



St. Nicholas' Parish News

Sunday 29th December 2019
The Feast of the Holy Family

www.saintnicholasparish.ie
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Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.

087 6261287

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085 7491268

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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

Feast Days — Dec/Jan

Sun 29 — St. Thomas Beckett

Wed 1 — Mary Mother of God

The Deep End • Displaced

'One of the unsettling things about my journey, mentally, physically, and emotionally, was that I wasn't sure when or where it was going to end.' (from *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah) We like to imagine, sometimes, what the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph were like. What was their daily routine? How did they eat, work and pray together? There are very few details in the Gospels about Jesus' early years, other than the accounts of his birth and one story detailing the time he went missing in Jerusalem and was found in the Temple.

But in today's Gospel we get an insight into some of the early challenges faced by this little family. While Jesus was still small, Joseph was urged in a dream to escape with the family to Egypt as Jesus' life was under threat. Can you imagine what that experience was like for them - leaving their home and fleeing to another country, not knowing when, or if, it would be safe to return home? Sadly, millions of people in our world do not have to imagine this type of experience - they live it every day. Like many others, the Holy Family were, for some time, forced to leave their home country due to persecution - this is the very definition of a refugee or displaced person.

This painful human experience was at the very heart of the family experience of Jesus himself. Later in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us that when we welcome strangers, we welcome Jesus himself. Compassion and welcome for strangers, particularly those who are vulnerable, was a key element of Jesus' life and ministry. It should be central to ours, too.

Triona Doherty
Email trionad@gmail.com

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

1. The threat to the child Jesus put Joseph in a situation where he had to make a quick yet wise decision. Perhaps you have also had to make a speedy response to an unexpected crisis. Who were the 'angels' who guided you to wise decisions? Remember them and give thanks.
2. The whole narrative is designed to bring out the guidance of God's providence for the child Jesus. Have there been times when you have been grateful that things worked out well for you despite adverse circumstances or experiences?
3. External forces imposed migration on Joseph and his family, until he came to establish a home in Nazareth. Where have you lived before coming to the place you now call home? How has this journey helped to fashion the person you are now? Perhaps you have a mixture of gratitude and regrets as you look back. Give thanks for the good memories. What helps you to deal with the disappointments and hurts in the past? Bring them to God with a prayer for further healing.
4. The story and today's feast remind us of the importance of the family in nourishing and fostering new life. Recall and give thanks for those in your own childhood who helped you to find your way in life.

John Byrne OSA
Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com



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 month's 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.



A Big Thank You From Trocaire

Your generosity over the last year, and especially over the busy Christmas period, is now helping to change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people living in the world's poorest regions.

While Trócaire is the organisation that delivers this support, really it is you that makes it happen.

At Christmas we appealed for you to help families facing conflict and starvation throughout the world, and once again, you responded.

Your compassion means that more children in war-torn countries are receiving life-saving food and medicine, and more people in South Sudan are safe and will be able to grow their own crops to feed their families.

Thanks to your incredible generosity we will also be able to continue our work in other communities right across Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia.

We were also overwhelmed with the support you gave to our 'Gifts of Love' campaign. Thousands of families across countries including Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Honduras will receive their chicks; solar lamps; beehives; farming tools and their school kits, amongst other supports. These practical, life-changing gifts will have a huge impact and allow people and communities to build a better future for themselves.

While we now look forward and hope for a more peaceful, fair and dignified year ahead, it is clear that there are already many challenges on the horizon around the world. But we will continue to work hard - to fight for justice and for the rights of those being marginalised, and to deliver your support to the people who need it most.

TROCAIRE
Working for a Just World



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 and William.

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

or Tel. Maura 086 0429952 / Grace 086 8296193



God grant us this year a wider view,
So we see others' faults through the eyes of You.
Teach us to judge not with hasty tongue,
Neither the adult ... nor the young.

Give us patience and grace to endure
And a stronger faith so we feel secure.
Instead of remembering, help us forget
The irritations that caused us to fret.

Freely forgiving for some offence
And finding each day a rich recompense.
In offering a friendly, helping hand
And trying in all ways to understand.

That all of us whoever we are ...
Are trying to reach an unreachable star.
For the great and small ... the good and bad,
The young and old ... the sad and glad.

Are asking today; Is life worth living?
The answer is only in, loving and giving.
For only Love can make man kind
And Kindness of Heart brings Peace of Mind.

By giving love, we can
start this year
To lift the clouds of
hate and fear.

Helen Steiner Rice

