am Mass ~ Special Intention**  
**No Confessions this evening**

**Thursday 28th December ~ The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**10 am Mass ~ Geraldine Griffin RIP**  
**8 pm ~ Charismatic Prayer Group** in the Conference Room

**Friday 29th December ~ St. Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr**

**10 am Mass ~ Ursula McGlynn RIP** **Nuptial ~ 1 pm**  
**7 pm Mass ~ Phyllis Forde (Month’s Mind Mass), Grace O’Neill (First Anniversary), Kathleen Ferry (First Anniversary), Jesusa Santos (First Anniversary), Joan McGee, Gerry O’Donnell, Eamonn McGee, Nair Nenes Vilas Boas, Charlie Ward, Martin Ward, Martin Reilly, Thomas James Ward, Cathal Murray, Vincent Neely, Betty McDaid, Dan McDaid, Brendan McDaid and Packie Forde RIP**

**Saturday 30th December**

**10 am Mass ~ Janette Collins RIP (First Anniversary)**  
**Confessions ~ 12 noon - 1 pm and 7 pm**  
**4 pm ~ Baptisms** **6 pm ~ Vigil Mass**

**Sunday 31st December ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Masses: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon and 6 pm**  
**Baptisms: 2.30 pm**  
**Midnight Mass**