

The slow work of God

'Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.' (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

These beautiful words from French philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ speak to the sometimes-tortuous experience of waiting. In it the author gives us permission to not have all the answers, to allow our faith time to grow and develop. Above all, he invites us to do that most difficult of things: live in the present moment, and surrender ourselves to God in that moment.

This poem comes to mind as I think about today's celebration of the Feast of the Assumption, when we recall Mary's role in the life of Jesus and in salvation. In our Gospel extract we meet Mary, pregnant and celebrating with her relative Elizabeth. Given the circumstances, it would be understandable if she was unsure and fearful. Her future is uncertain, as is that of her soon-to-be-born son. She cannot yet comprehend the enormity of what is to come. But Mary seems content to wait. When Elizabeth proclaims Mary as 'blessed', Mary bursts into prayer, praising God for his greatness and for 'looking upon his lowly handmaid'.

In modern terms, it is a lesson in mindfulness. When we find ourselves impatient, struggling to comprehend or to trust God's ways, let us turn to Mary who accepted God's plan with trust and hope, allowing it all to unfold one step at a time.



Thank You, God, for Little Things

Thank You, God, for little things
that often come our way,
The things we take for granted
but don't mention when we pray—
The unexpected courtesy,
the thoughtful, kindly deed,
A hand reached out to help us
in the time of sudden need.
Oh, make us more aware, dear God,
of little daily graces
That come to us with sweet surprise
from never-dreamed-of places.

*please
pray for
the sick*

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, Eoin, Mary, Michael, William, Méabh, Anna, Eamon, Declan, Ethel, John, Agnes, Muirinn, Orla, Ruby, Carmel.

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.

Stewards are needed for weekend masses. If you can help, please talk to any steward.





ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

Sunday 15th August 2021

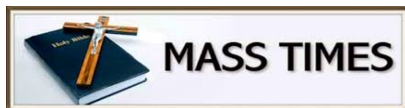
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Fr. Derek Leonard P.P. 087 6261287

Fr. John O'Byrne 085 7491268

Fr. Gerard O'Leary 087 9378685

Salesian Sisters 061 348510



WEEKDAY

9.45am Monday to Wednesday, St Nicholas church

All are welcome to join us for mass at 10am in St Mary's on Thursday and Friday.

WEEKEND

Sat.6pm, Sun.10.30am, 12 noon . St Nicholas' church

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

PARISH MASSES LIVE STREAMING Masses from St Nicholas Church can be viewed live via the parish webcam at the parish website 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

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/

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

email: 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.

Public Masses

Numbers will be limited to 80 people per Mass.

We encourage everyone to adhere to the safety protocols when joining us for Mass;

Social distance

Sanitize your hands

Wear a face mask

More information of the Governments decision on the resumption of public worship (including funeral and wedding ceremonies) can be accessed on www.gov.ie

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