

25th April 2021

4th Sunday of Easter– World Day of prayer for Vocations

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of
Easter

The Good Shepherd

In Jesus' time, being a shepherd was not a pleasant job. Sheep became easily lost and the shepherd's job was to guide them back to safety. There were many dangers and the sheep were totally dependent on the shepherd. Shepherds would round up their sheep in the evening and guide them into their pen. But it had no gate, so the shepherd would have to lie across the space in case the sheep were attacked in the night. The shepherds literally lay down their lives for their flock. John compares the sacrifice of the shepherd to the 'hired hand' who is not really committed to the flock. He does what he has to but flees at the first sign of trouble.

This Good Shepherd Sunday the Gospel describes Jesus as the 'genuine' Shepherd who wants a personal relationship with each one of us and who would lay down his life for us. The Gospel emphasises the importance of relationship as the shepherd knows his flock and cares for them. They 'Follow Him' and it is not a Facebook or Twitter type of following, rather it is a genuine relationship. Everyone matters to the Good Shepherd, regardless of their situations. We are told 'I know my own and my own know me'. We are called today to follow Jesus in a more personal more intimate way. Even when we stray off the path and get lost, it is then especially that the Good Shepherd comes looking for us.

'We think we are feeling from God, but in fact we are running into his arms'. (Meister Eckhart)

Jane Mellett mellettj@gmail.com

Online preparation for the sacraments of Communion and Confirmation can be found on the Limerick Diocese website, <https://limerickdiocese.org>

Just follow the relevant link.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS

"The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or a burden to be borne.

On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch."



Message from St Nicholas' Parish Pastoral Council

We have celebrated Holy Week and the joy of Easter Sunday, somewhat differently again this year, which for most of us meant 'virtually', by joining in the various ceremonies on line. Many messages of appreciation have been received, praising the great efforts made by our priests, Fr Derek, Fr Gerard, Fr John and Fr Liam, whose planning with Sr Betty and Sr Patricia made it all possible.

We are mindful too, of the constant behind-the-scenes work of those who help with liturgy arrangements, our sacristans Precious and Michael, our wonderful singers and musicians and those who gathered to clean the church so readily. They all made sure our Easter was close to 'normal' as humanly possible and we thank them. We are indeed blessed here and in St Mary's Parish in a great many ways.

Now May is almost upon us, the month of our Lady. We look forward to honouring Mary the mother of Jesus and our mother too, in special ways during the coming days. Details will be announced shortly.

May the light of the risen Christ be with us and the joy of Easter sustain us, every hour of every day.



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. Please pray especially for Ailish, Frank, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Eoin, Mary, Michael, William, Méabh, Anna, Eamon, Declan, Ethel, Agnes, Lilia, Muirinn, Orla, Ruby, Carmel, Pat, Michelle, Aoife.

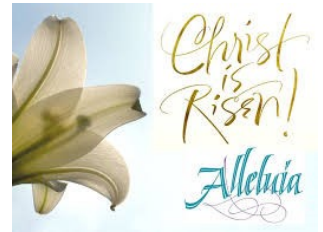
Lord Jesus, you are the true friend of all those who suffer anguish and pain in spirit, mind or body. Please share with them now the gift of your consoling love.



ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

Sunday 25th April 2021

4th Sunday of Easter



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 online from St Nicholas Church.

St Nicholas Church is open daily from 10.30am to 3pm for private prayers.

WEEKDAY 9.45am Monday to Friday

WEEKEND Sat.6pm, Sun.10.30am, 12 noon

TOILET FACILITIES Please note that toilet facilities cannot be provided in St Nicholas' Church in order to adhere to strict Covid19 guidelines.

PARISH MASSES LIVE STREAMING Masses from St Nicholas Church can be viewed live via the parish webcam at the parish website www.saintnicholasparish.ie or <https://www.churchservices.tv/limerickstnicholas>

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

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

We encourage local groups to avail of the newsletter to promote upcoming events, share good news, etc. please send details to

stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com

Maura. 086 0429952

Grace. 086 8296193



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

www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

ALONE 0818 222024

SENIORLINE 1800 804591

Community call, Limerick City and County :

Phone: 1800 852 389 or

email: covidsupport@limerick.ie

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES: Tues 2pm-4pm and Thurs 9.30am -1.30pm for Church related enquiries. Phone: 061 341300

email: saintnicholasparishoffice@gmail.com



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.

Trócaire

The weeks after Easter usually see people all over Ireland return their Trócaire boxes to schools and parishes.

If you have a Trócaire box, simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate now in one of these easy ways:

- Online at trocaire.org
- Return to the Parish office during opening hours
- Over the phone at 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
- By post to Trócaire, Freepost, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI) or Trócaire, 50 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI)

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 IN 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.



SPIRITUAL ACT OF COMMUNION