

Fifth Sunday of Lent 29 March 2020

**The Deep End • Come forth Lazarus**

In today's Gospel Jesus is surrounded by a culture of death. The disciples are afraid to go back to Bethany, the Jews want to stone Jesus to death, Mary and Martha are distraught over the death of their brother Lazarus, and Lazarus himself lies bound in the darkness of the tomb. It appears as if there is no hope. Jesus weeps for his friend and for those around him.

Yet, surrounded by a culture of death and despair, Jesus gives compassion and new life to those in turmoil. It is easy to say that nothing can be done when we are faced with difficult situations in our own lives. Yet Jesus says 'Lazarus, come forth' and to the people he says 'Unbind him, let him go.' It is a message for all of us to come away from a culture of death; to help unbind one another and to allow ourselves to emerge from the tomb. We are called to take away the stone. Today's Gospel is a story of liberation. Jesus gives a new insight into the power of faith over death. It is an active faith, one that urges us on to work for change and new life.

'What did you do while the planet was plundered? What did you do as the earth was unravelling? Surely you did something as the seasons started failing? Surely you did something as the mammals, reptiles and birds were all dying? Did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen? What did you do once you knew?' (From Hieroglyphic Stairway by Drew Dillinger)

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**Message from your Parish Pastoral Council**

The challenge to put into words an appreciation of the confusion and anxiety that we all feel during these very strange and disturbing days is immense. To be mindful of the common good, responsible in our actions and kind to each other, may be the best we can do, and what could be more meaningful and important?

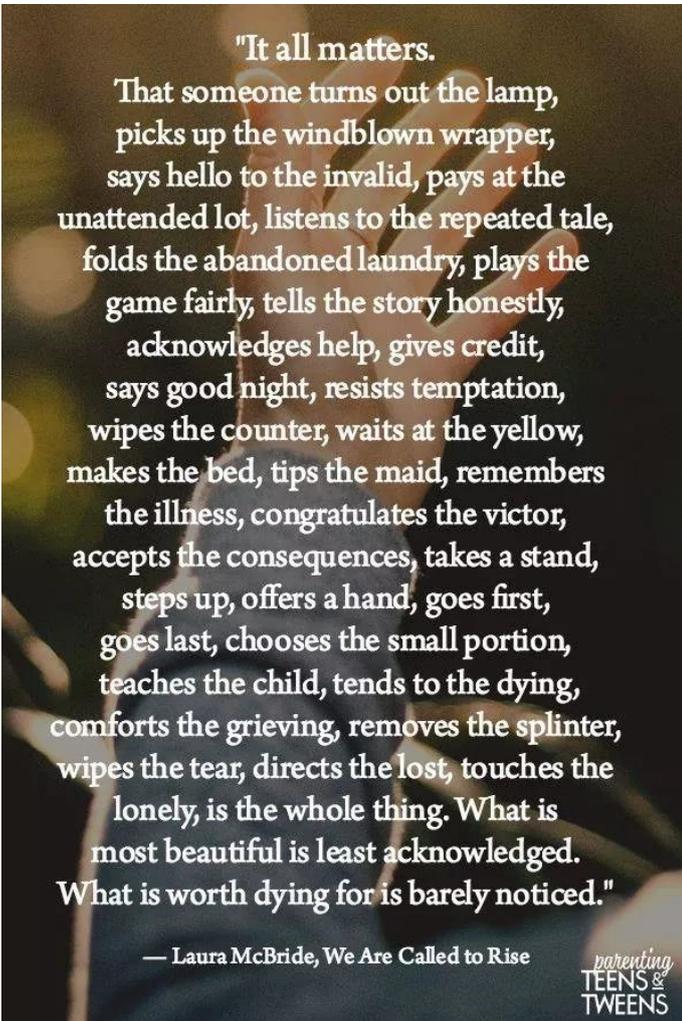
Some time ago the following words of wisdom formed part of a Communion Reflection at a Healing Mass. May they inspire and encourage us to respect and cherish our common humanity both now and into the future.

