

**SUNDAY 16th August, 20th Sunday of Ordinary time**

**THE DEEP END - A woman of faith**

By Triona Doherty , trionad@gmail.com

You can almost hear the chuckle. It is not mentioned, but I always imagine that Jesus smiles or even laughs as he delivers the line, 'Woman, you have great faith.' Today's gospel recounts an unusual exchange between Jesus and the unnamed Canaanite woman who challenges him. She has seen what Jesus can do, she has faith, and she is advocating for her daughter. She is persistent, shouting out to Jesus and apparently also badgering the disciples, to the point where they plead with Jesus to 'give her what she wants.'

Jesus' rebuke seems shockingly unkind: 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs'. But the woman doesn't give up. It is a matter of justice for her, as is evident in her witty response about the dogs getting the scraps from the master's table. 'Good for her!' - we feel like cheering.

It's a strange story, with Jesus at first appearing cold in his response to the woman. But as we know, he has a tendency to test his followers. His disciples, who know him well and have seen lots of miracles, often fall short. But this woman passes with flying colours. Jesus can see that she is a person of strong faith, clever and determined. She is not easily dismissed. In allowing her to state her case, Jesus also presents a challenge to the religious and social status quo. This pagan woman (Jesus' reference to 'house-dogs' tells us a lot about her status) exhibits more faith than his own disciples.

Jesus does not want us to be silent, compliant or complacent. He rejoices in those who are brave and persistent, and eager to challenge the injustices they see around them - those who have the gift of changing minds and hearts. We might call it the gift of prophecy.



## **BEIRUT EXPLOSION : TRÓCAIRE IS PROVIDING URGENT EMERGENCY RELIEF TO PEOPLE AFFECTED**

With your generous support, Trócaire is responding to the urgent needs on the ground in Beirut. Thousands of people have been affected by the devastating explosion. Our local partner is providing emergency supplies to people, providing medical assistance and helping to clear the rubble.

The devastation in Beirut following the explosion at the port. Over 5,000 were injured by the blast and over 300,000 people are left homeless. Photo : Caritas Lebanon

As emergency services begin to clear rubble and debris the death toll continues to rise in Beirut. At the time of writing over 130 people are reported dead and at least 5,000 injured. The damage has left up to 300,000 people homeless.

With your generous support, Trócaire will be able to respond immediately on the ground. Through our local partner Caritas Lebanon, we can assist with cleaning up rubble and debris, and are distributing essential supplies to those affected by the blast.

[www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation?fund=Lebanon](http://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation?fund=Lebanon)

# **Trócaire**



## ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

Sunday 16th August 2020, 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

[www.saintnicholasparish.ie](http://www.saintnicholasparish.ie)

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

**Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.** 087 6261287

**Fr. John O'Byrne** 085 7491268

**Fr. Gerard O'Leary** 087 9378685

**Salesian Sisters** 061 348510



All Masses will be held in St Nicholas Church, Westbury.

**Weekday:** 9.45am Monday–Wednesday

**Weekend:** Saturday: 6pm

Sunday: 10.30am and 12 noon

Places are limited during public mass in accordance with public health guidelines, please follow the stewards directions.

### LIVE STREAMED PARISH MASSES

Sunday Mass from St Nicholas church can be viewed live. For more details see the parish website or Facebook page, as above.

### ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

We encourage local groups to avail of the newsletter to promote upcoming events, pray for the sick etc.



Please send to

Maura. 086 0429952

Grace. 086 8296193

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



### PARISH OFFICE OPENING

**TIMES:** Tues 2pm–4pm and Thurs 9.30am -1.30pm for Church related enquiries.

Phone: 061 341300



### Holy Baptism

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



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.

Continue to pray for Maurice, Ailish R, Annette, Aidan, Gabriel, Jim, Kathleen, Garrett, Helen, Brian, Muirinn, Ken, Orla, Kiera, Paddy, Michael, Vera, Ailish, Frank, Ger, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Amy, Anna, Gwyneth, Young Michael, William, Méabh, Séamas, Eamon, Declan, Ethel, Agnes and Eoin.

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 contact: the newsletter by email or phone.

### CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

Limerick Diocese have a weekly Children's newsletter to download and print.

Download this week's Children's Newsletter to find out about Sunday's Gospel. It includes Saint of the Week, Video of the week and a picture to colour!

<https://www.limerickdiocese.org/resources/category/resources/family/>