



St. Nicholas' Parish News

Sunday 10th March 2019
1st Sunday of Lent

www.saintnicholasparish.ie
E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com



Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.
087 6261287
Fr. John O'Byrne
085 7491268
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

Feast days – March

Mon 11 – St. Aengus

Fri 15 – St. Louise

**"To change the world we
must be good to those who
cannot repay us"**

Pope Francis

The Deep End Into the Wilderness

Lent is a great season where we are called to fasting, almsgiving and prayer. While our motivations may vary from weight loss to genuine spiritual journeying, this is a season where we take time to stop and take stock of our lives. What's there? What's there that shouldn't be there? Are there things in my life that I need to change, to move around, to let go of? Are there obstacles in the way of my relationship with Jesus and with the world around me?

Given the extent of the climate crisis that the world now finds itself in, and Ireland's dismal record on climate action, Lent would be an excellent time for each of us to examine our relationship with the earth in the hope that we might recognise the interconnectedness of all things. We might fast from our cars when we can, or look at how much food, clothes and energy we consume. How are our recycling habits? You might pledge to read *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, during Lent, and perhaps to ask a few friends to join you.

Whatever you decide to do, embrace this very special time. In the Gospel we are given encouragement as we read that Jesus is being led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The wilderness is not a place to be feared: it can be a place of transformation; a place where God is ultimately in control. We might encounter our demons and temptations there, but that is part of the journey. As with all things, we will get out of Lent what we put in. The more we put in, the greater the celebration on Easter Sunday morning.

Jane Mellett
mellettj@gmail.com

Thought For The Week

'All the goodness, love, value and tenderness we experience in life fall short precisely because we already know something deeper. When we feel frustrated, angry, betrayed, violated or enraged, it is in fact because our outside experience is so different from what we already hold dear inside.' ~Ronald Rolheiser

Life as we know has a unique ability to uplift and energise us. But just as quick it can shatter and bring us back down to reality in the blink of an eye. Our expectations in life are often not met, particularly values that are precious to us such as love, trust, honesty, goodness and so on. What we hold dear and precious to us is not always reflected back to us in how people relate to us.

We need to begin to understand that this is not our fault. No one can take away our own sense of worth, our identity, our fingerprint, our energy, our gifts and talents and all those things that are precious to us. Others may not understand us but we are assured that God understands us, loves us and will always stand by our side.

We begin our journey through Lent starting with Ash Wednesday today. The journey through Lent can be a time of personal reflection. In the past Lent was often seen as a penance, difficult and at times severe. But putting all the emphasis on hardship may not always have been the best approach. Look at sport; for many years when you trained the emphasis was on tough hard physical training. Unless you went home exhausted you really hadn't trained. Today the emphasis has changed, with a realisation in how important a more balanced approach is, to avoid burnout.

A balanced spiritual approach to Lent is always a good start. Lent can be a time to reflect on God's love for us, a time to reflect that we are unique and special and that our contribution to life is valued and cherished. Lent is also so much more. I hope your journey through Lent, will be personal and special for you.

Fr. James McSweeney,
Millstreet, Cork

Follow us on Facebook: @saintnicholasparish





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.



Youth 2000 will be hosting a Catholic youth retreat in CBS, Middleton, Co. Cork from 15th-18th March for ages 16-35. The weekend will consist of inspiring talks, music, prayer, workshops & time to chill out & meet new people. Please bring a sleeping bag if staying on site. Donation only event. For more info contact the Youth 2000 office on 01 6753690 or check out www.youth2000.ie

Knock Shrine will host their 37th Annual Mercy Sunday celebrations this Divine Mercy Sunday, 28th April. Most Reverend, Archbishop Michael Neary, will serve as chief celebrant and homilist at the 3.00pm Mass in Knock Basilica on the day.

Special Limerick/ Clare Group Christmas Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Also Special Limerick/ Clare Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 31st October for Halloween 8 nights Taking in Bethlehem, Jerusalem Mount Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, River Jordan, Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee. Also Special Limerick/Clare Fatima / Lisbon Pilgrimage for Feast Day of Saint Anthony 9th/14th June Full Day trip to Lisbon Prayers, Mass and Hungarian Stations of the Cross in Fatima. Contact James Treacy 0860572216

Would you like to share your home with a child with disabilities?

Have-a-Break is a Home Based Respite Service which facilitates children with disabilities going to the home of a Carer for Short Breaks. This could be for a day, a night or even a few hours depending on your availability; there may be an opportunity to increase your involvement over time if it suits your lifestyle.

Experience of caring is not essential but can be beneficial - Training and Support is provided.

For more information please contact Catherine O'Sullivan, Have-a-Break Coordinator Daughters of Charity Lisnagry, on 087-4132888 or 061-501438 or email catherine.osullivan@lim-docservice.ie



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Remembering those who are 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, Mary and Bernadette.

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: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com or Tel. Maura 086 0429952 / Grace 086 8296193

Lenten Reflection

The Salesian Sisters invite you to a short Lenten Reflection on Wednesday, March 13th at 7.30pm in their home at 3,Oakton Road. All are welcome



The Camino Shell, at the front door of St Nicholas church, Westbury representing our Parishioners who have walked with us on our Parish Pilgrimages along the Way of St James in Spain and Portugal. Over 40 from our Parish are preparing for our next Parish Camino in September, from Porto to Tui in Portugal. Thanks to Pa McNamara for organising the shell.

May the Lord and St James guide our steps.



A community is alive when it is poor and its members feel they have to work together and remain united, if only to ensure that they can all eat tomorrow!- Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche Community— www.trocaire.org

