

What's on the inside

'It's what's on the inside that counts.' How often do we hear this? Yet we get contradictory messages and we are also bombarded with messages about how we should dress or act, or what is appropriate behaviour. Rules about outward behaviour govern many aspects of life, from our school and work environments to our churches.

Today, Jesus has something to say about the tension between outward appearances and what's on the inside. To the religious authorities who challenge Jesus, outer appearances and traditions are important, and they rebuke Jesus for allowing his disciples to eat with 'unclean hands'. However, Jesus explains that it is not external actions that make a person unclean. It is what's on the inside that indicates the true nature of our hearts. 'Lip-service' is not worth much if our hearts are not in tune with God. As Jesus puts it, 'You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

It is an invitation to examine how we put our faith into practice, individually and as a church community. Which human traditions do we 'cling' to? Do we become so focused on outward rituals that we risk losing sight of the teaching of Jesus and its radical implications? Do we treat our religious life as checklist of observances, or as a real encounter with Jesus?

'The words of the Sacred Scripture were not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart.' (Pope Francis)

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The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The Season of Creation or Creation Time, is marked throughout the Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment.

Restoring Our Common Home

The theme for the Season of Creation 2021 is 'Restoring Our Common Home'. During this season we are asked to join together to celebrate creation and protect our common home through prayer, reflection and action. The global Christian family is called to awaken to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other and to encourage our parish communities to do the same, "for we know that things can change!" (Laudato Si', 13).

This year we celebrate this season mindful of the fact that our world continues to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic as well as a devastating climate and biodiversity crisis. We look towards two UN Conferences in the Autumn, COP15 (on Biodiversity, due to take place in China) and COP24 (on climate change, Glasgow) in the hope that world leaders take the urgent action that is needed to Restore Our Common Home. Catholics are urged to sign the "Healthy Planet Healthy People" petition as a key action for this year's Season of Creation. This petition has been endorsed by the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development in the hope that millions of Catholics will raise their voices in the public sphere to help Restore Our Common Home in the run up to these vital UN Conferences.



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, Eoin, Mary, Michael, William, Méabh, Anna, Eamon, Declan, Ethel, John, Agnes, Muirinn, Orla, Ruby, Carmel.

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.

Stewards are needed for weekend masses. If you can help, please talk to any steward.





ST NICHOLAS PARISH NEWS

Sunday 29th August 2021

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Derek Leonard P.P. 087 6261287

Fr. John O'Byrne 085 7491268

Fr. Gerard O'Leary 087 9378685

Salesian Sisters 061 348510



WEEKDAY

9.45am Monday to Wednesday, St Nicholas church

All are welcome to join us for mass at 10am in St Mary's on Thursday and Friday.

WEEKEND

Sat.6pm, Sun.10.30am, 12 noon . St Nicholas' church

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



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/

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.

PUBLIC MASSES UPDATE

We are delighted to let you know that from **Monday 6th September Morning Mass** will resume in St Munchin's College Chapel - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.45am,

and

from **Sunday 12th September** our **Sunday 12noon Mass** will also return to St Munchin's College Chapel.

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