

NEWSLETTER

14 December, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Gaudete Sunday

REJOICE IN THE NEARNESS OF THE LORD



The third Sunday in Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. It takes its name from the Latin word "Gaudete" meaning "Rejoice". In the midst of Advent's penitential and prayerful waiting, the church pauses to remind us that our anticipation is filled with joy, for the coming of Christ is close at hand. In this Jubilee Year, the Church's call to rejoice takes on an even deeper meaning. Gaudete Sunday reminds us of our call to rejoice in the Lord in the midst of Advent. Even when life is heavy with trials, burdens, or unanswered prayers, we still can rejoice because the Lord is near.

OUR JOY IS ROOTED IN CHRIST

To prevent the faithful from becoming weary, the Church inserted this Sunday of joy as a reminder that our waiting is filled with hope. We are invited, to ask ourselves, where do I find my joy? If Christ is the reason for our joy, nothing can take it away from us. Jesus said, "Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (Jn 16:22)

BECOME MESSENGERS OF JOY

In the Gospel, we meet John the Baptist in prison, struggling with doubt. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come?" Instead of giving a direct answer, Jesus points to the signs, the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the poor have the good news preached to them. Jesus reveals that joy is found not in explanations, but in god's saving action. Even in prison, John is invited to trust and rejoice in God's unfolding plan. This resonates with our own lives. When we face confusion or doubt, God calls us to look at the signs of His love and rejoices in His presence. Joy is found not in knowing all the answers, but in trusting and witnessing God's work in our lives. This is Advent's invitation to rejoice not because everything makes sense, but because God is coming to save us. When Jesus says "Go and tell John what you hear and see" (Mt 11:4). He's inviting John's disciples to observe God's works and become messengers of Joy.

It is also our Christian vocation to become a messenger of joy. We become messengers of joy when our lives reflect the presence of Christ in the world. Rooted in His love, we allow his grace to transform our hearts so that even in struggles, fear, or uncertainty, our hope and peace shine through. Like John the Baptist pointing to Jesus, we witness God's saving action by noticing His work in our lives and sharing it with others, through words of encouragement, acts of kindness, patience in trials, and forgiveness. Joy is not merely a feeling but a gift we live and give, showing others that the Lord is near and inviting them to share in the hope, healing, and love that only Christ can bring. May the joy we find in Christ keep us rejoicing in all the circumstances of our lives.

Mass Times

Church of Our Lady, Roslevan

Daily Mass Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.30am Saturday Vigil Mass: 6pm

St. Brecan's Church, Doora

Sunday: 9.45am

Immaculate Conception, Barefield

Sunday 11.15am Tuesday 9.30am

www.doorabarefieldparish.ie/webcam

Contacts

Fr. Tom Fitzpatrick, P.P. Tel. 087 272 0187

Doora Barefield Parish Office, 3 The Woods, Cappahard, Tulla Rd., Ennis

Cora, Parish Office - Tel. 065 6822225; Opening Hours: Mon & Tues: 9am-5pm; Wed: 9am-1pm

Email: info@doorabarefieldparish.ie Website: www.doorabarefieldparish.ie

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/doorabarefieldparish.

www.doorabarefieldparish.ie

Priest on Duty 14th December, 2025 2025 Contact Fr. Ger Jones - Tel. 065 6869098

Remembered in Masses this week

CHURCH OF OUR LADY

13th Dec: John French, The Woods & Kilmurry.

Carmel Devane, The Lane, Newpark.

18th Dec: Ellen Fitzgerald, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick.

20th Dec: Tommy Kearney, Roslevan.

ST. BRECAN'S CHURCH

14th Dec: Denny Vaughan, Knockanean.

Brendan Molloy, Moyriesk.

21st Dec: Margaret McMahon, Ballyglass.

Frank O'Connor, Kilbricken. Thomas & Josephine Heffernan & John McInerney, Noughaval

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, BAREFIELD

14th Dec: Mary & Jimmy Whelan, Barefield.

Joe Conlon, Ballymacon. Claire Curran, Drumgrannagh,.

Margaret Quinn & Aoife Loughnane, Ballycarroll.

Nuala Teasdale (nee Fitzgerald), Leeds & Clonkerry, Barefield

21st Dec: Whelan Family, Larchill. Megan Malone, Ballyduff.

9.30am Mass each Tuesday in Barefield Church. Novena Mass in Church of Our Lady each Monday.

Finance Development Fund 7th December, 2025

Barefield €212

Doora: €120

Church of Our Lady: €260 Development Fund: €1,347

Míle buiochas

REST IN PEACE

Remember in your prayers

Patsy Cawley,

Shanaway Road.

Nancy Cosgrove, Drumcliffe Rd.,

Mother of Maria Boque, Ballymacuiggin.

Paddy Purcell,

Shannon, Father of Joe Purcell, The Hazels, Oakleigh Wood.

Johnny Flynn,

Knockaclara, Barefield & Annacotty, Limerick.

