



## St. Nicholas' Parish News

Sunday 23rd February 2020  
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[www.saintnicholasparish.ie](http://www.saintnicholasparish.ie)  
E-mail: [stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)  
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### 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:

St Munchin's College.

9.45am. Mon, Tues & Wed.

St Nicholas, Westbury

7.00pm — Thursday

### Weekends:

St Nicholas 6.00pm — Sat.

10.30 am — Sunday

St Munchin's College

12 noon — Sunday



Please feel free to take home a copy of this newsletter. A neighbour or friend who does not attend church in our parish might also welcome it. If you decide otherwise, please leave it on the table at the Exit on your way out. Thank you.

We also encourage groups to avail of it to promote upcoming events, letting know of someone who needs prayers etc. Items for the newsletter to be in to:

Maura. 086 0429952

Grace 086 8296193

**by Wednesday please**

E-mail:

[Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Feast Days — Feb

Tue 25 — Blessed Sebastian

Sat 29 — St. Oswald

## The Deep End—Day of Prayer for Temperance

The power of forgiveness 'I bear no ill will. I bear no grudge. Dirty sort of talk is not going to bring her back to life. She's in heaven and we shall meet again. I will pray for these men tonight and every night.' These words of Gordon Wilson echoed across the world in 1987, just hours after his 20-year-old daughter Marie was killed in an IRA bomb in Enniskillen. Very few words in the history of the Northern Ireland conflict had such a powerful impact. His extraordinary capacity to forgive the people who had caused him so much pain helped to move along the slow process.'

Gordon Wilson was the personification of the words of Jesus: 'love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' It is one of the most difficult and challenging passages in the Gospels; one commentator calls it 'Jesus' most unreasonable command.' Living under oppressive Roman rule, with torture and murder not uncommon, the disciples knew what it was to hate their enemies. As we read and listen to the news today, the cruelty of people continues to astound and upset us. But Jesus reminds us that everyone is human. All are children of God, who 'causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good.' While we clearly don't accept or excuse the terror and evil in the world, we cannot dehumanise those who carry out despicable actions. It is much easier said than done, but we must strive to meet hatred with love. With God, there is always forgiveness; there is always hope.

'Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.'

Martin Luther King Jr

Triona Doherty  
Email [trionad@gmail.com](mailto:trionad@gmail.com)

## Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

1. Jesus tells us to act out of love and says that acting out of love is better than acting out of revenge. What does your experience tell you?
2. Perhaps you have at times hit back in revenge when you have been hurt or offended. What effect did this have you, on others, and on your relationship with them? Contrast this with the times when you resisted the urge to retaliate. What outcome did this have on you, on others, and on your relationship with them - at the time, and in the long term?
3. From other passages in the Gospels, it is clear that Jesus did not mean that we should ignore injustices, or never make a stand against others. What lessons have you learned in life on when, and how, to make a stand? What wisdom would you share with others from your experience?

John Byrne osa  
Email [jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com](mailto:jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com)

## St Nicholas' Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

### Safeguarding

Mr Terry Boyle, Diocesan Safeguarding Representative recently visited St Nicholas' Children's Choir practice and was very complementary of our Safeguarding practices.



### 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. Entrance to the office is through the Adoration Chapel opposite the priest's house. Phone: 061-341300

### Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel is open from 9.30am to 6.00pm each day. We encourage you to come along for a quiet moment of prayer.



### Baptism

Anyone wishing to have their baby baptised must give at least one months notice. Baptisms are on the 2nd & 4th weekend of each month. Times: 5.00pm Saturday evening St. Nicholas Church, Sunday 1.00p.m. St Munchin's College.



### Ash Wednesday

### Ash Wednesday - February 26, 2020 The first day of Lent



*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, he may say, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God.

Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass.

Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance. It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening.

**Mass in St Nicholas Parish on Ash Wednesday will be at 9:45am in St Munchin's College chapel and 7pm in St Nicholas church.**



**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

### 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 Maurice, Ailish R, Pat, Annette, Aidan, Gabriel, Jim, Kathleen, Garrett, Helen, Philip, Tony, John, Brian, Muirinn, Ken, Orla, Ciara, Paddy, Michael, Vera, Ailish, Frank, Ger, Bernadette, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Eoin, Mary, Young Michael, William, Méabh, Anna and Amy. 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



**Trocaire**  
Working for a just world.

Around the world, families are living under constant threat of conflict, drought and land grabs.

In the face of those threats, many women hold their families together, battling enormous odds to provide for their children. Lent 2020 highlights the different ways in which women overcome the odds to keep their families safe from harm.

This Lent, we are focussing on two families to highlight how mothers work to protect their families and communities from the devastating impact of climate change and from the actions of corporations. Madris from Eastern Kenya and Angela from Northern Honduras are two such women. We think of them and women like them all over the world this lent.

You can play your part in helping women like Madris and Angela by taking a Trocaire box this lent. Thank you.

### A Film on Autism in Mary Immaculate College

The LINC Programme in association with MIC Library Services is proud to present "This is Nicholas - Living with Autism", a documentary film by Tipperary-based director, Nicholas Ryan-Purcell.

Where: T116, Tara Building, MIC Limerick Campus. When: **Wednesday 26 February at 5:15pm.**

The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the director that will be chaired by Professor Emer Ring, Dean of Early Childhood and Teacher Education at MIC Limerick.



*'We still haven't got the pancake down from last year'*