

Oatfield, Muckish, Derryveagh, Glencar Park
See the smile of Jesus as light overcomes the dark
Around Ard Colmcille, Beechwood, Iona Road
Delight in that Boy with a smiling mode

Ashbrook, Glenwood Park and Sprackburn Drive
Come alive to revelation even shepherds have arrived
Up by the hospitals past the Teck to Mountain Top
Realise the brilliance even time seems to stop

Foxhill, Hazelwood, Ballaghderg via the High Road
Rise to the heavens following the Christ-child code
On out to Illistrin, Gortnavern, Coolboy
Notice Mary's glee Joseph's deep joy

Turning we go through Carnamuggagh and Calhame
As the wild animals mix with those that are tame
We cross the Port over the Pearse Road
The Lion of Judah has a manger for his abode

To the left we take in Lismonaghan, Brookcourt
God in the stable, not a palace nor a fort
In Bomany, Rahan, Crievesmith and Oldtown
Notice how muck and dirt can become holy ground

Leaving Leck we pass McNeely Villas and Ros Suilighe
Thankful for God's Son who will for our sins fully pay
On past Ballymacool, Sallaghgraine out to Conwal
Take note of Mary as she listens for cry or call

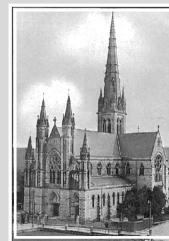
Now up Convent Road past The Terrace and Westhill
The Wise Men have entered to be cured of every ill
New Line Road, Glencar and McMahon Villas too
Rejoice! Wisdom is revealed that is forever true

Sentry Hill stand alert along with Wolfe Tone Place
Bow low to Jesus Saviour of the human race
We are getting tired now as our tour nears the end
Letterkenny! Come awake! on Jesus you can depend

We end where it began that first Christmas night
With Jesus our God asleep in his light
That first Tabernacle silently waiting on the hay
Just as he waits for you in the Cathedral everyday



(Fr. Eamonn Kelly)



**ST. EUNAN'S CATHEDRAL
LETTERKENNY
NEWSLETTER**
Sunday 15th December 2024
Third Sunday of Advent

THE JUBILEE OF 2025

The Pope has called a Jubilee Year for 2025. It will be opened in Rome by Pope Francis on Christmas Eve at St. Peter's Basilica, and in each Cathedral Church of the world on Sunday 29th December. A Jubilee Year is marked every 25 years to commemorate the Lord's Incarnation and therefore the beginnings of our salvation. A Jubilee Year places particular emphasis on mercy, conversion and pilgrimage. The principal symbol of the Jubilee Year is the Holy Door. This is one of the doors leading into St. Peter's Basilica. Between one Jubilee and another, it is not only closed but actually bricked up. These bricks are removed this year and Pope Francis will be the first pilgrim to cross the threshold of the Holy Door on Christmas Eve. Holy Doors are also opened in the other principal basilicas of the City: St. Paul's Outside the Walls [the burial place of the Apostle Paul], St. John Lateran's [the Pope's Cathedral], and St. Mary Major's [the oldest church in the West dedicated to Our Lady – and where our own Monsignor Eamonn McLaughlin is a Canon].

What is significant about the Holy Door? It is simply a symbol of Christ, the Gate of the Sheepfold. As the door of a church signifies entering into the dwelling place of God, the place where the local Church gathers to worship God, it reminds us of our baptism, the door to salvation, the entry into the life of the Church and the beginnings of eternal life within the soul. For those who go on pilgrimage to Rome, crossing the threshold of the Holy Door becomes a powerful symbolic moment of the journey of life and of faith. Of course, it is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Holy Eucharist and dedication to faith and the deepening of our faith that brings real conversion and fruit from the Jubilee Year. This can be done as effectively at home by marking the Jubilee Year as a year when we commit ourselves to a pilgrimage of faith from one week to another, with a focus on certain major moments, including Cathedral events and pilgrimage to our own holy places. For those who are able to travel, there will be a parish pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year. Dates will be confirmed in the New Year. On Sunday 29th December at 12 noon Mass, we will celebrate the diocesan opening of the Jubilee Year in union with all the Cathedrals of the world.

ST. EUNAN'S CATHEDRAL CAROL SERVICE

We warmly invite you to our Cathedral Carol Service at 7.30 pm this evening, **Sunday 15th December**. We thank all Choirs, Soloists, Musicians, Children and Schools for giving of their time and talents. Thank you to Fr. Michael Carney for co-ordination our Carol Service.

