



# Galway Cathedral Newsletter

15 March 2026  
Fourth Sunday of Lent

## CATHEDRAL NEWS

**St Patrick's Day** — Mass on Tuesday 17 March will be celebrated at 10:00am (not 11:00am) and 6:00pm.

**Hour of Prayer for World Peace**, and for all affected by civil unrest, takes place in the Cathedral tomorrow, 16 March, at 8:00pm.

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

**Youth 2000 Gathering** on Wednesday at 7:00pm.

**Trócaire Collection** — There is a second collection after communion at all masses today in aid of Trócaire; this is to allow those not using family fast boxes to contribute to Trócaire's work.

**Celebrations This Week** — Solemnity of St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (19 March); optional memorials of St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop & doctor of the Church (18 March), and St Enda, abbot (21 March).



### Lá Fhéile Pádraig • St Patrick's Day Tuesday 17 March

Mass on Monday at 6:00pm, and on Tuesday at 10:00am and 6:00pm.

*There is a special collection at all St Patrick's Day Masses in aid of migrant services.*

## OTHER NEWS

**Youth 2000 Day Retreat** on 25 April at Knock Shrine — details at [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) or contact [connaught@youth2000.ie](mailto:connaught@youth2000.ie).

### Cathedral Cleaning Team

The team of dedicated volunteers who clean the Cathedral every Thursday morning could use some new members. If you can give some time between 9:30am and 11:00am on a Thursday, please come along and grab a brush!

An **INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEM** for those using hearing aids is available throughout the Cathedral — please set your hearing aid to the "T" position.



## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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

|           |   |           |                                       |
|-----------|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Sat 6:00  | Brendan Collins                                   | Thur 6:00 | Malachy Daly                          |
| Sun 9:00  | Ellen & Patrick Morgan                            | Fri 11:00 | Timothy, Mary & Timothy Jnr O'Connell |
| 10:30     | Margaret Browne                                   | 6:00      | Golden Book of Remembrance            |
| 6:00      | Seán & Chrissie Scully                            | Sat 11:00 | Francis Mulcaire                      |
| Mon 11:00 | Teresa O'Brien                                    | 6:00      | John O'Donnell                        |
| 6:00      | Ann & Owen Heffernan                              | Sun 9:00  | Jim & Molly Walkin                    |
| Tue 6:00  | Betty & Cormac O'Neill                            | 10:30     | Burke & Rooney families               |
| Wed 11:00 | Big Pat, John, baby Joseph, Pat Martin & Tom Ward | 12:30     | Pat Drummond                          |
| 6:00      | Micheál Hanley                                    | 6:00      | Lawless & Hession families            |

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### Clergy

Mgr Peter Rabbitte  
Fr John Gerard Acton  
Fr Jijo Johney  
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](http://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)

Glory be to Jesus

Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains poured for me the life-blood from his sacred veins. Grace and life eternal in that blood I find: blessed by his compassion, infinitely kind. (...)

Ave verum corpus (Mozart)

Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, who truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for man; whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood, be for us a foretaste in the test of death.

Organ postlude: Prelude in B minor, BWV 544 (Bach)

Weekly music listings on the Cathedral website: [www.galwaycathedral.ie/music/listings](http://www.galwaycathedral.ie/music/listings)

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

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### The Offertory – Joining our Lives to the Sacrifice

Each of us approaches the altar with something real to give. Saint John Paul II taught that “The Mass makes present the sacrifice of the Cross” (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 12). When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, she does not recall Calvary as a distant memory; she stands within its saving mystery. For this reason, the Offertory carries profound meaning, for it gathers up the substance of our daily lives and places them within Christ’s sacrifice.

The bread and wine that are brought forward are described in the liturgy as “the fruit of the earth and work of human hands.” These words express far more than agricultural and human labour. In those simple gifts are contained long hours spent at work, the fidelity required in marriage, the patient care of children, the endurance borne in illness, and the perseverance demanded by strained relationships. Everything that fills our days - both burdens and blessings - is symbolically carried to the altar in those humble offerings.

At the same moment, the monetary collection is taken up. This action must be understood within its proper theological context. It is not a pause in prayer, nor an administrative necessity inserted into the liturgy. It belongs intrinsically to the Offertory and therefore to the act of worship itself. The financial gifts of the faithful are brought forward and placed near the altar because they are truly part of the offering made to God. They are given in union with the bread and wine, and through them, in union with Christ’s sacrifice.

These contributions sustain the visible and sacramental life of the parish. They provide for the maintenance of the church building, the heating and lighting that make communal worship possible, the care of sacred vessels and altar linens, the catechetical formation of children and adults, and the charitable works carried out in the name of Christ. They also meet the many practical needs that allow the sacramental life of the community to continue faithfully. The Church is spiritual in her origin and mission, yet she exists concretely in time and space. Her doors remain open because the faithful give generously.

When the priest invites the people to pray, saying, “Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,” he speaks with theological precision. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that the faithful “participate in the offering of the Eucharist” (CCC 1322). Through Baptism, we share in Christ’s priesthood and are therefore called to unite our own sacrifices to his.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux understood this deeply. She offered even the smallest acts of love in conscious union with Christ. In the same way, our fatigue, our disappointments, our hidden acts of charity, and our daily struggles are taken up and given new meaning when they are offered with Him. Nothing entrusted to the altar in faith is lost.

The Offertory therefore teaches a vital truth: the events of our week are not separate from divine worship. They are gathered, purified, and elevated within it. What we live each day is carried to the altar, and in Christ, it becomes an acceptable offering to the Father.

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus,*

*I place on this altar my work, my burdens, and my hidden sacrifices.*

*Unite them to your perfect offering.*

*Teach me to live each day as an offering of love,*

*so that nothing endured or accomplished is separated from you.*

*May my life become praise.*

*Amen.*