

FROM THE PARISH

'Meeting Christ in and through St. Matthew's Gospel Part II' You are invited to join our parish scripture group for one hour on six consecutive Thursday mornings (after the 10.30am Mass) in St. Mary's Presbytery (F91KTX2) beginning Thursday 19th February. More details @ www.elphindiocese.ie/matthew Newcomers welcome on a 'come and see' basis.

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.

Sunday Collection: Income 1st February - €3,106

Parish Expenditure - €14,178 (Heating oil €3,603)

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

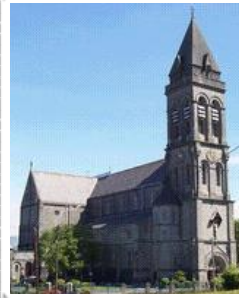
Healthcare Chaplain – Part Time: The Diocese of Elphin, contracted to provide a Chaplaincy Service for Sligo University Hospital, wishes to appoint an experienced Healthcare Chaplain (part-time, 16 hours per week) to join the Chaplaincy team at the hospital. For details regarding job description and application procedure, log onto www.elphindiocese.ie. Closing date for applications: 5pm this Tuesday 10th February 2026.

Eucharistic Healing Service: Takes place on Monday 9th February at 7:30pm in Our Lady Star of the Sea Public Oratory, Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo, F91 CC98. Led by Deacon Frank McGuinness and Louise McGuinness. Free Event. All Welcome! The Healing Service takes place on the second Monday of each month – upcoming dates for 2026 are: March 9th; April 13th.

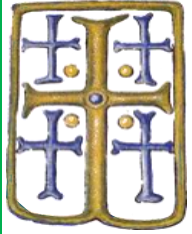
Faith & Fun Club: Achonry & Elphin dioceses' 'Come, Follow Me' Faith & Fun Club Info. & Training Gathering will take place in Summerhill College Sligo on eve of Fri. 27th and during day of Sat. 28th Feb. All interested in faith development of children 7 – 11 years are encouraged to read more @ www.elphindiocese.ie/cfm . Places limited. Early booking advised.

Way of Gentleness: Lenten Faith Enrichment Journey will take place in St. Patrick's Church Strandhill, 8pm – 9 pm on Mondays Feb. 23rd, Mar. 2nd, 9th and 23rd. Participate in person or via the internet @ www.churchservices-stpatricksstrandhill . All welcome.

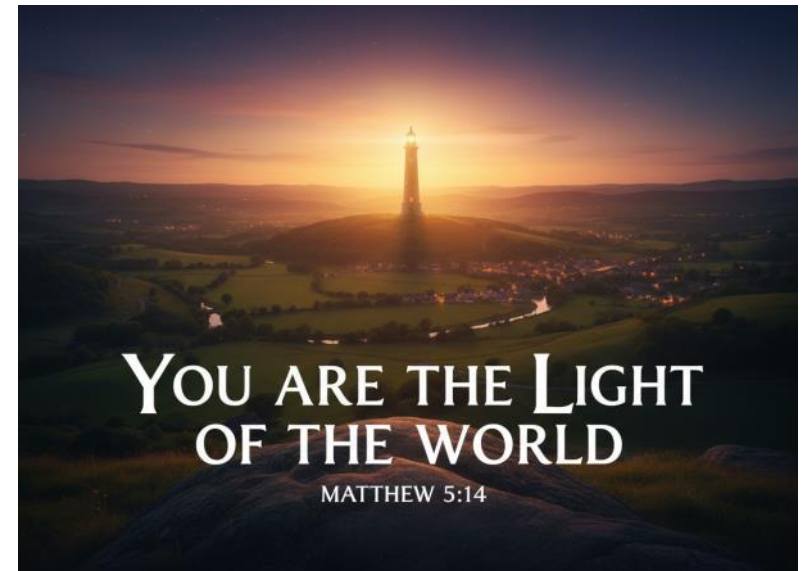
Annual Triduum in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes: Takes place at Holy Cross Friary, Sligo from Monday February 9th until Wednesday February 11th, each evening at 7.30 pm. The preacher is Fr. Philip Mulryne, OP.