**Cherokee Traditional Precepts.**

**Have a good mind:** No matter what situation you are in, find something good about it, rather than the negative things. And in dealing with other human beings, find the good in them as well.

**We are all interdependent:** Do things for others - tribe, family, community - rather than just for yourself.

**Look forward:** Turn what has been done into a better path. If you're a leader, think about the impact of your decisions on seven generations into the future.



**"It all matters.**

That someone turns out the lamp,  
picks up the windblown wrapper,  
says hello to the invalid, pays at the  
unattended lot, listens to the repeated tale,  
folds the abandoned laundry, plays the  
game fairly, tells the story honestly,  
acknowledges help, gives credit,  
says good night, resists temptation,  
wipes the counter, waits at the yellow,  
makes the bed, tips the maid, remembers  
the illness, congratulates the victor,  
accepts the consequences, takes a stand,  
steps up, offers a hand, goes first,  
goes last, chooses the small portion,  
teaches the child, tends to the dying,  
comforts the grieving, removes the splinter,  
wipes the tear, directs the lost, touches the  
lonely, is the whole thing. What is  
most beautiful is least acknowledged.  
What is worth dying for is barely noticed."

— Laura McBride, We Are Called to Rise

parenting  
TEENS &  
TWEENS

**ADORATION CHAPEL**

**Eucharistic Adoration** The Adoration chapel is open every day from 9.30am to 6pm. We encourage you to come along for a quiet moment of prayer.

**Some Good Thoughts**

**Forbidden fruits create many jams.**

**God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.**

**God loves everyone,  
But probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over  
'religious nuts!'**

**God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage..**

**If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!**



## St. Nicholas Parish News

Sunday 29th March 2020

5th Sunday of Lent

Follow us on Facebook: @saintnicholasparish

www.saintnicholasparish.ie

E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com



Fr. Derek Leonard P.P. 087 6261287

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Fr. Gerard O'Leary 087 9378685

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### MASS TIMES.

In responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus all Masses in the Diocese have been cancelled for at least 3 weeks.

A number of Churches in the Diocese have web cameras and will broadcast Masses online so people at home can participate in the celebration of the Mass. SacredSpace102fm will also be broadcasting a studio Mass on Sundays and St Patrick's Day on West Limerick 102fm.

### ONLINE MASSES:

<https://www.limerickdiocese.org/news/masses-available-online-and-on-the-radio-in-the-diocese-of-limerick/>



### ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

We encourage local groups to avail of the newsletter to promote upcoming events, pray for the sick etc. To

be sent in to: Maura. 086 0429952, Grace. 086 8296193 or Email: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com by 6pm Wednesday.

### Message from Fr Derek

While the celebration of Mass with a congregation is restricted, I and my fellow priests, will continue to offer Mass in Private for the safety and well-being of all our Parishioners and friends of the Parish during this very frightening time.

Please keep an eye out for those living alone, especially the elderly and housebound.

Please let me know if You or one of your neighbours needs any help in the coming weeks... shopping etc

We would be happy to serve in the best way we can.

Fr Derek



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.

Continue to pray for Maurice, Ailish R, Annette, Aidan, Gabriel, Jim, Kathleen, Garrett, Helen, Philip, Tony, John, Brian, Muirinn, Ken, Orla, Kiera, Paddy, Michael, Vera, Ailish, Frank, Ger,

Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Amy, Anna, Gwyneth, Young Michael, William, Méabh, Séamas, Eamon, Declan and Eoin.

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 contact: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com or Maura 086 0429952/Grace 086 8296193

**Care for one another during the Coronavirus pandemic' - further advice of the Irish Bishops in response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus:**

Each Christian community should be acutely aware of the responsibility to care for those who are most at risk. For example, even where it may not be appropriate to visit the elderly, a simple telephone call to enquire about their needs could mean so much to them.

Read our advice at <https://www.limerickdiocese.org/news/care-for-one-another-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic-further-advice-of-the-irish-bishops-in-response-to-the-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Pray for all those affected by the coronavirus.

#LivingLent

#Prayer

Give one hour of your time to a charitable cause in your community.

#Almsgiving

Fast from technology and spend quality time together as a family.

#Fasting