

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

18 July 2021

Take a break

We all need a break sometimes. I remember once reading a selection of entries for a Mothers' Day competition, in which people were asked why their mother deserved to win a prize. They all had themes in common - she never does anything for herself; she's always thinking of other people; I can't remember the last time she took a break.

In today's Gospel, the disciples need a break. They have returned from their mission, eager to catch up with Jesus, but there is so much happening that they barely have time to eat. Jesus sees their need, and invites them to take a boat with him to a quiet place and rest for a while. But there is no time for rest, as the crowds have followed them on foot. Jesus is moved by them because they are 'like sheep without a shepherd'. He is the Good Shepherd who always cares for his flock, and he responds with compassion and love.

No doubt the disciples are drafted in to help: it turns out it is not break time! We can imagine their exhaustion. We all feel tired or overwhelmed from time to time, from work or family pressures or simply trying to balance everything. Postponing our own needs to care for others is familiar to every parent or caregiver. We don't know if the disciples got a rest at that point, but we know that Jesus valued time apart as he later sends the disciples off in the boat again while he goes away by himself to pray. In the chaos of life, even when there are demands on our time and energy, it is important to take some time to reflect and to pray.



First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2021

All updates on dates are available on the Parish Website.

www.saintnicholasparish.ie



To help girls and boys prepare for their first Reconciliation (Confession), First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Fr Chris O'Donnell has worked with iCatholic, on behalf of the Catechetics Council of the Irish Bishops' Conference, to produce video lessons for First Communion/Confirmation children and their families. These are available on the Limerick Diocese website at the links below:

<https://www.limerickdiocese.org/resources/category/resources/first-communion/>

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



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 as we are hoping to set up teams of 4 working on a rota basis. If you can help, please talk to any steward.





ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

Sunday 18th July 2021

16th Sunday in 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



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.



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