



# St. Nicholas' Parish News

Web Edition

Sunday 7th March 2021  
Third Sunday of Lent



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

Facebook: @stnicholasparish

## Every Sunday Holy Mass Online

With public masses suspended for the time being, we will continue to celebrate masses daily on our Parish webcam from St Nicholas church. To view, click [www.saintnicholasparish.ie](http://www.saintnicholasparish.ie) or [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)

Our weekend online masses will be Saturday 6pm, Sunday 10:30 and 12 noon.

Daily mass : 9:45am Monday to Friday

## The Deep End — A question of authority

It is tough at times to figure out who has authority on certain issues. There are 'experts' everywhere, telling us how we should eat, exercise, manage our finances... the list goes on. Something that has struck me during the current pandemic is how hard it can be to know who to believe. We hear from doctors and virologists, politicians and economists, and their opinions don't always align. It can take us a while to trust the voices we hear in the media.

The Temple scene in today's gospel sparks a debate about Jesus' authority. While he certainly cuts an authoritative figure as he drives out the stall-holders and money-changers, he is immediately questioned. The Jews demand a sign to explain his provocative words and actions, as if to say 'Who do you think you are?' It is interesting to note that in John's Gospel, this scene takes place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry (unlike the Synoptic Gospels where it comes towards the end). This would explain the disbelief of the witnesses.

In calling the Temple 'my Father's house' Jesus identifies the source of his authority. But his interrogators do not understand, nor do his disciples, though we are told it later makes sense to them after the resurrection. This scene offers more than an angry Jesus and a clueless audience. It is a public revelation of Jesus' identity and authority, as the one in whom God's presence dwells. It also emphasises the radical new way of living that Jesus has come to bring about. As we journey through Lent, we ask ourselves where the message of Jesus has become obstructed in our lives, and how we might open our hearts again to his presence and guidance.

*'I invite all Christians, everywhere, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them... The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.'* (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*)

Triona Doherty  
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### 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)



## Trocaire

Working for a just world.

Trocaire Lenten Boxes can be collected from the church, open Daly between 9am & 3pm.

Walk, run or cycle for Trocaire this Lent  
#fromlimerickwithlove

GoFundMe Page for donations - [gf.me/u/zhfkrk](https://gf.me/u/zhfkrk)  
[www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)



**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.  
Phone: 061-341300

*Baptism*



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, Agnes, Dympna, Muirinn, Orla, Carmel, Ruby, Pat and Michelle .

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

**seniorline**

National Confidential Listening Service for Older People

*At a Glance*

**WHY PEOPLE CALL**

- Covid Support
- Loneliness
- Depression
- Isolation
- Conflict
- Anxiety
- Crisis
- Company

8,760 Listening Hours Per year

Senior Line benefits older people in every county in the Republic

146,000 Older People Live Alone

180 Trained Older Volunteers

Up to 20,000 Calls Per year

Your support always welcome

Log on to: [www.thirdageireland.ie/seniorline](http://www.thirdageireland.ie/seniorline)

**CALL CENTRES**  
Dublin Central  
Donnybrook  
Leopardstown

**OPEN**  
10am to 10pm  
365 days

**During Lent there will be a short Reflection via the webcam from St. Nicholas' church on Thursday evenings at 7.00p.m.**

**The dates for these are: 11th, 18th and 25th.**

**We would love if you could join us.**



**A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity**

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger envy, or self-pity. Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and stronger compassion.

Enlarge my heary with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me. In your sacred name, I pray. Amen.



**Freephone 1800 80 45 91**



**CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

**0818 222 024**

If you have concerns or queries about COVID-19 call ALONE's dedicated support line everyday, 8am - 8pm. To volunteer your help, visit [www.alone.ie](http://www.alone.ie)

**No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.**

**- Hal Borland**

