

**Parish Office: Dún na Rí, Shannon. Tel 061 364133/Fax 061 364516**  
*Office hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9.30am-5.30pm (lunch hour 12.30pm-1.30pm), Thursdays 9am-1pm*

**Fáilte – Welcome – Witamy – Bienvenue – Willkomen – Benvenuto – Bienvenido – Witajcie – Bemvindo – Welkom – Velkomin – Vitejte – Croeso - Valkommen – Tervetuloa – Ibiana**

**Sunday Masses:** 8.45 at Airport Oratory 9am, 11am at Mary Immaculate Church 10am, 12.15pm at SS John & Paul Church

**Weekday Masses:** 9.30am at Mary Immaculate 10am at Skycourt Adoration Chapel 7pm at SS John & Paul **Saturday** 12 noon at Mary Immaculate, 6.30pm at SS John & Paul

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009

### The Third Sunday of Advent - Year of Luke



Last Sunday's Collection: €3,066  
Goradiche Orphanage: €430  
Fr. Colm Mission Fund: €120  
Adoration Chapel Appeal: €1,250

### \*WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANTHONY\*

9.30am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church every Tuesday.

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

*Feast of St. Flannan, Patron of the Diocese.*

### First Anniversary Mass

Sunday next at 11am for Gretta McDonagh, Corrib Drive and Mike Webb, Fearnog & Sixmilebridge.

### Adoration Chapel

On Tuesday last 8<sup>th</sup> December, the Adoration Chapel in Skycourt was officially opened and blessed by Bishop Walsh. We thank the owners and Management of Skycourt, Shannon Development and the people of our Parish who have made this dream become a reality. The Parish has invested over €70,000 so far in furnishings and new equipment for the Oratory and we thank Parishioners who have made contributions and donated money in memory of loved ones.

*The Chapel is open Monday to Friday from 10am until 9pm with Mass each day at 10am, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9pm. If you would like to spend one hour in prayer in the Oratory, please give your name to one of the Priests.*

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve at 6.30pm in Mary Immaculate Church

Christmas Day at 10am in SS John & Paul Church



**Flood Crisis Concert** at Ennis Cathedral on Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm – Kate Purcell and guests present the 'Mystery of Christmas' – an uplifting night of song, music and reflection. Tickets available from Clare FM and on the night. Please Support.

### The Giving Tree



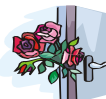
As part of our Advent preparation, both Churches have Advent Jesse Trees or Giving Trees. If you would like to donate non-perishable food for the poor, please leave it at the tree. St. Vincent de Paul will use the food as part of the Christmas hampers.

### Christmas Carol Service

The choir of Mary Immaculate Church will hold their annual Christmas Carol Service on this Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in Mary Immaculate church. A cup of tea/coffee will be available in the Jubilee Chapel. All are welcome. SS John & Paul Church will have a Carol Service on Monday December 21<sup>st</sup>. More details next week.

### Flowers for Christmas

If you wish to donate flowers for Churches (or cash donations in lieu) for Christmas, please contact our Sacristans during the week.



**The Alzheimer Society Annual Sponsored Burren Walk** will take place on Sunday 3rd January 2010 at 12.30pm, starting and finishing at O'Donoghue's Pub in Fanore. Refreshments and entertainment after the walk. Sponsorship cards are now available from Unit 17 Clonroad Business Park, Ennis. Tel: 065 6868621 or 065 6845835.

### GORADICHE GIFT TOKENS

Once again, we have available for Christmas, Goradiche Gift Tokens in lieu of Christmas gifts. All proceeds go towards the Orphanage in Belarus which was our Jubilee 2000 Project. Every year since, volunteers from our Parish have visited and worked with the children in the new and improved facility, thanks to the generosity of Shannon people, who raised over a quarter of a million Euro in the year 2000 to help transform the Orphanage. A minimum of €10 is expected for each gift token, available in the Parish Office or in the Sacristy

## Parish Notices

**St. Joseph's  
Young Priests' Society**  
Monthly meeting this Monday  
December 14<sup>th</sup>  
after 7pm Mass at  
SS John & Paul Church.

**Lectio Divina**  
The final session of this  
Advent's Lectio Divina –  
The Sacred Reading of Scripture –  
will take place on Tuesday at  
10.30am in The Jubilee Chapel  
of Mary Immaculate Church.

### Sunday Missals 2010

Sunday Missals are now available in the Parish Office or in the Sacristy after Mass. At just €7, an ideal Christmas gift!

### Why Tinsel on the Christmas Tree?

When Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were leaving Bethlehem, Joseph was warned in a dream not to return home but to go to Egypt because Herod had ordered the death of all boys under the age of two in order to ensure the destruction of the Infant King.

On the way, they became tired and stopped in a cave to rest and to keep warm since it was very cold and the ground was covered in frost.

Legend has it that a little spider saw the infant Jesus and wanted to do something to help. The only thing it could do was to spin a web across the entrance to the cave. The web provided a little curtain. Later in the evening, when Herod's soldiers came in search of children to kill, they came across the cave and were about to enter when they saw the spider's web. Because it was unbroken, they believed that nobody could be in the cave because to enter the cave, the web would have been broken. The soldiers went on their way and the Holy Family were saved.

This is why today we put tinsel on the Christmas tree as it represents the little spider's web, sparkling with frost stretched across the cave at Christmas time all those years ago.