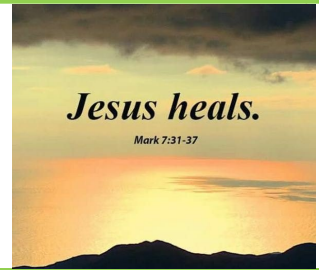




# St. Nicholas' Parish News

Sunday 5th September 2021  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



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Webcam: <https://www.churchservices.tv/limerickstnicholas>

Facebook: @stnicholasparish

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.

## The Deep End — 'Ephphatha'

This Sunday is the First Sunday of the Season of Creation, a global ecumenical season which runs from 1 September until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, 4 October. All Christians are invited to embrace this season in prayer, especially in our liturgies, in deep reflection, in living more sustainably and in raising our voices in the public sphere. We are invited to think more deeply about what is happening at present to the earth, the environmental destruction which now threatens our world and the call to 'eco-conversion'. The theme for this year's Season is 'Restoring Our Common Home'. It offers all of us a unique opportunity to renew our vocation to care more deeply God's creation.

In today's Gospel Jesus heals a man who was deaf and who had a speech impediment. Jesus says to him, 'Ephphatha,' which means Be Opened. Immediately this man was healed. There are many issues in our world to which we might be deaf or are 'closed' to, sometimes because they overwhelm us. The environmental crises are an example. Pope Francis invites us in 'Laudato Si', his letter on the environment, to really hear and listen to the earth, which is crying out to us, to the scientific community who are sounding the alarm bells, to young people who are deeply concerned. Ephphatha! May we be open to hearing these cries, to praying for our world and to take action where we can. We begin with the small actions and encourage others to do the same. Ephphatha! Let us all be open to this call to care more deeply and 'Restore Our Common Home'.

Jane Mellett  
[mellettj@gmail.com](mailto:mellettj@gmail.com)



## Lourdes Pilgrimages are back

Lourdes in September and October 2021

Contact Marian Pilgrimages

Dublin: (01) 878 8159 |

Belfast: (028) 956 80005

19 Eden Quay, Dublin 1

## Cork Autism Online

### Conference 2021 - Thriving with Autism.

Sunday, October 17th. This online conference offers interventions, skills and strategies to support people on the autism spectrum. Suitable for Parents, Families, Caregivers, Autistics, Employers, Educators, Professionals, Agencies, Advocates and anyone with an interest in autism. Visit: [www.autismcork.ie](http://www.autismcork.ie)

## Useful Contacts/Numbers

- ◆ COVID-19 Support Line for Older People—ALONE - 0818 222 024. SENIORLINE 1800 804591
- ◆ Community Call—Limerick City and County Council Tel 1800 852 389 E-mail [covidsupport@limerick.ie](mailto:covidsupport@limerick.ie)



## Prayer for when you can't receive communion

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 into 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.



## PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

We also welcome local **GOOD NEWS** stories or messages you want to share.

Items for the newsletter can be given to Maura 086 0429952 or Grace 086 8296193

E-mail: [Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Stnicholasnewsletter@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



Baptism time will be on 1st & 3rd Saturday at 4.30pm and on the 2nd & 4th Sunday at 1:00pm.

Contact the church office 061-341300

### 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 John, Brian, Paddy, Michael, Vera, Ailish, Frank, Ger, Bernadette, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Eoin, Mary, William, Méabh, Anna, Amy, Agnes, Dymrna, Muirinn, Orla, Carmel, Ruby, Michelle and Aoife.

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](mailto:stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com) or Tel. Maura 086 0429952 / Grace 086 8296193



## Season of Creation 2021

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.

We are living on the edge of huge historical change. Our common home, indeed our only home—this planet—is under threat. Our lifestyles, and the economies which support them are contributing significantly to climate change, and to the crisis it is causing: the many wildfires raging in these days, the melting of the polar caps, the rise of sea levels, the loss of biodiversity, and the depletion of the soil on which life depends. The future of life on this earth, which God created and which "he saw was good" (Genesis 1:21, 25), hangs in the balance. Humans are unequivocally driving global warming. It is beyond doubt that climate change is being caused by what we have done—and continue to do—in upsetting nature's equilibrium and balance.

What we need to realise is that, over the coming decades, the issues currently arising from climate change will impact far more on us than those from the coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, the havoc of the pandemic will pale when compared to that of climate change.

### Meadow Meaning

Brother Richard Hendrick OFM Cap

Shhhhh...  
Look...  
Listen...  
Even  
the blades of grass  
Even  
the flowers  
you dare to call  
weeds  
Even  
the light fast lives  
of tiny buzzing  
beings  
hear the call of Divine  
love  
and give them  
selves totally to  
grow towards the  
light.  
And what of  
you?

