

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

MARK 1:1-8

1. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?

2. John calls the people to repentance (i.e a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you?

3. John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark this change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?

John Byrne OSA Email: john@orlaqh.ie

THE DEEP END: The Beginning of the Good News.....

The second Sunday of Advent turns our attention to John the Baptist. John was an interesting individual. We are told he dressed a bit strangely, had an odd diet and spent a lot of time in the desert. Yet it seems he was very popular with the whole of Judaea and 'all the people of Jerusalem' went out to hear him. John must have been a dynamic speaker and one in whom people

found hope and inspiration. Who are these attractive messengers for us today? Who brings us good news and hope? Whose message makes sense for us? Who do we flock to hear?

Today we might also reflect on the messengers in our own lives. Who did God send to you while you were in your own wilderness? Perhaps they brought with them a moment of grace reassuring you that you would not be drifting aimlessly forever. Perhaps the evidence at that moment in your own life stated the contrary, yet these words of encouragement or comfort gave you reason to hope and to hang in there. These 'John the Baptists' are messengers of the light. They are all around us. Sometimes we are the ones called upon to be a messenger of light for someone else. The good news of the gospel today is that even in times of desolation there is a hope, a promise that urges us on. How we prepare for this journey determines our experience. See I am sending my messenger ahead of you...

Jane Mellett; melletti@gmail.com

NOTICE FROM THE HOSPITALITY TEAM:

The Monday Afternoon Club will close for Christmas from tomorrow, 11 December and will reopen on Monday 15 January 2018 from 2.00 – 4.00pm

Wednesday, 13 December, after 10.00am Mass is our last Morning Tea before Christmas. Wednesday Morning Teas will begin again on 17 January 2018.

All are welcome.

DECEMBER 11-19 FESTIVAL OF FAMILIES WMOF 2018

The WMOF Icon will visit **St. John's Cathedral** from **11-13 December**. This is a unique journey of preparation. The Icon will not return to Limerick again, so please note the dates and times.

Monday: 5.45 pm - Opening Mass

Tuesday: 9.00am – Adoration

9:45am - Morning Prayer

10.00am - Mass with Bishop Leahy

1.00pm - Caring for the Sick

5.45pm- Mass and St Anthony

Novena

6.15-7.00pm- Reflections on the Icon.

Wed: 9.00am - Adoration

9.45- Morning Prayer

10.00- Mass

10.30- Icon Reflections for Schools

MASS TIME CHANGES: Please note that during December, evening Mass will be held only on Mondays at 5.45pm; this will be followed by Adoration until 7.00pm.

THE JESSE TREE: The Jesse Tree is the 'Family Tree' of Jesus. It represents the ancestors of Jesus and tells the history of His family. Jesse was the father of King David and St Matthew in his Gospel traces the descent of Jesus from David right down to St Joseph. The image is taken from the Prophet Isaiah (Ch 11). The passage is read on the Second Sunday of Advent which is today. 'A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom.' The roots symbolise Jesse, the father of David. Our Lady is the 'shoot' and Jesus is the 'Blossom'.

When you look at our Jesse Tree at the back of the Church, you will notice familiar symbols – the Garden of Eden symbolised by the apple in the grip of a snake; Noah's Ark;

Abraham, Isaiah and Moses represented by the pair of sandals he removed when he realised that he was in God's presence; the Ten Commandments and many other symbols.

Parish Website

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825

Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733

Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at Church Sacristy Tel: 325288

Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays

17:00-17:30 Mon

09:00-12.30 Sunday

Mass Times: Weekends:

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00 ;

Mon. 17:45

Saturday 09:45

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 18:15-19:00

Baptisms: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 9th	18:00	Jackie Staunton (A) Joan Quinn (1 st A)
Sun 10th	10:00	Liam O'Leary (1 st A) Dermot Walsh (A)
	11:30	Pat Quane (A) Michael Meaney (A) Ann O'Sullivan (1 st A) Paddy O'Sullivan (A) Mary Cullinan (M.M.)
Mon 11th	10:00	Rita Fitzgibbon (A)
	17:45	John & Christine Guirey (A)
Tues 12th	10:00	Zena & Michael Gilbourne (A)
Wed 13th	10:00	Jim Berkery (A)
Thurs 14th	10:00	Martina Sheahan (Rec.Dec.)
Fri 15th	10:00	Purgatorial Society
Sat 16th	09:45	Seamus & Margaret Flanagan (A)
	18:00	Carmel Custy (A) Martina Sheahan (M.M.)
Sun 17th	10:00	Karen Kavanagh (A) Eddie Holliday (A)
	11:30	Hillary & Eileen Maher (A) Dec. Mem. Of Maher & Loughnan Families.