

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE CATHEDRAL THIS WEEK**

**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Mon. 10am** Martin Fahy  
**Tues. 11am** Personal Intention  
**Wed. 11am** Alice Fahy  
**Thurs. 11am** People of the Parish  
**Fri. 11am** Thomas Scully  
**Sat. 11am** Elizabeth & John Lambert  
**Sun. 10am** Teresa Moran

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**12noon** Anna & Albert Grant  
**8pm** No Evening Mass  
**8pm** Fr John Higgins  
**8pm** Edward McKeon  
**8pm** Sadie Griffin MM  
**8pm** Mamie & Martin O'Regan  
**12noon** Cyril Connaughton

**No evening Mass in the Cathedral Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> December (St Stephen's Day) and Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018**

**Chapel of Adoration closed on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve and Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day.**

<b><u>Ministers of the Word</u></b>	<b><u>Ministers of the Eucharist</u></b>
Sat. 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 8pm Mary Nix Sun. 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 12noon Anna Cronin	Sat. 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 8pm M. Doyle, M. Murphy Sun. 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 10am M. Joyce Sun. 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 12noon A. Gardiner, E. McKiernan, P. O'Sullivan
<b><u>Mass Server</u></b>	<b><i>Cathedral Collections:</i></b>
Team D Sat. 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 8pm Team E Sun. 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 10am Team F Sun. 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 12noon	<b><i>Offertory: €1,080</i></b>

**Baptisms:** Please welcome into God's family Liam O'Connor & Odhran O'Connor, Carrabane, Athenry and Benjamin Nolan, Belcare, Tuam.

**R.I.P.** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christy Kelly, Pinewood Crescent and formerly E & C Kelly, General Merchants, Dunkellin Street, Loughrea and Vincent Shields, Athenry, late of Lake Road, Loughrea.

**Christmas Mass Times in the Cathedral**

**Christmas Eve, Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.**  
8pm & 12 midnight

**Christmas Day, Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.**  
10.00am & 12 noon

**Tues. 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. St. Stephen's Day**  
11am.

**No evening Mass**

**Christmas Mass Times in the Abbey**

**Christmas Eve, Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.**  
9am, 11am & 9pm Vigil Christmas Mass  
**No 6pm Mass**

**Christmas Day, Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.**  
9.00am & 11.00am  
**No 6pm Mass**

**Tues. 26<sup>th</sup> St. Stephen's Day**  
10.00am

**Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8am, 10am**



**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
25th December 2017**

**The Presbytery 091 – 841212  
The Abbey 091 – 841209  
Website – loughreacathedral.ie**

***Christmas 2017***

St Matthew's Gospel introduces the story of the birth of Jesus Christ with the words, ***"This is how Jesus Christ came to be born"*** (Matthew 1:18). We are all familiar with the account of the birth of Christ. We hear it at Mass and during the Christmas season it is dramatised with excitement by groups of children all over the world. So we all know how it happened, the fact of the event. However why it happened, the motive behind the fact is the real cause of our joy and the source of our celebration. In St John's Gospel we read; ***"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life"*** (John 3:16). God consecrated human life through the Incarnation, the Word made flesh. He shared our human nature and thereby sanctified human life and made us sharers in his Divine nature.

We believe that the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the goodwill that is part of the Christmas season stems from God's goodwill towards humanity. It is a celebration of Jesus the Son of God coming into the world as the complete incarnation of goodness. The giving and receiving of gifts has greatest expression in God's gift to us through the person of Jesus who came ***"that we may have life and have it to the full."*** (John 10:10)

At this time of year people celebrate for all sorts of reasons. Make your celebration of Christmas an occasion of thanksgiving to God for the gift of life and the gift of Jesus in your life. Take care of yourself and of each other. Keep goodwill at the heart of your celebration of Christmas. Look out for each other and help those who are less fortunate. Remember that the best present you can give to someone is the gift of yourself and of your time. Make time for each other. Mend what can be mended and appreciate the good in others. Never underestimate the benefit you can bring into your own life and into the life of another by carrying out little acts of kindness. Make time for a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus as you celebrate his birth.

*Monsignor Cathal Geraghty, P.P.*

***Happy Christmas from Bishop Kirby,  
Monsignor Cathal, Fr Sean, Fr Augustine, Fr Aidan  
and the Priests of the Carmelite Abbey.***

**Trócaire's Christmas Appeal "In love there is no room for fear, but perfect love drives out fear..." *John 4:18*.** Trócaire's Christmas Appeal, 'Until Love Conquers Fear', is raising money to support people all over the developing world who face fear every day of their lives – like the fear of not being able to feed their children or the fear of having to flee their homes because of conflict. To find out more about the appeal visit [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

**Silent Retreat-** Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius at the Alexian Brothers Monastery, Knock, for women aged 18 years and up. From Dec. 28th to Jan. 1st. Places are limited. Book early. For details, contact 085-8235525.

