

SUNDAY 5th July

THE DEEP END -

By Jane Mellett, mellettj@gmail.com

In the opening lines of the Gospel today, Jesus praises God for the grace of openness and humility he sees around him, for revealing 'these things' to infants and hiding them from the 'wise.' I imagine Jesus had had enough of the arrogance and the egos of the elite. The authorities of the time who were so closed to his message of love and compassion. Jesus' disciples were not from the upper echelons of society, but they trusted in Jesus, they wanted to understand, they had an openness to learn. For Jesus, God's grace was found in the humble, in those who were open to new possibilities, in those whose hearts were not hardened or consumed by ego.

Over the past number of months, we have all been humbled a little, whether we were open to it or not. The Covid-19 epidemic stopped us in our tracks and suddenly we realised we were not in control. We were humbled by a microscopic invader with macroscopic consequences.

While many opportunities lay in our cocooning, I am very aware how many are struggling with our new reality. It has been a traumatic and stressful time for most people. And yet, within it all, our faith asks us to watch out for signs of hope, for stories of resurrection all around us, for good news.

Today, we hear some of the most beautiful lines in the Gospel: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' Reading The Message interpretation of the text reads: 'Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I will not lay anything heavy or illfitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.'

During days of uncertainty, may we remember and whisper these lines, with open hearts.

CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

Limerick Diocese have a weekly Children's newsletter to download and print.

Download this week's Children's Newsletter to find out about Sunday's Gospel. It includes Saint of the Week, Video of the week as well as a picture to colour!

<https://www.limerickdiocese.org/resources/category/resources/family/>



HSE and Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support Line

Many people have experienced and will experience the death of someone they love during the COVID-19 pandemic. It may have been a COVID-related death or a death from other causes. People may also be finding a previous bereavement more difficult at this time. While we may be seeing reductions in the number of deaths connected to COVID-19, we know that people's pain and grief does not diminish as quickly.

In the face of such loss and trauma, the Irish Hospice Foundation Bereavement Support Line, in partnership with the HSE, has been launched to provide connection, comfort and support in these exceptional times. COVID-19 restrictions have changed the traditional ways we mark our grief. For the moment, it is not possible to come together like we did traditionally. This means many people are facing bereavement in isolation.

It is a national freephone service 1800 80 70 77 which will be available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday.





St. Nicholas Parish News

Sunday 5th July 2020

14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/

www.saintnicholasparish.ie

E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com

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.

All Masses will be held in St Nicholas Church, Westbury.

Weekday: 9.45am Monday–Wednesday

Weekend: Saturday: 6pm

Sunday: 10.30am and 12 noon

Strictly 50 people allowed in the church during public mass, please follow the stewards and public health guidelines in place.

ONLINE MASSES:

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

www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/

ITEMS FOR 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.

To be sent in to: Maura. 086 0429952, Grace. 086 8296193 or Email:

stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com



PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES: Tues 2pm–4pm and Thurs 9.30am -1.30pm for Church related enquiries.

Phone: 061 341300

BAPTISMS:

Baptism bookings will be taken from mid July. Baptism times will be 4.30pm on 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, and 1pm on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

Contact the Parish Office for further details.



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, Ethel 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

REOPENING ST NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCHES

Saturday 4th July sees the reopening of public masses in our Parish in St Nicholas Church. In order to do this Parish preparations have been made to comply with public health guidelines.

Parish volunteers are needed to run the masses and clean the church afterwards. If you wish to volunteer please text Fr Derek on 0876261287. More information is available on the parish Facebook page.

Pope's Intention for July

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.