



## THE DEEP END: Day of Prayer for Temperance

‘Stretched out his hand...’

Jesus, in today’s Gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society due to the huge stigma surrounding the disease, which was highly contagious but was also seen as a punishment from God in Jesus’ time. Jesus is moved with pity for this man and reaches out to him. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. Jesus’ ‘pity’ also conveys anger at the leper’s situation. It is the religious hierarchy of Jesus’ time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing (healing him), Jesus has done by ‘stretching out his hand’ in love.

A question for us from this Gospel today might be, who are those our society outcast? Who is alienated in our communities? What moves you with pity? Who is it that we need to reach out to at this time?

Jesus, in Mark’s Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he wants to shout from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will use encounters like this one to compile evidence against him. For now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the Gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.

‘There is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.’ (Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 225)

Jane Mellett mellettj@gmail.com

## Trócaire LENTEN FUNDRAISER

This year Trócaire’s Lenten Campaign brings us to South Sudan, where we learn about the suffering of people who have lost their homes and loved ones to war, and how they are rebuilding their lives through love, friendship, and solidarity.

Awut and Ajak are survivors. They survived a war, but each day remains a battle: a battle to earn money; a battle to grow food; a battle to pay for their children’s school; a battle to survive and thrive. These women lost their homes and loved ones to the conflict in South Sudan. They fled their villages with nothing but the clothes on their back, trekking through miles of dangerous bush land with no food or water for themselves or their children. Awut arrived in the community of Malek frightened but was welcomed with loving arms by her new neighbours.

Sometime later, Ajak returned to Malek after having been away with her husband who was a soldier. Here, in this remarkable community, people whose lives were brought together by pain and suffering are starting new lives based on love, friendship, and kindness. Every day remains a struggle for Awut and Ajak and their families. They struggle to earn money, grow food, and attend school. Life continues to be full of challenges and obstacles for these amazing women, but they face these challenges together, with dignity and solidarity.

Each year since 1973, Trócaire has turned the compassion of the Irish people into life-changing support for some of the world’s poorest people. By supporting Trócaire’s Lenten Campaign we can hold the hand of the people of South Sudan. Our fundraising can make a real difference to the lives of the people most in need.

This year’s Lenten fundraiser aims to collectively cover the distance from Limerick to South Sudan of 6,241kms, commencing Wednesday 17th February, and running over the six-week Lenten period.

You are invited to participate by either walking, running, or cycling the distance that is comfortable for you. This will be a Limerick Diocesan, as well as a Parish/Local Community initiative. A weekly log of distances covered within Parish/Local Community will be added to the Diocesan Total. You can email your weekly log of your distance to [withlovefromstnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:withlovefromstnicholas@gmail.com) or [withlovefromstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:withlovefromstmarys@gmail.com) and we will add your totals to the Diocesan total.

A GoFundMe Page has been set up for donations - [gf.me/u/zhfkrk](https://www.gofundme.com/u/zhfkrk)

Our goal is to collectively raise €3000; all donations are welcome. Participants are encouraged to upload photos and tag on social media platforms using the hashtag **#fromLimerickwithLove**



Let us continue to pray for those who are ill at this time, those who are preparing for and awaiting results of tests, those in hospital. Please pray especially for Ailish, Frank, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Eoin, Mary, Michael, William, Méabh, Anna, Eamon, Declan, Ethel, Agnes, Lilia, Muirinn, Orla, Ruby, Carmel, Pat, Michelle.

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.



# ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

## Sunday 14th February 2021

### 6th Sunday of Ordinary time



Fr. Derek Leonard P.P. 087 6261287

Fr. John O'Byrne 085 7491268

Fr. Gerard O'Leary 087 9378685

Salesian Sisters 061 348510



### MASS TIMES

All public masses are online from St Nicholas Church.

St Nicholas Church is open daily from 9am to 3pm for private prayers.

WEEKDAY 9.45am Monday to Friday

WEEKEND Sat.6pm, Sun.10.30am, 12 noon

TOILET FACILITIES Please note that toilet facilities cannot be provided in St Nicholas' Church in order to adhere to strict Covid19 guidelines.



Masses from St Nicholas Church can be viewed live via the parish webcam at the parish website [www.saintnicholasparish.ie](http://www.saintnicholasparish.ie) or

<https://www.churchservices.tv/limerickstnicholas>

You can download the free app from the App store and click on St Nicholas church in the Limerick section.

### ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

We encourage local groups to avail of the newsletter to promote upcoming events, share good news, etc. please send details to

Newsletter [stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)



Maura. 086 0429952

Grace. 086 8296193

The parish Facebook is updated daily. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the page.

[www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/](http://www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/)



### USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

ALONE 0818 222024

SENIORLINE 1800 804591

Community call, Limerick City and County :

Phone: 1800 852 389 or

email: [covidsupport@limerick.ie](mailto:covidsupport@limerick.ie)

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES: Tues 2pm-4pm and Thurs 9.30am -1.30pm for Church related enquiries. Phone: 061 341300

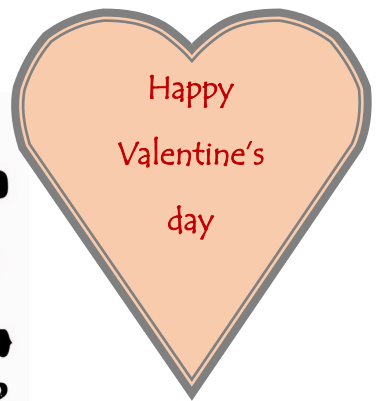
email: [saintnicholasparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saintnicholasparishoffice@gmail.com)



Baptism times will be 4.30pm on 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month, and 1pm on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month. Contact the Parish Office for further details.

It is **LOVE** alone  
THAT GIVES WORTH  
TO ALL THINGS.

St. Teresa of Avila  
[catholicALLYEAR.com](http://catholicALLYEAR.com)



MY JESUS, I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT IN THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT. I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU IN MY SOUL. SINCE I CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY, COME AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART. I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE AND UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY TO YOU. NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU. AMEN.

SPIRITUAL ACT OF COMMUNION