**Accord Ballinasloe** Marriage and Relationship Counselling service available & affordable to all. For appt. email:[ballinasloeaccord@eircom.net](mailto:ballinasloeaccord@eircom.net) /0909643573

**Aware** is currently recruiting volunteers across four support services – Support Line, Support Mail, Support & Self Care Groups and Life Skills Online. No prior qualifications/experience required. For info. [aware.ie/volunteer/01-6617211](http://aware.ie/volunteer/01-6617211)

**Loughrea Lions Club** Fun/walk St. Stephen's Day in aid of the Christmas Food Appeal. Starting at 12noon at AIB on Main St. with refreshments and a draw for spot prizes afterwards in the Temperance Hall. All donations gratefully accepted and all money raised is spent locally.

**Pieta House Wren Run** St. Stephen's Day 11am in Woodford, Registration from 10am. Terrific prizes to be won by JUST registering, either on the day or online at [thepietahousewrenrun@gmail.com](mailto:thepietahousewrenrun@gmail.com) . Some Galway hurlers will be in attendance with Liam McCarthy from 9.45am-11am. Contact Roderick @ 087-9925624 for details.

**The World Meeting of Families 2018** will attract thousands of Irish and International pilgrims. Organising it and seeing it through will only be possible with the help of thousands of volunteers. Why not make volunteering for WMOF2018 a New Year's resolution. To sign up [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie), email [volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie](mailto:volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie) or call 01-5676800

**Carmelite Abbey** Workshop on Authentic and Respectful Self-Assertiveness. 3 Monday nights, January 29<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Register by January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Enquiries contact Mary Silke, PRH Educator 090 6624937

**The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Mummers Festival** takes place in New Inn Leisure Centre Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. at 7pm. A great night of traditional entertainment is guaranteed.

**"The Wren is Rising"** takes place in Woodford St. Stephen's Day from 2-8pm. This is a free traditional Irish music event! All lovers of Traditional Irish music and musicians looking to play a few tunes are most welcome! For details, contact [087-9925624](tel:087-9925624).

**Study Hub Loughrea:** January 2nd-6th Intensive Courses for Leaving and Junior Certs in Maths, French and Irish. Small group sizes and three hours per subject per day. Contact Breda at 086-3792360.

**Lost** Engagement ring. If found please contact Parish Office on 091 841212.

**Set-Dancing Classes** Family Resource Centre, Thurs. 6.30-8pm-Children, 8.30-11pm Adults. Children advance class Fri. 6-7.30pm. All welcome. Call Bridie @ 087 6202451 after 5pm.

**Sean Nós Dancing** in the Family Resource Centre. Phone Bernie @ 086-3731547  
**Yoga Classes** L'rea Youth Theatre, Mon. & Thurs. 8pm. Call Julia: 086-2608039  
**Hurling Club Lotto** Winning numbers: 8, 20, 22, 30. One match three winner. Next jackpot is €5,300 on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018

## Temperance Hall Events

**Loughrea Rugby Club** Bingo every Friday night @ 8pm. Jackpot €10,000 plus huge cash prizes. Comp tea, coffee. A great night out for all the family.

**Loughrea Bingo** Fridays @ 8.30pm. Christmas jackpot €10,000 in 46 numbers for next 3 Fridays. Free entry to Christmas draw with every book purchased.

**Loughrea Activity Assoc:** Wish all their members a happy and peaceful Christmas. Next Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. Bowling: Monday 1.30-3.30pm, Tuesday 11am-1pm.

**Loughrea Anglers Association** AGM Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at 8pm.

**Line Dancing Classes** 2018 Line Dancing Classes, Tea Room, Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> January. Absolute beginners at 7pm established class at 8pm. Everyone welcome. Sean Casey 087 9761692.

**Karate Classes:** Beginners & members- Mon. & Wed. 7.30-9pm. Ladies, gents and children over 8 years of age are welcome.

**Dance Aerobic Classes:** Every Tues., 7.30pm. 087-9379563. Pay as you go!

**Power Soccer** Every Saturday.

**Fraughen School Of Irish Dancing** Monday & Friday, juniors 5-6pm, seniors 6-7pm. Adult class Tues. 7.30pm. Class also in St Ita's school Wed. 3-4pm.

**Whist** every Thurs. in the Supper Room @ 8pm. New members welcome.

**Parent and Toddler** – Every Wed. 10am-12pm. €3 per family. All are welcome.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE CARMELITE ABBEY THIS WEEK

Please note 8am Mass Intentions are now in Mount Carmel

<u>The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ</u>	<u>Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December</u>
<b>Mon. 9am</b> Elwood & Kelly families	<b>11am</b> Lizzie Moran & Lilly Burke
	<b>No 6pm Mass</b>
<b>Tues. 8am</b> Michael & Mary Newell	<b>10am</b> Sarah Loughrey
<b>Wed. 8am</b> Joe & Bridie Farrell	<b>10am</b> Mr & Mrs Paddy Loughnane
<b>Thurs. 8am</b> Special Intention	<b>10am</b> Ciss & Dermot Sweeney & family decd.
<b>Fri. 8am</b> John Mongan	<b>10am</b> May Callanan
<b>Sat. 8am</b> Mary Keane	<b>10am</b> Patrick Burke
<b>Sun. 9am</b> Paddy & Mary Coy	<b>11am</b> William Loughnane
	<b>6pm</b> Bill Reynolds and Reynolds & Casey families deceased

**Bethany Bereavement Group**  
087-2109396

**Society of St Vincent de Paul**  
086-0551134