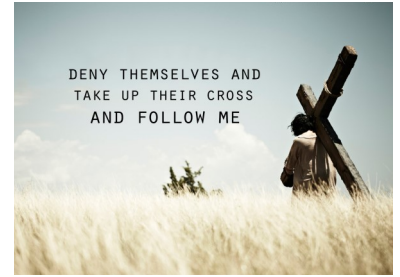




## St. Nicholas' Parish News

**Sunday 8th September 2019**  
**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

[www.saintnicholasparish.ie](http://www.saintnicholasparish.ie)  
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DENY THEMSELVES AND  
 TAKE UP THEIR CROSS  
 AND FOLLOW ME

### The Deep End — Rethinking our attachments

The Gospel is troubling. Does Jesus really expect us to hate our families, friends and even ourselves in order to be his followers? We are being invited to think about how we attach ourselves to things and to people, even to images of ourselves. Attachment can cause all sorts of suffering in our lives. If we are to grow, we must move on from the comfortable, let go of the familiar. That can often be painful.

During the month of September, we are celebrating the Season of Creation. We know that our world is currently suffering from a catastrophic loss of biodiversity, largely caused by a consumerist culture. God's creatures are disappearing from the Earth at a rate we can scarcely comprehend. Insects, mammals, trees, plants and creatures are becoming extinct. We pray that this decline may end, and we acknowledge that we are part of a complex, delicate and interdependent web of life, created by God. Today's Gospel invites us to let go of the attachments in our lives which contribute to this destruction. Let us try to live more simply and sustainably, and to encourage others to do the same. We are called to examine our relationship with material things and walk more gently on the earth.

'It is not enough to think of different species merely as potential 'resources' to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves ... Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right' (*Laudato Si'*, 33).

Suggestion for the week: Can you remove single-use plastics from your life? Buy a reusable water bottle and reusable coffee cup. Say no to plastic straws and food wrapping

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

**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](mailto:Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com)

#### Feast Days — Sept

**Mon 9** — St. Ciaran

**Thurs 12** — St. Ailbe

**Sat 14** — Exaltation of the Holy Cross

### Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

1. The passage is a call to both radical and practical discipleship. When have you found that in order to achieve a certain objective you had to make it a priority, and then take the practical steps necessary to reach your goal? What were the benefits to you when you did this?
2. 'Hate' is prophetic exaggeration for the uncompromising loyalty Jesus seeks in disciples. There may be times when people make demands in conflict with fidelity to another relationship. This can be painful. When have you found that being clear about your priorities helped you in that situation?
3. Jesus uses parables here to tell us that in important human affairs we do not settle for vague aspirations. When have you found that some element of practical planning has been necessary to make progress with a project? What has this taught you about making the most of your life and of your time?

John Byrne osa  
[Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com](mailto: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 month's 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.



### St Nicholas' Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

#### Update 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Our PPC met on the evening of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, resuming activities following the Summer break.

Matters discussed included, our thanks to Sister Kathleen who has retired, for her long service and valuable contribution over the years. A welcome was extended to Sister Patricia, who has replaced her and to Fr Gerard O Leary, who has been appointed to serve our joint parishes, St Nicholas' and St Mary's.

Arranging forward planning of liturgies and matters relating to general upkeep and maintenance were amongst other items on the agenda.

Good wishes were extended to the group participating in the upcoming parish Camino pilgrimage.

In attendance were: Fr Derek, Sr Patricia, Maura Ryan, Betty Cooke, Gina O Dwyer, Maurice Carr, Maurice Quillinan, Secretary Sheila Kent and Chair Mary Kelly.

PPC meetings take place monthly between September and June. During that period regular updates will be issued.

#### Prayer Plaque and Icon

At our recent PPC meeting, thanks were extended to the now disbanded Bereavement Support Group for their work over many years. Their gift of the prayer plaque and icon, now installed near the entrance to our church is sincerely appreciated. These are indeed very beautiful works of art and enhance their setting as well as being conducive to prayerful reflection.

The lovely icon was written by Sr Susie Smith of Ballintubber Hermitage. Gerard Reidy of Fablab was responsible for creating a 'home' for the icon and for helping with the design and preparation of the plaque. His interest and commitment to the project were invaluable to its completion and without the longstanding dedication to bereavement support of Mary Meaney, Ann Wallace and Mary Kelly it would not have been possible.



### 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 and Mary.

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

### Cork Autism Conference 2019 - Autism: No Limits, Just Possibilities

Sunday September 22nd, Clayton Silversprings Hotel, Cork.

The conference provides a unique forum for Parents, Families, Caregivers, Autistic Adults, Employers, Educators, Professionals, Agencies, Advocates and anyone with an interest in autism. More info here: [www.autismcork.ie](http://www.autismcork.ie) or call 089 239 8900

### ALTAR SERVERS

Training for new altar servers will take place during September. Boys and girls from 3rd class up (any school) welcome to serve.

Further details from Sr. Kathleen or Maura 087 9576148.

### St. Nicholas Children's Choir

The children's choir will return mid September. Boys and girls from 1st class up (any school) welcome to join.

Practice is every Wednesday from 6.30 to 7.15 in St. Nicholas Church. The choir sing at 10.30 mass every Sunday from September to May.

Further details from Maura 087 9576148.

**NB Return date of Wednesday 18th September for choir practice 6.30pm to 7.15pm.**

**St. Mary's Adult Education Centre Island Road, Limerick**

**AUTUMN/WINTER 2019 REGISTRATION DAY**

**Thursday 12th September 10am—4pm**

Tel: (061) 313993. E-Mail: [stmarysaded@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysaded@gmail.com).

Why not take a look at some of our classes.

We offer classes from beginner to intermediate level across a wide range of subjects.

Classes range from Art and Crafts to Literacy and PC Skills.

Refreshments provided throughout the day.