



St. Nicholas' Parish News

Sunday 3rd November 2019
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.saintnicholasparish.ie
E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com
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The Deep End • Zacchaeus

Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.

087 6261287

Fr. John O'Byrne

085 7491268

Fr. Gerard O'Leary

087 9378685

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 — Nov

Sun 3—St. Martin de Porres

Tues 4—St. Charles Borromeo

Wed 6—St. Leonard

In today's Gospel we hear the familiar story of Zacchaeus. It is a story that may remind us of our childhood, our first confession, or, as in my case, it might bring a school song to mind that you can't get out of your head! As with all familiar Gospel stories, we are invited to read again with fresh eyes and hear again as if for the first time. For this story is very rich and we risk losing the meaning due to our familiarity with it.

Like many people today, Zacchaeus was a 'seeker.' We read that he was anxious to see what Jesus was like. Clearly, he was drawn to Jesus in some way, was searching for something or someone. Zacchaeus was an outcast, a tax collector, considered a sinner by the community. Yet Jesus reaches out to him in a gesture of hospitality and friendship. In return, Zacchaeus offers the strictest requirement, as noted in the Jewish scriptures, for restitution: 'four times the amount' of money he had taken from people. But notice that Jesus reaches out in love before Zacchaeus offers compensation for his crimes.

The encounter with Jesus has led Zacchaeus to be a witness to restoration and solidarity. He wants to restore justice where he has acted unjustly. Whether it was the crowd, greed, politics or corruption that was preventing Zacchaeus from seeing Jesus, he has been welcomed back to the table. Jesus is waiting to be invited to his home today. Complaints and negativity continue in the background, but none of that matters. This man is a 'son of Abraham'. It was the affection of Christ, not the condemnation of the town, that reversed the situation.

Who do you need to reach out to today in a similar way?

Jane Mellett
mellettj@gmail.com

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

1. Zacchaeus showed himself open to the call of Jesus, to the surprise of his contemporaries who thought there was no good in tax collectors. Sometimes the people who give us lessons in goodness may be people we previously disregarded. Recall when this happened for you.
2. It was the eagerness of Zacchaeus to see what kind of a man Jesus was that opened him up to conversion. When you consider moments of change in your life, what were the interests or desires that prepared you for change?
3. The decision of Jesus to eat in the house of Zacchaeus broke the social norms of his day and scandalized those who saw him. When have you found table fellowship a useful way of breaking down artificial boundaries between people? When has a kind word had this effect?
4. Zacchaeus had become rich off the backs of the people and they thoroughly disliked him. Yet he was the one singled out by Jesus and he responded to Jesus' call. Perhaps you have also seen people who hurt you and caused you pain change their ways. How have you reacted to such a change? What has helped you to see the grace of God at work, and give thanks?

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 months notice. Baptisms are on the 2nd & 4th weekend of each month. Times: 5.00pm Saturday evening (for summer months) St. Nicholas Church, Sunday 1.00p.m. St Munchin's College.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly local St Vincent De Paul collection will take place after masses this Weekend. Your generosity is always appreciated.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage ex Cork June 30th - July 7th 2020. EARLY BIRD price €625.00 pps (Half board in Hotel Leone, 2 mins from Church) if fully paid by December 13th. Full price of €725.00 applies after this date. Spiritual Director Fr. Sean Corkery. Group Leader: Sean O'Shaughnessy. €200.00 deposit secures place. Limited places. Contact 0862959380 or Joe Walsh Tours 01-2410800.

Please donate

Milford Hospice Shop

stocks great bargains and ideal gifts for all the family, including Clothes, Shoes, Household items and giftware to suit everyone's pocket.

If you are in the midst of a spring clean and declutter, the Milford Hospice Shop would be delighted to accept your once loved items such as clean Clothes, saleable Household items or indeed bric a brac.

We regret that we are unable to collect individual items or donations, there are some items we can no longer sell such as electrical goods, safety equipment and certain children's items.

Our Shop relies on the generosity of our supporters who donate their second-hand and brand new goods for re-sale. You can contribute by dropping your donated goods directly to Milford Hospice Shop, 22 Thomas Street Limerick between the hours of 9 to 5 Monday to Saturday. We regret that we are unable to collect individual items or donations.

Thank you for your support.



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 and Young Michael.

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

Limerick Charismatic Renewal Conference 2019

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th November
2 p.m. to 7 p.m. both days

Speaker:

FR HAYDEN WILLIAMS OFM (CAP), MALTA
(Keynote Speaker at Divine Mercy Conference 2019)

Venue:

Radisson Blue Hotel & Spa, Limerick
phone: 061- 456200

Further information:

Sr Mary Bridget - 061-454511
Brian - 086-3001027

Diabetes Ireland is hosting a FREE Health & Well-being Event for everyone living with or who has an interest in diabetes and health, on Sunday 10th November 2019 from 12-5pm. See www.diabetes.ie for further information.

TEAM HOPE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

The 2019 Limerick Team hope Christmas shoebox appeal is running from Nov 11th to Nov 21st this year. For leaflets, information and collections please contact 087 6716154 for the local Corbally area.

