

FROM THE PARISH

Parish Office: All Anniversary Masses are to be booked through the parish office Monday—Friday 9am to 5pm **071 9162670**.

First Friday Calls: If anyone would like to receive a house call on the First Friday of each month, please kindly contact the Parish Office on **071 9162670**.

Parish Shop: The Parish Shop in the Gillooly Hall is open on Saturdays from 11am to 2pm.

You can also scan the QR Code to make a donation.

Thank you for your on going contributions, we deeply appreciate your continued Financial support.

Tap & Go System at the back of the Cathedral for donations.



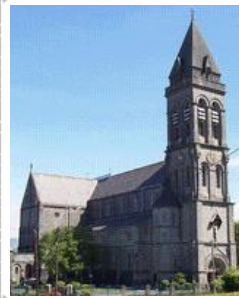
FROM THE DIOCESE

Pastoral Message from Bishop Kevin Bishop Kevin has issued a pastoral message with an update for parishioners on the amalgamation of our two dioceses of Achonry and Elphin. While much good work has been done throughout 2025, there is still a good deal that needs to be done from both a practical and pastoral point of view. The work in which we are engaged is God's work and the only way we can achieve what He wants is by listening to His Word in our hearts and by asking for the guidance of His Spirit. You can pick up a copy of the pastoral message at the back of the church or read online at www.elphindiocese.ie

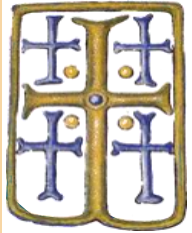
Rediscover the Bible – www.rediscoverthebible.ie Rediscover the Bible in 2026 – **Venue: Summerhill College, Sligo.** Every Tuesday evening beginning 3rd February and ending on 24th March – 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Led by Deacon Frank McGuinness. Cost: €100. Price includes a free Bible and resource kit. This is an opportunity for anyone who would like to get more comfortable reading, understanding, and praying the Bible. The course will help you navigate and understand the big picture of salvation, and get familiar with the Bible's major themes, people, and covenants. Booking essential. Places limited. Please contact Frank on 087 9880690 or at frankmcguinness@hotmail.com or visit www.rediscoverthebible.ie to book your place. Let the Word of God transform your life!

Becoming Catholic

The Catholic Church always welcomes those interested in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic and those who have yet to complete their Christian Initiation. The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process by which people enter into the fullness of the Catholic Faith through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. To learn more, visit <https://www.elphindiocese.ie/becoming-catholic/>



CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SLIGO NEWSLETTER Sunday 4th January 2026



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



CATHEDRAL MASS TIMES

Monday—Thursday 8.00am & 10.30am

Friday & Saturday 10.30am & 7.00pm

Saturday Vigil Mass at 7pm

Sunday at 8.30am, 10.30am, 12 Noon & 7pm

Confessions Saturday 2pm-4pm

Tap and Go System now operational at the back of the Cathedral.

Please take both the newsletter and missalette home. Thank you.

TODAY - Second Sunday of Christmas

THE EPIPHANY

In the very early Church there were only two Holy Days of Obligation: one was Easter, the other was the **Feast of the Epiphany**. Even today in Spanish-speaking countries, the Epiphany is celebrated more than Christmas. And it is not only because it is the day that people exchange gifts reflecting the gifts brought by the three Wise Men! I say three wise men, because tradition has it that there are three, but it doesn't specify.

Why is the Epiphany such a pivotal Feast Day for us? I think the reason lies in the fact that the three Wise Men were **not** Jewish: they were Gentiles. Their background is rather mysterious. They come from an unknown location; Matthew just tells us they are from "the East." They are often called Magi, which derives from the Greek word, μάγος (magos). Although we translate it as "wise men," it is also the root for the word "**magic**," and is even used in the Old Testament for sorcerers, tricksters, charlatans or conjurers. However, the Persian word **magus**, for powerful, is close to it, and the Three Wise Men may have possibly been Zoroastrians from Persia. It was also used in the Old Testament in a more positive way, of divinisation, or those who could discern the will of God, someone who was in touch with the supernatural, in touch with God. People who were in touch with God are those who pray and communicate with God, something we all do, but they did this especially well. When the King of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar [Daniel 2:1] had a disturbing dream he summoned magi to help him interpret for his dream. Some people translate the word as "astrologers," or people that could look into the skies and see the future. Astrology has a negative connotation today; most of us don't place too much weight on the astrology predictions that tell us our future based on our horoscope in the back of the newspapers. Indeed, Pope Benedict XVI wrote that the art astrology ended with the Three Wise Men. Their looking into the skies and divining the will of God, led them to the truth, to the light, that being the baby Jesus. There is no need to try to figure out the truth or the future when we have the fullness of the truth. They found it in the person of Jesus and they paid him homage.

It is important to note that the three wise men all had **three important features**, namely: 1) being in touch with their environment, which is God's creation, 2) being in touch with God through prayer, and 3) determined to do the will of God. And these Three Wise Men, were not God's Chosen people, these were not from the royal race, these were not a people set apart. The Jewish leaders knew from the great prophet Isaiah that their Saviour was to be born in Bethlehem. The Three Wise Men didn't follow the Torah. But that did not stop them loving God and loving his creation. It was through God's very creation, through the universe of stars, they found their way to the Child Jesus.

Picture on Front Page: Adoration of the Magi by Henri Lehmann (1854)

Before Epiphany, Monday 5th January

8am Mass: David Best (Anniversary)

10.30am Mass: Patrick & Mary Watters (Anniversary)

This week's Newsletter
is not sponsored

Tuesday 6th January

The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)

Holyday of Obligation in Ireland

8am Mass

10.30am Mass

7pm Mass

After Epiphany, Wednesday 7th January

St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest (Optional Memorial)

8am Mass: Special Intention

10.30am Mass: Mary Donoghue (First Anniversary)

After Epiphany, Thursday 8th January

8am Mass: Special Intention

10.30am Mass: Mary Jane Healy (Anniversary)

After Epiphany, Friday 9th January

10.30am Mass: Michael Mc Keever & Una Corrigan (Anniversary)

7.00pm Mass: Special Intention

After Epiphany, Saturday 10th January

10.30am Mass: Andrea Deavins (Month's Mind)

7.00pm Mass

Sunday Readings for 11th January
1st Reading: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; 2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38;
Gospel: Mt 3:13-17.

REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are kindly asked for the repose of the souls of:

Jim Henry, Eamon Scanlon.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM ETERNAL REST IN HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM, AND COMFORT AND
CONSOLE THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

Parish Office Hours

Monday to Thursday: 9:30am-5pm & Friday: 9:30am-4pm 071 9162670

**If you would like to donate to the Cathedral Parish please make cheques payable
to the following A.I.B. bank account:**

Elphin Diocese Cathedral No.1 Parish account.

THANK YOU for your support of our Parish and Cathedral.