

TWELVE CRIBS OF CHRISTMAS

This booklet is produced for families who may wish to use the days of Christmas to view some of the cribs of Limerick (ones open throughout the week). Each stop has a focal point and a specific prayer.

Crib 1 - Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (Elizabeth)



Church – Mt St Alphonsus, South Circular Road, Limerick
The Redemptorists first came to Limerick in 1851. In 1853 they established a temporary presence in Bank Place and moved to the present site – which they named Mount St Alphonsus – in 1854. The church was dedicated on December 7th 1862.

Prayer

Mighty God, by whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord: Look with favour on your lowly servants that, with Mary, we may magnify your holy name.

Crib 2 - A righteous man (Joseph)



Church – Saint Joseph's Church, O'Connell Ave, Limerick
Saint Joseph's has been a landmark building in the city since originally built in 1904. The church is constructed in a neo classical Italian design and has a rich history attached to it.

Prayer

*God our Father, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph the carpenter to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
Give us grace to follow his example of faithful obedience to your commands.*

Crib 3 – Emmanuel...God with us (Jesus)



Church – Sacred Heart Church, The Crescent, Limerick
Sacred Heart Church was completed in 1868 and opened for public worship on January 27th 1869. The architect was William Corbett. and the church is in the parish of Saint Joseph's. According to some reports, it was originally intended to be dedicated to Saint Aloysius

Prayer

And you shall call him Emmanuel God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: May the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

Crib 4 - Let us go now to Bethlehem (the Shepherds)

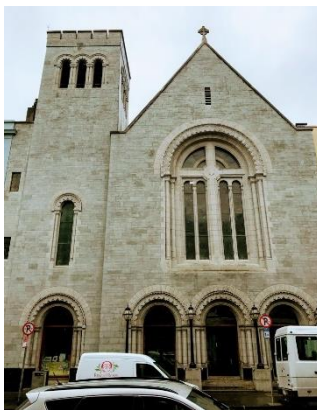


Church – Saint Saviours Church, Glentworth St., Limerick
Saint Saviour's Dominican Church was built in 1815-1816 and renovated 1861-1864. It was under the care of the Dominican Friars until 2016 and now continues to function as a Catholic Church with Dominican Sisters now living in the adjoining priory.

Prayer

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again. Keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps

Crib 5 - Joseph got up, took the child and his mother (the Holy Family)

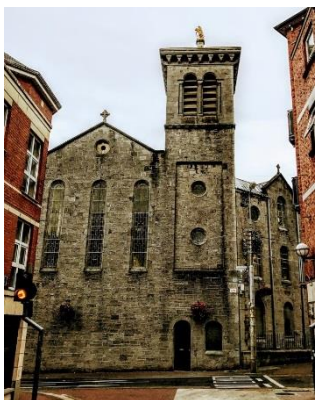


Church – Saint Augustine's Church, O'Connell St, Limerick
The Augustinian order has been serving Limerick city since 1633 and from even earlier in the county when the original monastery was in Adare. The present church in O'Connell Street was built in 1942.

Prayer

God, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth: Strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence.

Crib 6 - Glory to God in the highest heaven (the Angels)



Church – Saint Michael's Church, Denmark St., Limerick
In 1779, work began on a new Saint Michael's Church. It was opened in 1801. It was used for more than just religious purposes, the Irish politician Daniel O'Connell used it as a speaking post for some of his rallies. This present building was constructed in 1881 and was designed by the Limerick architect Martin Morris.

Prayer

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: Grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth.

Crib 7 – Here am I, the servant of the Lord (Mary)



Church – Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge St., Limerick

The Cathedral is one of the oldest buildings in Limerick and stands at the heart of the medieval city. Originally the Royal Palace for the Kings of Thomond it was gifted to the Church in 1168 and is still used for its original purpose.

Prayer

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:

Grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom.

Crib 8 - When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy (the Star)



Church – Saint Munchin's Church, Clancy's Strand, Limerick

Saint Munchin's Church was built in 1922 to replace an older church of the same name. Saint Munchin is the patron saint of Limerick.

Prayer

God our Father, you have made known to us again the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts

Crib 9 - there was no place for them in the inn (the Innkeeper)



Church – Saint Mary's Church, Athlunkard St., Limerick

Saint Mary's Church was opened in 1932, it replaced a previous building which had stood on this spot since 1748. All that remains of the original eighteenth-century church is the holy water font at the rear of the church.

Prayer

Dear God, please never let me crowd my life full to the brim. So like the keeper of Bethlehem's Inn, I find I have no room for Him. Instead, let my heart's door be ever open and ready to welcome.

Crib 10 - keeping watch over their flock by night (the Animals)



Church – Saint Patrick's Church, Upper Clare St, Limerick
Saint Patrick's was built in 1816. The building of the church was funded by the Harrold family, a family of hoteliers who lived in Pennywell. Their hotel on Park Road was the first hotel in Limerick when travelling along the canal.

Prayer

Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Crib 11 – He began to speak, praising God (John the Baptist)

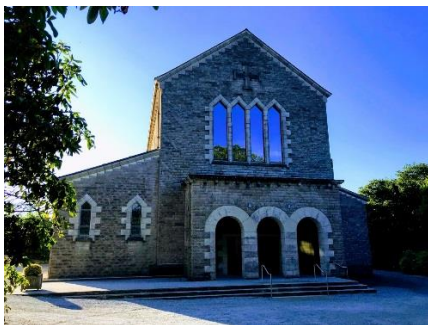


Church – Saint John's Cathedral, Cathedral Place, Limerick
Saint John's is the Cathedral of the Roman Catholic diocese of Limerick. It was designed by the architect Philip Charles Hardwick, ground was broken in 1857 and the first Mass celebrated on 7 March 1859.

Prayer

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour, by the preaching of repentance: Lead us to repent according to his preaching, and, after his example to constantly to speak the truth.

Crib 12 – We have come to pay him homage (the Wise Men)



Church – Glenstal Abbey, Murroe, Co. Limerick
The foundation-stone of the new church, designed by Dom Sebastian Braun, was laid on 14 October 1951. The church was completed and blessed by Archbishop Kinane, on 24th June 1956, during the priorship of Fr Placid Murray.

Prayer

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face

**Emmanuel, God-with-us, come to each one of us,
and stay with us always....and let us be Emmanuel, God-with-us, to
one another over these Christmas days and into the New Year.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen**