



St. Nicholas' Parish News

February 18 2018

1st Sunday of Lent

www.saintnicholasparish.ie

E-mail:

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Fr. Derek Leonard P.P.

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Fr. John O'Byrne

085 7491268

Fr Sean Harmon

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Salesian Sisters:

348510

Mass times:

Weekday Masses:

Mon, Tues, Wed.

9.45am.College Chapel

Thur, 7.00pm

St Nicholas .Church

Weekends:

Sat 7.00pm . St Nicholas

Sun.10.30 am. St Nicholas

12 noon:

St Munchin's College Chapel

Items for newsletter

To be in to:

John... 085 7406822

Maura. 086 0429952

by Wednesday please.

E-mail:

Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com

Feastdays for February

Tues 20

SS Jacinto & Francisco
Marto (Fatima)

Fri 23

Day of Prayer for Survivors
& Victims of Sexual Abuse

Sat 24

St Fintan
Flight into Egypt.

Pray that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

THE DEEP END: 'Stretched out his hand...'

Jesus, in today's gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society, and still today there are many people in our own society who are completely alienated and stigmatised. Jesus is moved with pity for this man. What moves you with pity? Who do you pity? What alienates you from others? Who is alienated in our communities? Who is it that we need to reach out to? Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. It is the religious of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing, Jesus has done by 'stretching out his hand' in love.

Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he would be shouting from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will compile evidence but, for now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.....Jane Mellett

MUSINGS

Between his baptism in the Jordan and the beginning of his preaching, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness. Mark's Gospel gives us a succinct account of the event: The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts and the angels looked after him.

As Lent begins we are perhaps unwilling to enter into it fully but if, driven by the Spirit, we do follow Jesus into the wilderness, we may find that we come to terms with temptation and discover a certain freedom. Temptation is essentially about taking the easy way out. It is always easier to follow our inclinations than to be faithful to our promises and our principles. Until, that is, we realize what is at stake. Taking the easy way out of every difficult situation does not bring peace. It is an expression of despair.....

Fr James O'Kane.

A SPECIAL LITURGY DAY FOR ALL WHO SERVE!

Saturday, March 10 2018

Rathkeale House Hotel . 9:30-1:30pm.

'Lord, teach us to pray': Creating relevant and inspiring parish liturgy for all.

We are all very busy in preparing and leading parish liturgy. There is so much happening: Sunday Mass, weekday services, funeral prayers, wedding Mass etc.

What is at the heart of it all? What is parish liturgy about and who is it for?

This workshop is for all who serve at Sunday Mass as Ministers of Word, Eucharist or Music; all who want to learn and all who lead liturgy during the week - bringing communion to homes, choosing music for prayer, proclaiming the Word of God, etc.

Keynote speaker: Dr Anne Francis, Cork.

Workshops: Holy Week Liturgies, Lay led liturgy on week day mornings (a reflection and a review), Funeral parish teams - the Cork & Ross diocese experience.

Ring 061 400133 to book your place. €10 pp.

Christian Meditation

Spend some time with God.



You are Invited

The Salesian Sisters invite you to a quiet time of meditation on Tuesdays from 10.30am to 11:00 am. At their home. 3 Oakton Road, Westbury.

Parish Office Opening hours.

Opening times: Tues 2pm-4pm. Thurs 9.30am-12.30. for anyone who may need to book Masses get certificates or any other church related enquiries.

Tel: 341300

Baptism: Anyone wishing to have their baby baptised must give at least one months notice. Please contact the office to make arrangements.

Alzheimer Society of Ireland

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland hold a Social Club for people with dementia and their carer, in a supported environment, which takes place each Tuesday morning in St. Mary's RFC Grove island, between 11.00 a.m. & 1.00p.m. There is no charge to attend and tea and coffee are provided. Please phone Mary at 313456 if you would like to attend, or just call to St. Mary's RFC on Tuesdays from 11.00am.



Prayer & Reflection for Lent

The Salesian Sisters invite you to a simple prayer and time of reflection for Lent as follows: Monday evening, February 19th at 7.30p.m at 3 Oakton Road, Westbury. All are welcome.



A Service of light will be held on Tuesday evening February 20th at 7.30p.m in St Nicholas Church for all Confirmation candidates and their Parents/Guardians.

Sympathy

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Elizabeth (Monnie) Hogan. Willow Grove, Westbury, who died recently. May she rest in Peace.



First Sunday of Lent

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness. As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.



In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation. As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted. As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

Thom Schuman

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, Maura, Philip, Tony, John, Brian, Muirinn, Ken, Orla, Ciara, Paddy, Michael, Vera Ailish, Frank & Ger. 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 John/Maura know by E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com or Tel. John.085 7406822 Maura. 086 0429952

A Haven of Peace and Quiet



Adoration is increasing and becoming more popular in the Limerick Diocese. Why not visit our little Chapel at the side of St Nicholas Church in Westbury.

Mothers & Toddlers

Mothers & Toddlers meet every Tuesday morning from 10.30-12.30 in the Pastoral Centre in St Nicholas Church. All Welcome.



Come and See



Thinking about the priesthood? You are invited to Pallotine College, Thursday 6pm Friday to 3pm Saturday. An event for men discerning priesthood aged 18 to 40, to 'Come and See.' Begins Friday February 23rd with dinner at 6pm, followed by informal chat, discussion and prayer. Stay overnight, and on the Saturday morning there will be prayer, breakfast and discussion. There will also be Mass at 11.30, followed by lunch at 12.30, final discussion and departure at 3pm. Advance booking is required. The event is free of charge. Please contact your local parish priest or vocations director.

Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men"

Desert Day for Lent

A Desert Day will take place in Westbourne, Ashbourne Avenue on Saturday, February 24th from 10.30 to 5.00. The day will give you an opportunity to enter more deeply into the season of Lent in the peaceful surroundings of Westbourne Convent. Booking is essential as places are limited. For information contact: Sr. Phyllis Moynihan at 0879636893

The Lighter Side

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked." With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!" 😊