



## St. Nicholas' Parish News

Web Edition

Sunday 21st February 2021  
First Sunday of Lent



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Webcam: <https://www.churchservices.tv/limerickstnicholas>

Facebook: @stnicholasparish

Every Sunday  
**Holy Mass Online**

With public masses suspended for the time being, we will continue to celebrate masses daily on our Parish webcam from St Nicholas church. To view, click [www.saintnicholasparish.ie](http://www.saintnicholasparish.ie) or [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)

Our weekend online masses will be Saturday 6pm, Sunday 10:30 and 12 noon.

Daily mass : 9:45am Monday to Friday

### The Deep End — Wilderness

On this first Sunday of Lent, we are invited to embrace the wilderness. The past year has given us experience of wilderness as our world battled a pandemic. Many people were afraid, isolated, alone, and uncertain of what the future would bring. Humanity was adrift in what seemed like a desert moment. However, wilderness can bring opportunity. It can be a time for deep reflection, where we take stock of what is most important to us, a chance to let go of things that are really not important and focus on where we are being called to be. During this past year, what opportunity did this wilderness offer you?

Lent is also a time where people give up something, focus on weight loss or getting fit, take on a course, try to better themselves in some way. And these can be good things, but Lent is so much more than that. It is a retreat time, a time to make room for something deeper. It is a spring-cleaning sort of time, an opportunity to ask, 'what needs clearing out in my life so that I can make more room for God?' 'What changes am I being called to embrace?' Without change we cannot grow, and things fast become stale in our lives. God is always urging us on because God knows just what possibilities there are for each of us. Lent offers us the opportunity to make space for something new, to let go of that which is keeping us from living life to the full.

The Gospel today is short, Jesus is sent into the wilderness, into the desert, and we too are invited into a desert time. Deserts are interesting places which can allow us to reflect, give ourselves space. It is true that we might encounter our demons there, but we should not be afraid because as the Gospel tells us clearly today, this is a Spirit-led desert. God is with us. Let us try to embrace this wilderness. How we make use of this time determines what will be.

'You have to leave the city of your comfort and go into the wilderness of your intuition. What you'll discover will be wonderful. What you'll discover will be yourself.' (Alan Alda)

Jane Mellett  
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**Prayer for when you  
can't  
receive communion**

**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 into  
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 separat-  
ed from You.**

**Amen.**



### PARISH 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.

Items for the newsletter can be given to Maura 086 0429952 or Grace 086 8296193

E-mail: [Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)

**For the five weeks of Lent there will be a short Reflection via the webcam from St. Nicholas' church on Thursday evenings at 7.00p.m.**

**The dates for these are: Feb 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. We would love if you could join us.**



## Parish Office Opening

**hours** Tues 2pm—4pm. Thurs 9.30am—1.30pm for anyone who may need to book Masses get certificates or any other church related enquiries.  
Phone: 061-341300



Baptism time will be on 1st & 3rd Saturday at 4.30pm and on the 2nd & 4th Sunday at 1.00pm.

Contact the church office  
061-341300



### Remembering those who are Sick

Let us continue to pray for those who are ill at this time, those preparing for and awaiting results of tests, those in hospital. Continue to pray for John, Brian, Paddy, Michael, Vera, Ailish, Frank, Ger, Bernadette, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Eoin, Mary, William, Méabh, Anna, Agnes, Dymphna, Muirinn, Orla, Carmel, Ruby, Pat and Michelle.

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 let Maura/Grace know by E-mail: [stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com) or Tel. Maura 086 0429952 / Grace 086 8296193

## Get Moving with Trócaire!

To help the people of South Sudan,

Will you walk with Rose & Tyson?



Help us reach 6,241km, the distance from Limerick to South Sudan, in the 40 days of Lent!



Walk, run or cycle, every km will count!  
Please observe COVID guidelines and stay safe

# Trócaire

#fromlimerickwithlove

Register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fromlimerickwithlove>

A GoFundMe Page has been set up for donations – [gf.me/u/zhfkrk](https://gf.me/u/zhfkrk)

Millions of people lost their homes to the civil war in South Sudan. Your support will provide vital help to them as they try to create better futures for their families.



Our goal is to collectively raise €3000; all donations are welcome. Participants are encouraged to upload photos and tag on social media platforms using the hashtag #fromLimerickwithLove

Trocaire Lenten Boxes can be collected from the church, open Daily between 9am & 3pm.

Only as high as I reach can I grow,  
Only as far as I seek can I go,  
Only as deep as I look can I see,  
Only as much as I dream can I be.

*Karen Ravn*