



Galway Cathedral Newsletter

22 March 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent

CATHEDRAL NEWS

Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony takes place at 3:00pm today in the Cathedral, with rosary, Benediction and consecration to Our Lady, followed by light refreshments.

Youth 2000 Gathering on Wednesday at 7:00pm.

Drop-In Bereavement Support, offered by the Cathedral Bethany Group, is available in the Tea Room on Thursday next, 26 March, between 7:00pm and 8:00pm.

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

The Offertory Collection last Sunday amounted to €3,074.91, and on St Patrick's Day it was €1,609.17. We are very grateful to all who continue to support the Cathedral.

Special Collections — A total of €2,898.75 was contributed to last Sunday's collection in aid of Trócaire, and €997.59 to the collection on St Patrick's Day in aid of emigrant services: sincere thanks for your response to both of these collections.

Celebrations This Week — Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (25 March); optional memorials of St Turibus of Mongrovejo, bishop (23 March), and St Macartan, bishop (24 March; a feast in the Diocese of Clogher).

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OTHER NEWS

Anam Cara, an organisation supporting bereaved parents, holds its monthly support evening on Wednesday 1 April at 7:30pm in the Maldron Hotel, Sandy Road, Galway. More information at www.anamcara.ie.

Catechism of the Catholic Church pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday 18 April, beginning at 11:00am and concluding with Mass and anointing of the sick at 3:00pm. The speaker and celebrant is Bishop John Keenan of the Diocese of Paisley (Scotland).

Autism NI, Northern Ireland's autism charity, holds its Colour Run on Sunday 26 April at Stormont Estate and is seeking volunteers on the day: contact.events@autismni.org if you can help.

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	John O'Donnell	6:00	Patrick Kelly
Sun 9:00	Jim & Molly Walkin	Thur 11:00	Mai Forristal
10:30	Burke & Rooney families	6:00	John Herrick
12:30	Pat Drummond	Fri 6:00	Golden Book of Remembrance
6:00	Lawless & Hession families	Sat 11:00	John Joe Waters
Mon 11:00	Tony O'Reilly	6:00	Peggy & Andrew Forde
6:00	Irene O'Byrne	Sun 9:00	Peggy & Joe Carroll
Tue 11:00	Geraldine Conroy	10:30	Mary Collins
6:00	Elizabeth Loughlin	6:00	Nora Hansberry; Hansberry family
Wed 11:00	Mary Treacy		

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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

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 bone Jesu (Palestrina)

O good Jesus, have mercy on us, for you have created us, you have redeemed us through your most precious blood.

Like as the hart (Howells)

Like as the hart desireth the water brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

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

Weekly music listings on the Cathedral website:
www.galwaycathedral.ie/music/listings

Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Eucharistic Prayer – Kneeling at the Heart of the Mystery

The Catechism teaches with precision, “The Eucharist is thus a sacrifice because it re-presents (makes present) the sacrifice of the cross” (CCC 1366). The Church does not repeat the sacrifice of Christ; she enters into it. During the Eucharistic Prayer, time and eternity meet. The Church stands at the center of salvation history because the one sacrifice of Christ, offered once for all, becomes sacramentally present upon the altar.

The Holy Spirit is invoked in the epiclesis. The priest speaks the words of Christ himself: “This is my Body... This is the chalice of my Blood.” By the power of the Spirit and the efficacy of Christ’s words, the substance of bread and wine is changed into the substance of his Body and Blood. This is the doctrine of transubstantiation, solemnly defined by the Church and confessed across the centuries by the saints. The outward appearances remain, yet the underlying reality is wholly transformed. Jesus Christ is truly, really, and substantially present.

Saint Padre Pio expressed this truth with striking clarity when he said, “It would be easier for the world to exist without the sun than without the Holy Mass.” The Mass is the heart of the Church because it is Christ himself who acts. When we kneel, we do so because we are spiritually present at Calvary. We are not observers of a memory; we are participants in a living sacrifice. The Cross is not multiplied, yet its saving power is made present here and now.

This mystery changes how we understand our own suffering. The crosses we carry – illness, misunderstanding, temptation, grief – are not isolated burdens. When united consciously to Christ’s sacrifice, they are taken up into his offering to the Father. In him, suffering is given redemptive meaning. In him, nothing borne in love is lost.

Pope Francis has described the Eucharist as “a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.” We approach the altar not because we are strong, but because we are in need. The Eucharist sustains us precisely in our frailty. It is Christ who feeds us with himself so that we may endure, forgive, and hope.

To kneel in faith, then, is an act of surrender and confidence. It is to place every wound, every anxiety, every hidden struggle within the redeeming love of Christ made present on the altar. We stand around the table, yet we stand at the Cross. He is not distant. He is here.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

truly present in the Most Holy Eucharist,

increase my faith in this sacred mystery.

As I kneel before you, unite my sufferings and sacrifices to yours.

Strengthen me with your Body and Blood,

and send me forth renewed to live faithfully each day.

Amen.