PLEASE NOTE ~ There will be **NO ACCESS TO THE RAMP AND ENTRANCE** (Left hand side near the Sacristy until Wednesday 18th December due to the erection of scaffolding. Please use the RAMP to the right hand side of the Cathedral front door.

The **CATHEDRAL PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS** are **ON SALE** in Clarke's Newsagents, Lower Main Street; County Dry Cleaners, Lower Main Street; Certa Oil, Port Road; Kernans Shop, Lower Main Street; Kernans Shop, Oldtown; Kernans Shop, Tullygay; Tinney's Oil, Bonagee; and from the Sacristy and Parochial House. (€5 per packet of 5). *The Recipient's intentions are included in all Masses in the Cathedral from the 25th December until the 1st January*. Any profit, after printing costs, will be donated to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

BOXES OF CHURCH ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR COLLECTION ~ If you delivered the boxes of envelopes in previous years, we would appreciate your help once again this year. If you live outside the Parish area but receive a box of Cathedral Envelopes - your box is in the Sacristy for collection. If you attend the Cathedral on a regular basis and would like to **RECEIVE A BOX of Cathedral Envelopes for 2025** OR perhaps you would like to set up a Standing Order, please contact the Parish Office on 0749121021.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT - Will take place on **Sunday 15th December** at 5 pm at St. Patrick's Church, Crossroads, Killygordon, followed by Live Crib and Hot Chocolate. (Derry Home of the Mother Sisters)

The Sisters of Merciful Jesus invite you to an **AFTERNOON RETREAT** on **Saturday 21st December**. The theme of the retreat will be **"CHRISTMAS – MERCIFUL GOD COMES TO THE EARTH"**. The retreat starts at 2 pm and continues until 5.30 pm. It will consist of talks, a time of prayer and reflection and sharing our experience of faith (also around a cuppa). **Please note: it is necessary to book for all our retreats**. To do so, or for more information please contact the Divine Mercy Centre at: 074 916 9934 or dvmletterkenny@gmail.com.


LETTERKENNY CEILI CLUB (a member of Cairde Rince na hEireann) are hosting a **CEILI MOR**, tonight, **Sunday 15th December** in Bonagee Hall from 8 pm until 11 pm. Cead isteach: €8. All are welcome.

LETTERKENNY MEMORIES CHRISTMAS SPECIAL will take place on **Monday 16th December** at 8 pm in the Station House Hotel. Light refreshments served. Everyone is welcome.

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 ~ 8th December - €6,214

PARISH EXPENDITURE ~ €6,721

DONATIONS TO THE CATHEDRAL: 1 x €10; 1 x €50; 1 x €100 towards the Cathedral Christmas Flowers)

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

LETTERKENNY AND THE CRIB

Jesus spoke last night - this is what he said
Tell my people about the way that I have led
Of my purest love for every one of them
Let my truth flow through your simple pen

So my friends come - journey through Letterkenny
Receive the greatest gift that costs not even a penny
Christ the splendour of light comes to set us free
Listen for the angels - sing in your heart with glee

We begin up Main Street - down to the Market Square
See the Child of God, a babe without even hair
Feel the breathlessness at Ard O'Donnell on the hill
As stepfather Joseph finds a dream fulfilled

We pass Convent and College and Hawthorn Heights
Cow and donkey look on but there are no fights
Through Glenoughty, the Elms and Willowbrook
As we see Mary tired - with that contented look

In through Dr. McGinley, Fernhill and Solomon's place
We observe holy beauty - the child of God's grace
Over the hill to Manor View, Slieve Sneacht, Long Lane
Quietly Joseph with Mary speak about the name

2025 PILGRIMAGES

St. Eunan's Cathedral Parish Council are in the process of organising a **JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE TO ROME** - No dates are confirmed at the moment but it is looking like **October 2025**.

RAPHOE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES (19th - 23rd May) Departing: City of Derry Airport. Led by Monsignor Kevin Gillespie, Diocesan Administrator. More details to follow very soon.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG ~ Sanctuary of Saint Patrick

The **Three Day Pilgrimage for 2025** begins on Friday 30th May and runs until Friday 15th August (last day to begin pilgrimage is Wednesday 13th August)

One Day Retreats: May: 4th, 5th, 11th, 13th, 17th, 24th & 26th; August: 23rd, 24th, 25th and 30th; September: 3rd, 6th, 7th, 9th, 20th and 21st.

Quiet Days: 10th May and 12th September. **Pilgrim Path:** 31st August. **Heritage Day:** 21st August. Phone: 071-9861518 or email: info@loughderg.org

PADRE PIO PILGRIMAGE (27th - 4th June 2025) - Taking in San Giovanni Rotondo and Alba Adriatica. Please contact Nuala on 087 2850862 for details.

RAPHOE DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULTS "JUBILEE OF YOUTH" PILGRIMAGE TO ROME (30th July - 5th August) for 18-35 year olds. Cost: €1175 pps. Email: Raphoeyouthpilgrimage@gmail.com for further information. For bookings please call Joe Walsh Tours on 01-2410800. See Cathedral Noticeboard.

RAPHOE PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA (17th July 2025) For 7 nights. Led by a Spiritual Director from the Raphoe Diocese. Cost: €929 pps. For information and bookings please phone Mena 0749121748 or Eileen 0831175135.

The Donegal N.E. Group have organised **TWO PILGRIMAGES TO MEDJUGORJE in 2025** ~ 14th May (Derry to Mostar) and the 24th September from (Knock to Mostar) for seven nights. Vouchers are available. For more information and bookings, please phone Michael on 087-2922499

RAPHOE PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK (Saturday 16th August)

PILGRIMAGE TO KRAKOW, POLAND (20th - 26th August 2025) ~ Pilgrimage director: Fr. Eamonn Kelly. Pilgrimage includes visits to: Wawel Castle; St. Mary's Basilica, Krakow City Centre, Shrine of the Madonna at Czestochowa; Birthplace of St. John Paul II; Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp and the Shrine of the Divine Mercy. Cost: €995 pps, please contact Kieran or Laura on 0579355050 or email: info@myriam.ie (Full details on the Cathedral noticeboard)

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE will take place on the 3rd September 2025 for 7 nights with Spiritual Director, Afternoon Flight. Cost €929 per person. **EARLY** For further information/booking please contact Mairead 087-7698195 or Kathleen 086-3721962.

Sunday 15th December ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Masses: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon and 6 pm **Carol Service ~ 7.30 pm**

Monday 16th December

8am Mass ~ Kathleen Fox RIP

10 am Mass ~ Tony Leavy RIP

Tuesday 17th December

8 am Mass ~ Deceased Members of the Gallagher and Tinney Families RIP

10 am Mass ~ Brendan O'Boyle RIP

7 pm Mass ~ Joe Wilkie RIP

6 pm ~ Holy Face Devotions

Wednesday 18th December ~ St. Flannan, bishop

8 am Mass ~ Mary and Patrick O'Donnell RIP

10 am Mass ~ Katie Leavy RIP

7 pm Mass ~ Susanna Doherty RIP

Confessions: 10.30 am - 5 pm and 7.30 pm **Youth 2000** ~ 8 pm in the Cathedral

Medjugorje Prayer Group: 8 pm in the Pastoral Centre

Thursday 19th December

8 am Mass ~ Dominic Gallagher RIP

10 am Mass ~ Kathleen and Frank Maguire RIP

7 pm Mass ~ Deceased Members of the Callaghan Family RIP

7 pm ~ Cathedral Youth Group in the Pastoral Centre

8 pm ~ Charismatic Prayer Group in the Conference Room

Friday 20th December ~ St. Fachanan, bishop

8 am Mass ~ Mass of Thanksgiving

10 am Mass ~ Brid O'Rourke RIP

7 pm Mass ~ Sr. Perpetua O' Donnell (**First Anniversary**), Patsy Shiels, Owen McMonagle, Elizabeth Bradley, Baby Gerard McCool, Willie Sweeney, Albert Sweeney, Thomas Sweeney and Terry McDermott RIP

Saturday 21st December ~ St. Peter Canisius

10 am Mass ~ Eugene Gamble RIP (**Recently Deceased**)

Confessions ~ 12 noon - 1pm and 7pm

Baptisms ~ 4 pm

Vigil Mass ~ 6 pm

Sunday 22nd December ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon and 6 pm

Baptisms: 2.30 pm

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES

- Wednesday 18th December: 7.30 pm
 - Thursday 19th December: 10.30 am - 12 noon and 7 pm
 - Friday 20th December: 10.30 am - 12 noon and 7 pm
 - Saturday 21st December: **10.30 am - 5 pm** and 7 pm
 - Sunday 22nd December: 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm
 - Monday 23rd December: 10.30 am - 1 pm
- (If there is a Funeral Mass at 11 am on any of the above dates
Confessions will be from 12 noon - 1 pm.)

