

Laetare Sunday

4th Sunday of
Lent

1. Like many a parable, this story makes its point in a way that seems to be unfair: the spendthrift son is rewarded and the elder son is left hurt and angry. People often empathise with him. Neither son understood the nature of love. The younger son did not recognise what a treasure he had at home and walked out on it. Then he 'came to himself' and returned home. Where and when have you experienced a homecoming by becoming aware of love you had previously not recognised? What helped you to come to yourself and make that journey home?
2. The older son resented the party given to the younger son after his wandering and dissolute life - forgetting that all the father had was his. He is a symbol of us when we set ourselves up to decide when and how others should show their love, affection and gratitude. Such expectations fail to respect the freedom of others and make us vulnerable to the pain of unmet expectations. These can be fertile ground for hurt and resentment. What helps you to respect the freedom of others, and to recognise their love even if it is not expressed just as you would like?
3. Love is a free gift, not something we earn by our goodness. Recall the wonder of experiencing love when you did not expect it. You may even have thought you were not worthy of it. When has the experience of human love, freely given, prompted you to reflect on God's love for you?

John Byrne osa Email jbbyrneosa@gmail.com

LOURDES



LIMERICK AUTUMN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2022

22 September 2022

5 nights

€789 per person

- » Direct flights from Shannon to Lourdes and return
- » Airport transfers in Lourdes

For full details of Lourdes Pilgrimage see
www.limerickdiocese.com/news/limerick-autumn-lourdes-pilgrimage-2022/

HOLY HOUR FOR LENT

There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each Tuesday from 7pm to 8pm in St Nicholas church,



COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE

The rescheduled special collection for the people of Ukraine takes place this weekend, March 26th/27th at all masses. You are respectfully requested to give as generously as possible.

The humanitarian disaster unfolding is creating immense need before our eyes and speaks for itself.



Ukrainian people in our Parish, please contact the the Parish Office with details if there are Ukrainian people in our midst who need support.

FOR A MOTHER

Mother,
Your voice learning to soothe
Your new child
Was the first home-sound
We heard before we could see
Your young eyes
Gazing on us
Was the first mirror
Where we glimpsed
What to be seen
Could mean
Formed from the depths beneath your heart,
You know us from the inside out,
No deeds or seas or others
Could ever erase that.

John O'Donohue Benedictus
(Mother's Day, 27 March 2022)

SATURDAY EVENING CHOIR

It has been decided with regret to suspend the Saturday evening Mass Choir for the foreseeable future.



We are most grateful to all who participated over the years and sincerely thank them for the pleasure and joy they brought to weekend worship.

St Nicholas' Pastoral Parish Council meets on a monthly basis. The meetings generally take place early each month. If you would like to raise any items/issues at a meeting you could email your item to the following email:

saintnicholasparishoffice@gmail.com



ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

Sunday 27th March
4th Sunday of Lent

The
Season
of
Lent



CONTACT NUMBERS

Fr. Derek Leonard P.P. 087 6261287

Fr. John O'Byrne 085 7491268

Fr. Gerard O'Leary 087 9378685

Salesian Sisters 061 348510

PARISH OFFICE 061 341300

OFFICE OPENING TIMES: Tues 2pm–4pm and Thurs 9.30am -1.30pm for Church related enquiries. If you wish to book a mass, order a cert or leave in your offerings to support your parish, please phone or call at opening times to the office, based at St Nicholas Church, Westbury.

With Sympathy mass cards & Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available from the Parish Office.

email: saintnicholasparishoffice@gmail.com

WEEKDAY MASSES

9.45am Mon to Wed, *St Munchin's College Chapel*.

10am in *St Mary's* : Thurs and Friday.

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat.6pm, Sun.10.30am, *St Nicholas' church*

Sun 12 noon , *St Munchin's College Chapel*

PARISH LIVE STREAMING MASSES

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 or Grace. 086 8296193

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/

BAPTISM are held every 2nd and 4th weekend on Saturday at 4.30pm in St. Nicholas Church and on Sunday at 1pm in St. Munchin's College Chapel. Contact the Parish Office for further details.

please
pray for
the sick

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 Frank, Fiona, Eoin, Mary, Michael, William, Méabh, Anna, Eamon, Declan, John, Agnes, Muirinn, Ruby, Carmel, Ralph, Karen, Pat, Martina, Ciara.

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.



The total figure for the collection taken at the masses for the week-end ending 20th March 2022 is €635

CROSS OF LOVE

The Past two years of Pandemic and lockdowns has been a difficult time for all of us. Many have suffered through illness, loss and personal struggles. This Lent we are creating a cross of love, as a reminder that as a Parish we stand beside and pray for each other in our struggles.



If You would like to remember a family member, friend or neighbour who is struggling at the moment, please write their 1st name on the paper heart provided in St

Nicholas church and place in the box.

The hearts will be placed on the cross in St Nicholas church (name facing inwards).

CLOTH OF REMEMBRANCE

Many of us have lost loved ones over the past 2 years.

This Lent, we are creating a cloth to remember family members, friends and neighbours who have died over the past 2 years. we invite You to write on one of the pieces of material provided or bring your own (any colour, 4 inches square) and leave it in the labelled box.

These pieces will be sewn together into a garment and hung on the cross on Good Friday.