Now in God's Hands. Forever in Our Hearts



Ministers of Eucharist & Readers



This week:

COur Lady DLeahy/SGiller Seamus Hanrahan Doora: Seán Conlan Noreen O'Connor Barefield: CDeLoughery/MClohessy Tommy Duggan

Next Week:

COur Lady: DLeahy/SGiller Jimmy O'Loughlin Doora: Maria Considine Orla Barry Barefield: JDevitt/MWhyte Maeve O'Donnell

Church of Our Lady Basket Collector

13th December: JReynolds & JO'Connor 20th Dec: PPerrill & HHerlihy

Doora Sacristan Rota

14th December Cora Burke 21st Dec: Mary Hallinan

Christmas Reconciliation Service



We wait in joyful hope

On this Monday 15th December. the Abbey Pastoral Area will hold it's Annual Advent Reconciliation Service with the opportunity for individual confession in the Cathedral at 7.30pm. An ideal Spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Individual Confession in the Parish as follows: Barefield Friday: 19th 7pm Doora Monday: 22nd 7pm Church of Our Lady Roslevan Tuesday: 23rd 7pm

Mass Readers are asked to collect from the Sacristy a St. Paul Sunday Missal for 2026.



Thank you for your co-operation.



Carol Service and Nativity Play at Church of the Immaculate Conception, Barefield on Thursday 18th December at 6.15pm. Visit by Santa. Collection for Clare Crusaders.

Employability Clare

If you have a health condition, disability or any extra support needs and would like some help to find work, Employability Clare can assist you. For further information, contact our main office (065) 6844007 / 087-0621163 or email mariek@employabilityclare.ie Website: www.employabilityclare.ie



Cantare Choir & Festival Orchestra Christmas
Concert at Ennis Cathedral on 19th December at
8pm Tickets €20 available from Glor Box Office 065
6843103 or from www.glor.ie In support of the
Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust. In loving memory of
Olivia Tuohy

Maranatha Christmas Retreat from 2pm - 4pm at Cloughleigh Church, Ennis on Sunday, 14th December. Bishop Fintan will celebrate Mass at 3 pm. All welcome.

2026 PARISH DONATION BOXES

Parish donation boxes for 2026 are now available for collection in the porches of our three churches from this weekend onwards. Please collect your donation box as soon as possible.

We appeal for your co-operation in distributing the boxes. There may be parishioners who are unable to attend mass and we would ask you to deliver their boxes where possible. You might kindly also deliver to neighbours.

Please note that box numbers have changed this year. We ask you therefore to start using your 2026 box on 1st January. Please do not use older envelopes

If any parishioner would like an annual box please contact Cora in the Parish Office during office hours and a box will be issued to you. Alternatively you can donate securely on line on our parish website

www.doorabarefieldparish.ie/donate

We are very grateful for your ongoing generosity to our Parish and thank you wholeheartedly for your co-operation in distributing these boxes which are an important part of the income for our parish going forward.

Crib Display at Ennis Library

Catherine Ryan, Tulia Rd., will display her impressive personal collection of cribs, from around the world, in the new Ennis Library on Saturday December 20th from 11am to 4pm. All are welcome. Donations if desired to Children's Health Foundation – Crumlin Hospital

Thank you from Door Charity Tractor Run

Thank you from Doora Charity Tractor Run for helping to raise €7,300 this year for Slainte an Chlair & Milford Care Centre.

In the last 10 years over €72,000 was raised for various charities. Thank you for your support & generosity.

-Gaudete Sunday A Prayer of Hope



Lord God, we are determined
to be people of faith, to share with all,
your gospel of hope, love and grace.
Yet, it is hard to remain hopeful in a world
that is broken and failing.
It is hard to be filled with love for the other
when loss and fear suffocates us and them.
And how can there be grace
when hate buries love?

And yet, you call us to rejoice.
And so, we remember
that no matter how dark the present hour, you are with us.
Your mighty arm protects us, your spirit fills us.
You will never forget or forsake us.
This we know: even in the absence of all other hope or love, you are with us. Emmanuel.
And so, rejoice we shall,
no matter what rages around or against or within us.
Our souls shall magnify you O Lord,
for you are with us,
even when all else that we trust is gone.

Lord, we gather here
so that the fire you have planted in each of us
will strengthen and grow:
becoming a mighty flame that brings hope
where there is none, encouraging love to grow
where it has too long been gone,
and extinguishing fear in the hearts of all.
We rejoice in each other.
We rejoice in our faith.
And, we rejoice in your presence
here this morning.
In all things we shall rejoice, Amen.

The Friendly Fox Forest School Open Day at Lees Road Park,
Ennis on Sunday 14th December 10am to 12 noon. Limited
places. Book your free place today. Drop in anytime. Stay as long
as you like. Low Ropes, nature crafts, Stories and songs,
Hammocks, games, cooking on fire.
Family Friendly event. Entry Free.
Donations welcome. Book at www.the feedingtree.ie.

Doora Barefield GAA Lotto

Next weeks Jackpot: €9,600

Venue: Clubhouse,

Winners of €50

Lianda D'Auria, Ballyhannon,

Margaret Hackett, Barefield,

Greg Lyons,

Felix McArdle

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Today's Scripture Readings

Entrance Antiphon Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

PENITENTIAL RITE

- P. Have mercy on us, O Lord
- C. For we have sinned against you.
- P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
- C. And grant us your salvation.
- P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
- C. Amen.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 35:1-6.10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,

let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonguil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid'. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you'. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Response: Come, Lord and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, The Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,

who raises up those who are bowed down.

the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign forever, Zion's God, from age to age.

A reading from the letter of St. James Jm 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mathew Mt 11:2-11
John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving,

Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; vet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ. the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day In accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Communion Antiphon
Say to the faint of heart:
Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us