



## St. Nicholas' Parish News

Sunday 10th February 2019  
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[www.saintnicholasparish.ie](http://www.saintnicholasparish.ie)  
E-mail: [stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)



**Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.**

087 6261287

**Fr. John O'Byrne**

085 7491268

**Fr Sean Harmon**

087 9870284

**Salesian Sisters:**

061 348510

### Mass times:

**St Munchin's College.**

**9.45am.** Mon, Tues & Wed.

**St Nicholas, Westbury**

**7.00pm** – Thursday

### Weekends:

**St Nicholas 7.00pm** – Sat.

**10.30 am** – Sunday

**St Munchin's College**

**12 noon** – Sunday



### PARISH NEWSLETTER

Please feel free to take home a copy of this newsletter. A neighbour or friend who does not attend church in our parish might also welcome it. If you decide otherwise, please leave it on the table at the exit on your way out. Thank you.

We also encourage groups to avail of it to promote upcoming events, letting us know of someone who needs prayers etc. Items for the newsletter to be in to:

Maura. 086 0429952

Grace 086 8296193

by Wednesday please.

E-mail:

[Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Feast days – February

**Mon 11** – St. Gobnait/Our Lady of Loudres

**Thurs 14** – St Cyril/  
St. Valentine



### Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

Luke 5:1-11

1. Jesus invites Peter to put out the net again, and Peter does so though he thinks it pointless. When have you felt it was pointless to stick with a task, but did so nonetheless and been surprised by results? We never know when our efforts are going to bear fruit.

2. 'Push out into the deep.' The invitation is to go out into unfamiliar waters, where we are not sure what will happen, where we feel uneasy and our safety is not assured. When have you responded positively to that kind of an invitation and got positive results you did not expect?

3. The story gives us a glimpse of what prepared the disciples to follow Jesus. They were helped by the compassion and concern of Jesus (who cured Peter's mother-in-law); attracted by his work and teaching; and witnessed the power of God at work through him. This led them to 'leave everything and follow him'. What has been the story of key decisions or turning points in your life? Who was Jesus for you in those situations?

*John Byrne OSA*

*Email [jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com](mailto:jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com)*

### The Deep End · Walking with the Lord

Last July and August, hundreds of people took part in 'Walk While You Can', a walk from Letterkenny, County Donegal to Ballydehob, County Cork, to raise awareness and funds to support those with Motor Neurone Disease. The event was the brainchild of Fr Tony Coote, a priest of the parishes of Kilmacud and Mount Merrion in Dublin, who made the decision to walk the length of Ireland after himself being diagnosed with MND. His boundless energy and zest for life, even in the face of terminal illness, struck a chord with many. People were inspired by his faith. Speaking during an interview on The Late Late Show, Fr Tony said: 'I haven't much time left, I know that. But I believe in a loving God; I don't fear death.'

Fr Tony is an example of someone who is following Jesus as a disciple, while also bringing others to Jesus. In his years as a priest he has preached and lived the Gospel, and since this massive change in his health and circumstances he has found a way to spread the Good News in a new way.

His story came to mind as I reflected on today's Gospel, which tells the story of the call of Peter. We are often struck by how the first disciples 'left everything and followed him'. Are we expected to do the same? Only a rare few will literally leave behind home, friends and family. But following Jesus does require us to offer our whole selves, whatever our circumstances. Whatever our position in life, we have something unique and great to offer.

*Triona Doherty*

*Athlone, Co Roscommon  
Email [trionad@gmail.com](mailto:trionad@gmail.com)*



**Parish Office Opening hours.** Tues 2pm—4pm.  
Thurs 9.30am—12.30. for anyone who may need to book Masses get certificates or any other church related enquiries. Entrance to the office is through the Adoration Chapel opposite the priest's house. Phone: 341300

### Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel is open from 9.30am to 6.00pm each day. We encourage you to come along for a quiet moment of prayer.



### Baptism

Anyone wishing to have their baby baptised must give at least one months notice. Baptisms are on the 2nd & 4th weekend of each month. Times: 6.00pm Saturday evening St. Nicholas Church, Sunday 1.00p.m. St Munchin's College.



### Congratulations!

To the students from Scoil Ide who recently received the

Sacrament of Confirmation in St Nicholas church.



### Story of St. Valentine

The story of Valentine's Day begins in the 3rd century with an oppressive Roman emperor, Claudius II and a humble Christian Martyr, Valentine.

He performed Christian marriages for young couples. There was a prohibition on all marriages at the time except those recognised by the state. Valentine was jailed.

During the last weeks of Valentine's life a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentine read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature, he taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength. Valentine is believed to have cured the jailer's daughter of blindness.

On the eve of his death Valentine wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He signed it, "From your Valentine." His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship. On each February 14, Saint Valentine's Day, messages of affection, love, and devotion are exchanged around the world."

### I said a prayer for you today

I said a prayer for you today  
And I know God must have heard  
I felt the answer in my heart  
Although He spoke no word!  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame  
(I knew you wouldn't mind)

I asked Him to send treasures  
Of a far more lasting kind!  
I asked that He'd be near you  
At the start of each new day  
To grant you health and  
blessings  
And friends to share your way!



### Remembering those who are Sick



**PRAY**  
FOR THE SICK

Let us continue to pray for those who are ill at this time, those preparing for and awaiting results of tests, those in hospital. Continue to pray for Maurice, Ailish R, Pat, Annette, Aidan, Gabriel, Jim, Kathleen, Garrett, Helen, Philip, Tony, John, Brian, Muirinn, Ken, Orla, Ciara, Paddy, Michael, Vera Ailish, Frank, Ger and Mary.

Lord Jesus, you are the true friend of all those who suffer anguish and pain in spirit, mind or body. Please share with them now the gift of your consoling love.

If you know of anybody needing prayers etc, please let Maura/Grace know by E-mail: [stnicholaspnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholaspnewsletter@gmail.com)  
or Tel. Maura. 086 0429952/Grace 086 8296193

### Reflection for World Day of Prayer for the Sick, 11 February

'The Church's maternal vocation to the needy and to the sick has found concrete expression throughout the two thousand years of her history in an impressive series of initiatives on behalf of the sick. This history of dedication must not be forgotten. It continues to the present day throughout the world. In countries where adequate public health care systems exist, the work of Catholic religious congregations and dioceses and their hospitals is aimed not only at providing quality medical care, but also at putting the human person at the centre of the healing process, while carrying out scientific research with full respect for life and for Christian moral values. In countries where health care systems are inadequate or non-existent, the Church seeks to do what she can to improve health, eliminate infant mortality and combat widespread disease. The image of the Church as a 'field hospital' that welcomes all those wounded by life is a very concrete reality, for in some parts of the world, missionary and diocesan hospitals are the only institutions providing necessary care to the population.'

Pope Francis (Message for 2018)



**Maranatha Prayer Ministry Healing Retreat** on next Sunday 17th February, 2019 at 2.30pm at St. Paul's Church, Dooradoyle, Limerick through the Ministry of Rev. Fr. Robbie Coffey, Limerick And Sr. Mary

Bridget, Charismatic Renewal, Limerick. All welcome. Tea after..

**Happy Valentine's Day!!**