CONFESSIONS FOR POLISH SPEAKING PEOPLE will take place on Wednesday 18th December from 7 pm - 9 pm in the Divine Mercy Centre, Letterkenny accompanied by Adoration.

The **SYCAMORE ADVENT PROGRAMME** will continue on Friday 20th December at 7.40 pm in the Pastoral Centre in preparation for Christmas.

The Eleventh **LETTERKENNY CAROL TRAIL** will take place on Friday, 20th December, starting in Trinity Presbyterian Church at 7.30 pm. Please come along to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas - Goodwill to All.

'THE CONVENT', the history of the Loreto Order in Letterkenny, compiled by Ann Carroll is now available to buy from the Loreto School Office, Mac's Mace, Donegal Stationery, Paddy Delap Newsagents and Bookmark at a cost of €20.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOMEONE TO TALK TO OVER CHRISTMAS? SeniorLine is Ireland's (HSE Funded) national telephone service for older people open every day of the year 10 am - 10 pm, Freephone 1800804591. You may feel isolated, alone, bereaved or far from family. SeniorLine's older volunteers are trained to listen, to support and refer to other helpful services if necessary. So don't be alone, and lift the phone. Phone SeniorLine 1800804591, No problem too big or too small.

SCOIL MUIRE GAN SMÁL IS NOW ENROLLING FOR JUNIOR INFANTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025. Closing date is Monday 13th January 2025. Please call at the school, phone 0749121171 or email: letterkennysms@gmail.com for an enrolment form.

LK WE CARE FOOD BANK are in urgent need of non-perishable food donation also basics like Tea, Coffee, Pasta etc. Opening hours at Greenes Market Centre, Market Square: Tuesday and Fridays from 12 noon to 2 pm.

This year, most families will spend more than €25 on their Christmas dinner. But for a donation of just €22 to **MARY'S MEALS**, you can feed a child in their place of education for an entire school year - bringing the children we serve hope of a brighter future. To donate, please visit: www.marysmeals.ie

DONATIONS to the CATHEDRAL CRIB will be shared between St. Vincent de Paul and Aid to the Church in Need.

ST. PIUS X ADORATION CHAPEL

Speak Lord your servant is listening: Would you consider doing **ONE HOUR OF ADORATION** in the St. Pius X Adoration Chapel, (situated on the grounds of Loreto Secondary School) which has round the clock Adoration from 1 pm on a Sunday until 8 pm on a Friday? **Can you give one hour of your week to spend in quiet prayer and listen to the Lord?** We need more committed adorers - that is, someone who will be there faithfully every week (or someone in your place) at an hour suitable to you. The following hours are in need of committed adorers: **Monday: 12 noon - 1 pm; Tuesday: 12 noon - 1 pm and Tuesday: 11 pm - 12 midnight; Wednesday: 12 noon - 1 pm and Wednesday 7 pm - 8 pm; Thursday: 2 pm - 3 pm and Thursday 4 pm - 5 pm.** Please phone: 086-0870446.

DATES FOR YOUR 2025 DIARY!

CONFIRMATION DATES

Saturday 8th February: 12 noon - Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál
3 pm - Gaelscoil Adhamhnáin

Saturday 15th February: 12 noon - Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Illistrin
3 pm - Scoil Cholmcille

ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday 5th March

EASTER SUNDAY: 20th April

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: 27th April

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES

Saturday 10th May: 11 am - Gaelscoil Adhamhnáin
3 pm - Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál

Saturday 17th May: 11 am - Scoil Naomh Fiachra, Illistrin

Saturday 17th May: 3 pm - St. Bernadette's (Confirmation and First Holy Communion)

Saturday 24th May: 11 am - Scoil Cholmcille

GRAVEYARD SERVICES

Conwal Graveyard: Sunday 6th July at 4 pm

Aughaninshin Graveyard: Monday 7th July at 7 pm

Old Leck Graveyard: Sunday 13th July at 3 pm

New Leck Graveyard: Sunday 13th July at 4 pm

PLANNED DATES FOR PAINTING OF CATHEDRAL

24th August - 2nd October