



Galway Cathedral Newsletter

22 February 2026
First Sunday of Lent

CATHEDRAL NEWS

Stations of the Cross are prayed after the 6:00pm Mass each Friday during lent.

Bereavement Support, provided by the Cathedral Bethany Group, is available in the Cathedral on Thursday next, 26 February, between 7:00pm and 8:00pm.

Last Sunday's Offertory Collection amounted to €2,712.12; we are very grateful to all who continue to support the Cathedral in this way.

Celebrations This Week — Optional memorials of St Polycarp, bishop & martyr (23 February), and St Gregory of Narek, abbot & doctor of the Church (27 February). The Chair of St Peter, apostle (22 February), is not celebrated this year as the Sunday of Lent takes precedence.

Ministry of Catechist & the Permanent Diaconate

Would you be interested in serving in the Ministry of Catechist or the Permanent Diaconate in the Dioceses of Clonfert, Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora?

As part of a dynamic and creative team, in union with priests, deacons, parish pastoral councils and others, catechists assist with the delivery of various faith development programmes and opportunities at both parish level and beyond.

Permanent Deacons are ordained to a life of service in charity to the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised. They also provide a Ministry of the Word in preaching in church and officiating at certain liturgies, and Ministry of the Altar, in assisting the celebrant at Mass and preparing people for and officiating at baptisms and weddings.

Both the Ministry of Catechist and the Permanent Diaconate involve a sizeable period of discernment and formation. For further information please contact Fr Hugh Clifford (091-637154 or catechistsdeacons@clonfertgalway.ie) before 4 March 2026.

OTHER NEWS

Galway Pioneer Social and presentation of pins takes place on Saturday 28 February in the Oranmore Lodge Hotel.

Conference on Happiness in Galway on Sunday 8 March; the main speaker is Fr Gregory Pine OP. More information from www.dominicans.ie.

Luke's Gospel is a five-week course hosted by An Tobar Nua on Tuesdays at 6:00pm, starting on 24 February: register at <https://gospelofluke.eventbrite.ie>.

Seanad Electors — Irish citizens with degrees from designated third-level colleges are eligible to vote for Seanad Eireann in the "Higher Education" constituency, which replaces the previous NUI and Trinity College panels. The deadline to apply is 26 February: see www.seanadvoter.ie for full details.

Anam Cara Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 4 March at 7:30pm in the Maldron Hotel, Headford Road.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Masses for the living are not listed here, though are celebrated as usual.

Sat	6:00	Michael, Mary & John Burke; Holland & Burke families	Thur	11:00	Eamonn, Phil & Finian Carey 6:00 Dillon McDermott
Sun	9:00	Bridie Corcoran	Fri	11:00	Joe Hession
	10:30	Stiofán De Búrca		6:00	Golden Book of Remembrance
	6:00	John Seary	Sat	11:00	Brendan McGuire
Mon	11:00	Jack Collins; Patrick Smyth		6:00	David & Shane Smith
	6:00	Thomas & Sarah Hogan	Sun	9:00	Concannon & Greaney families
Tue	11:00	Tom Slattery		10:30	Annie, Thomas & PJ Heneghan
Wed	11:00	Seán & Eileen McGreal		6:00	Michael Holland
	6:00	Rita & Michael Noone			

Galway Cathedral • Galway, H91 A780

t 091-563577
e info@galwaycathedral.ie
w www.galwaycathedral.ie

Clergy

Mgr Peter Rabbitte
Fr John Gerard Acton
Fr Jijo Johny
Br Ian Cunningham OFM

Mass on Sunday

Sat. 6:00pm; Sun. 9:00am (Gaeilge),
10:30am (choir), 12:30pm, 6:00pm

Mass on Holy Days

Vigil Mass at 6:00pm; Mass on the day at
11:00am, 6:00pm

Mass on Weekdays

11:00am, 6:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday–Saturday, 5:30pm–5:50pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday–Friday, 11:30am–6:00pm
Sunday, 1:30pm–6:00pm

Marriage & Baptism

For details & requirements see www.galwaycathedral.ie/liturgy

Cathedral Bookshop

091-531433
Monday–Saturday, 9:30am – 5:15pm;
Sunday after each morning mass

Bethany Bereavement Support

Contact the group at 085-2258827

Legion of Mary

Contact: 087-2423068

Safeguarding

Ms Aileen Cawley: 085-2288047

Music at today's 10:30am Mass

Missa Orbis Factor (plainchant)

O sanctissima (Sicilian)
O most holy, O most pious, sweet Virgin
Mary! Beloved, undefiled mother, pray for
us.

A Clare benediction (Rutter)

May the Lord show his mercy upon you; may
the light of his presence be your guide. May
he guard you and uphold you; may his spirit
be ever by your side. When you sleep, may
his angels watch over you; when you wake,
make he fill you with his grace. May you
love him and serve him all your days, then in
heaven may you see his face.

Organ postlude: Choral in B minor
(Franck)

First Sunday of Lent

The Introductory Rites – Approaching the Holy with Humility

On the First Sunday of Lent, the Church brings us into the desert with Our Lord, where he fasts for forty days and faces temptation with unwavering obedience to his Father. The devil offers him comfort without sacrifice, influence without surrender, and satisfaction without trust, yet Christ refuses every shortcut and remains faithful. The desert reveals what truly governs the heart, because in silence and hunger, what we depend upon becomes clear.

That desert teaches us how to enter the Mass.

The Second Vatican Council reminds us that the sacred liturgy is “the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 10). If the Mass is both summit and source, then how we approach it cannot be casual or distracted. We are not attending a gathering; we are entering the saving action of Christ.

When we enter the church and bless ourselves with holy water, we recall our Baptism, the moment when we were claimed for Christ and marked as his own. When we genuflect before the tabernacle, we profess faith in what the Catechism teaches: “In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ... is truly, really, and substantially contained” (CCC 1374). We acknowledge that we stand in the presence of the living Lord.

The Introductory Rites gather us from the scattered realities of our week. Some come exhausted from work. Some carry tension in their marriage. Some are burdened by grief, illness, or financial worry. Others bring gratitude and joy. All of it is brought before God.

Then we enter the Penitential Act, and here Lent becomes deeply personal. Saint Augustine wrote, “The beginning of good works is the confession of evil works.” We name our sins honestly: impatience, neglect of prayer, harsh speech, selfish choices. The Catechism teaches that true repentance “entails sorrow for and abhorrence of sins committed” (CCC 1490). That sorrow is not despair; it is the doorway to mercy.

If we approach the Mass with humility, mercy opens our hearts. And that humility does not end when Mass ends. It shapes how we apologise at home, how we forgive at work, how we begin again after failure.

Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you who overcame temptation in the desert,
grant me the humility to approach your holy altar with reverence and honesty.
Help me to confess my sins sincerely and to trust completely in your mercy.
As I enter this sacred liturgy, gather my scattered heart and draw me near to you.
May your mercy renew me and strengthen me for faithful living.
Amen.*