

SUNDAY 21st June

THE DEEP END - Noli Temere - Do not be afraid

By Triona Doherty, Email trionad@gmail.com

The last words of Seamus Heaney, in a text to his wife Marie, were the Latin words **Noli temere** - 'Don't be afraid'. According to his son Mick, the words became 'a shorthand for hope' in the weeks that followed. He had done what poets and writers do best - express our fears and anxieties in a way that made sense.

Fear took on new forms earlier this year when we were all thrown into that strange period of lockdown due to the coronavirus threat. We were fearful for ourselves and our health. We were worried about our families, particularly our elderly or vulnerable loved ones. Many people were anxious about the future - they had lost their job or business and were full of uncertainty as to when, or even if, things would improve.

We also became conditioned, in a way, to be fearful of each other. While we understood it was necessary, it was upsetting to have to stay away from other people - to refrain from hugging or shaking hands, to move away or even cross the street when we saw another person approaching.

And of course there are deeper fears that come from being isolated and feeling alone with our thoughts. It is natural to question God in these circumstances, whether we turn to him in prayer seeking comfort, or struggle to pray because we cannot understand why all this is happening.

Our communities are still reeling from this new state of fear. We have lost so much, and the future is uncertain. Jesus has comforting words in today's Gospel: 'Do not be afraid... everything now hidden will be made clear.' Life does not always make sense, but God has it all in hand, and armed with this knowledge we can face the future with hope. He is with us through the mess and the fear: 'Why, every hair on your head has been counted.'

24th June. Feast of the Birth of
John the Baptist.



HSE and Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support Line

Many people have experienced and will experience the death of someone they love during the COVID-19 pandemic. It may have been a COVID-related death or a death from other causes. People may also be finding a previous bereavement more difficult at this time. While we may be seeing reductions in the number of deaths connected to COVID-19, we know that people's pain and grief does not diminish as quickly.

In the face of such loss and trauma, the Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support Line, in partnership with the HSE, has been launched to provide connection, comfort and support in these exceptional times. COVID-19 restrictions have changed the traditional ways we mark our grief. For the moment, it is not possible to come together like we did traditionally. This means many people are facing bereavement in isolation.

It is a national freephone service 1800 80 70 77 which will be available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday.





St. Nicholas Parish News

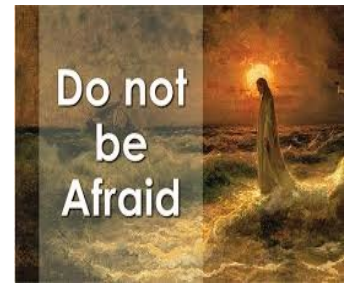
Sunday 21st June 2020

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/

www.saintnicholasparish.ie

E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@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

MASS TIMES.

In responding to the challenges of the Corona-virus all Masses in the Diocese have been cancelled until otherwise advised.

A number of Churches in the Diocese have web cameras and will broadcast Masses online so people at home can participate in the celebration of the Mass.

ONLINE MASSES:

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

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.

We also welcome local GOOD NEWS stories or messages you want to share.

To be sent in to: Maura. 086 0429952, Grace. 086 8296193 or Email:

stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Tues 2pm–4pm and Thurs 9.30am -1.30pm for Church related enquiries, Entrance to the office is through the Adoration Chapel opposite the priest's house.

Phone: 061 341300



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, Philip, Tony, John, 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 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: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com or Maura 086 0429952/Grace 086 8296193

PRIVATE PRAYER

ST.Nicholas Church daily opening times for private prayer is 9am to 3pm, except in the case of a funeral service or during streaming of Sunday Mass.

We must continue to take steps in promoting good public health safeguards, Hand sanitiser is available in appropriate locations at Entrance/Exits.

We ask people to adhere to the current physical distancing guidelines.

REOPENING ST NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCHES

From Monday 29th June, Religious services will be permitted in Parishes . In order to do this Parish preparations need to be made to comply with public health guidelines.

Parish volunteers are needed to help get masses up and running again. If you wish to volunteer please text Fr Derek on 0876261287. More information is available on the parish Facebook page.