CATHEDRAL OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
SLIGO
NEWSLETTER
Sunday 8th February 2026



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME *INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING*



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 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"ARTIFICIAL LIGHT" by Fr Ron Rolheiser, OMI, 11th May 2015

What's the use of an old-fashioned, hand-held lantern? Well, its light can be quite useful when it's pitch dark, but it becomes superfluous and unnoticeable in the noonday sun. Still, this doesn't mean its light is bad, only that it's weak.

If we hold that image in our minds, we will see both a huge irony and a profound lesson in the Gospels when they describe the arrest of Jesus. Gospel of John, for example, describes his arrest this way:

"Judas brought the cohort to this place together with guards sent by the chief priests and Pharisees, all carrying lanterns and torches." John wants us to see the irony in this, that is, the forces of this world have come to arrest and put on trial, Jesus, the Light of the world, carrying weak, artificial light, a lantern in the face of the Light of the world, puny light in the full face of the noonday sun. As well, in naming this irony, the Gospels are offering a second lesson: when we no longer walk in the light of Christ, we will invariably turn to artificial light.

This image, I believe, can serve as a penetrating metaphor for how the criticism that the Enlightenment has made of our Christian belief in God stands before what it is criticizing. That criticism has two prongs.

The first prong is this: The Enlightenment (Modernist Thought) submits that the God that is generally presented by our Christian churches has no credibility because that God is simply a projection of human desire, a god made in our own image and likeness, and a god that we can forever manipulate to serve self-interest. Belief in such a god, they say, is adolescent in that it is predicated on a certain naiveté, on an intellectual blindness that can be flushed out and remedied by a hard look at reality. An enlightened mind, it is asserted, sees belief in God as self-interest and as intellectual blindness.

There is much to be said, positively, for this criticism, given that much, much of atheism is a parasite off of bad theism. Atheism feeds off bad religion and, no doubt, many of the things we do in the name of religion are done out of self-interest and intellectual blindness. How many times, for instance, has politics used religion for its own ends? The first prong of the criticism that the Enlightenment makes of Christian belief is a healthy challenge to us as believers.

But it's the second prong of this criticism that, I believe, stands like a lantern, a weak light, dwarfed in the noonday sun. Central to the Enlightenment's criticism of belief in God is their assertion (perhaps better called prejudice) that faith is a naiveté, something like belief in Santa and the Easter Bunny, that we outgrow as we mature and open our minds more and more to knowledge and what's empirically evident in the world. What we see through science and honest observation, they believe, eventually puts to death our belief in God, exposing it as a naiveté. In essence, the assertion is that if you face up to the hard empirical facts of reality without blinking, with honesty and courage, you will cease to believe in God. Indeed, the very phrase "the Enlightenment" implies this. It's only the unenlightened, pre-modernist mind that still can believe in God. Moving beyond belief in God is enlightenment.

5th Week in Ordinary Time, Monday 9th February

8am Mass: Special Intention

10.30am Mass: Special Intention

5th Week in Ordinary Time, Tuesday 10th February

St. Scholastica, Virgin (Memorial)

8am Mass: Special Intention

10.30am Mass: Peter O'Donnell (First Anniversary)

5th Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday 11th February

World Day of the Sick

Our Lady of Lourdes (Optional Memorial)

St. Gobnait, Virgin (Optional Memorial)

8am Mass: Sister Pia Francis Mc Keone (Anniversary)

10.30am Mass: Liam O'Donnell (Anniversary)

5th Week in Ordinary Time, Thursday 12th February

8am Mass: Special Intention

10.30am Mass: Patricia Fox (Anniversary)

5th Week in Ordinary Time, Friday 13th February

10.30am Mass

7.00pm Mass

This week's Newsletter is sponsored
in memory of Bishop Christy Jones.

5th Week in Ordinary Time, Saturday 14th February

Ss. Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe (Feast)

10.30am Mass: Moya Mattimoe (Month's Mind)

7.00pm Mass

Sunday Readings for 15th February

**1st Reading: Eccles (Sir) 15:15-20; 2nd Reading: 1 Cor 2:6-10;
Gospel: Mt 5:17-37.**

REST IN PEACE

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

James Rodgers.

MAY GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST IN HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM, AND COMFORT AND
CONSOLE HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Parish Office Hours

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

Email: info@sligocathedral.ie

**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.