

SUNDAY 19th July, 16th Sunday of Ordinary time

THE DEEP END -

By Jane Mellett, mellettj@gmail.com

In today's Gospel, we hear many parables about the 'Kingdom of heaven' and what it is like. This might move us to think about the afterlife, but Jesus was describing God's kingdom in the here and now, 'on earth as in heaven.' Jesus, through parables, is trying to describe what is difficult to comprehend. Parables allow our minds and hearts to ponder, to imagine, to move beyond the constraints of language. Jesus is describing what God's vision for this world is like, in the here and now!

Taking one of these parables, the mustard seed, we can explore a little more. There is an ancient text which forbade planting mustard seeds in Palestinian gardens because the shrub would take over. It can go wild, out of control, and attract unwanted birds. Author Shane Claiborn compares it to kudzu, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas and even crack cement buildings. I like the idea of something so small causing so much mischief, holy mischief! The Kingdom of Heaven is like this? Yes, growing even where it is not wanted.

People in authority during Jesus' time might have had images of the 'lofty cedars of Lebanon' representing the 'reign of God.' Theirs was a grand vision. As with most of Jesus' parables, he turns things on their head. It is through the smallest of seeds that God's grace affects the world, silently making its way through the cracks.

'Might I,' quavered Mary, 'might I have a bit of earth?'

'Earth!' he repeated. 'What do you mean?'

'To plant seeds in - to make things grow - to see them come alive.'

FRANCES H. BURNETT, *The Secret Garden*



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/>

Hope is the thing
with feathers that
perches in the soul
and sings the
tunes without the
words and never
stops at all.



— Emily Dickinson



ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

Sunday 19th July 2020, 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/

www.saintnicholasparish.ie

Office email: 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 for the time being, please follow the stewards and public health guidelines in place.

ONLINE MASSES:

<https://www.limerickdiocese.org/news/masses-available-online-and-on-the-radio-in-the-diocese-of-limerick/>

10.30am Sunday Mass from **St Nicholas** church is streamed live on the parish Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/

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 Email:
stnicholaspnewsletter@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.

REOPENING ST NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCHES

Saturday 4th July saw the reopening of public masses in our Parish in St Nicholas Church.

Parish volunteers are needed to run the masses and clean the church afterwards. If you wish to volunteer please text Fr Derek on 0876261287. More information is available on the parish Facebook page.