

THE DEEP END - A different sort of king

Today's gospel leaves us in no doubt as to what Jesus expects of his followers. It is a gospel of contrasts. It begins with a scene of judgement, with Jesus in the role of king, sitting on the throne of glory. It would have been a familiar image to the people of the time, who were expecting a great Messianic king. In the time of Jesus, kings were powerful rulers, and some were tyrants. We know from earlier in Matthew's Gospel that kings like Herod were capable of brutal acts. It is an image that remains familiar to us today, thanks to popular fairytales, movies and TV shows - the all-powerful ruler sitting on their throne, passing judgement on their subjects.

But the king that Jesus talks about here turns these images upside down. He is not focused on riches or power, or inciting terror or fear. Instead, he is a fair judge, a shepherd who knows his flock. He invites all those who have acted with justice and generosity to take their place in his kingdom. He is in solidarity with the 'least' of his people - a king whose main concern is those who are hungry, displaced, sick or imprisoned. He refers to them as 'brothers'.

Jesus' kingdom is centred around charity, compassion and forgiveness. He expects us to treat everyone we encounter with welcome. There are simple acts of kindness we can carry out each day. Such love for others is love for God: 'In so far as you did this to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

'In the evening of life, we shall be judged on love.' St John of the Cross

By Jane Mellett mellettj@gmail.com

ST NICHOLAS PARISH GIVING TREE

As a way of giving to poorer children in Limerick city and County and County Clare, we have launched our Giving Tree in St. Nicholas .

St Nicholas church is open from 9am to 3pm daily.

If You would like to take part, please take a tag from the tree and buy a new toy for the child. Each tag lists a person and an age group e.g "Girl age 4".

You can return the unwrapped gift/gifts in a gift bag to the church, which will be distributed locally by St. Vincent de Paul Society and Barnardos. We ask people to spend up to €15 on each child. Please return the gift on or before December 13th.

If it difficult for You to call to the church, You can be allocated a tag by phoning our **Parish office** during Office hours at **061341300** or **Fr Derek at 0876261287**.

Many thanks for your generosity.



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 John, Brian, Paddy, Vera, Ailish, Frank, Ger, Bernadette, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Eoin, Mary, Michael, William, Méabh, Anna, Amy, Eamon, Declan, Ethel, Agnes, and Dympna.

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, please contact the newsletter by email or phone.



ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

Sunday 22nd Nov.2020, Christ the King

Parish Website: www.saintnicholasparish.ie

Office email: saintnicholasparishoffice@gmail.com

Newsletter email: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com

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

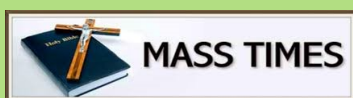
ALL PUBLIC MASSES ARE CURRENTLY ONLINE ONLY

Fr.Derek Leonard P.P. 087 6261287

Fr. John O'Byrne 085 7491268

Fr.Gerard O'Leary 087 9378685

Salesian Sisters 061 348510



ALL PUBLIC MASSES ARE CURRENTLY STREAMED ONLINE

Weekday: 9.45am Monday to Friday

Weekend: Sat.6pm, Sun.10.30am, 12 noon

Online masses can be viewed live via the parish webcam at www.saintnicholasparish.ie or

www.churchservices.tv, You can download the free app from the App store and click on St Nicholas church in the Limerick section.

St Nicholas church will remain open each day for private prayer.

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

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

By Wednesday, please send details to

Maura. 086 0429952

Grace. 086 8296193

or stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com



The parish Facebook is updated daily. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the Parish Facebook 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



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.

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/>



Prayer for when we cannot receive the Eucharist

ACT OF SPIRITUAL 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 separated from You.

Amen