

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

MATTHEW 11:2-11

1. In response to the question of John, Jesus let his actions speak for him. Some people show by the way they live what it means to be follower of Jesus. Who has given you such an example? Perhaps there have been times when you have done the same for others.
2. John made a journey of faith from an incomplete knowledge of Jesus to a deeper understanding of who he was. Recall similar steps in our journey of faith.
3. Faith is not primarily about answering abstract theological questions but about living the gospel. What in your life has helped you to get that sense of perspective?
4. John marked the end of an era, Jesus the beginning of a new one. In our lives, how do we honour the past and yet be free to move on into a new era.

John Byrne OSA Email: john@orlagh.ie

MUSINGS: John who was in prison...(Mt11:2)

There is much waiting time in prison. Waiting for sentence, for release, waiting with patience to discover one's fate. This is where John the Baptist finds himself after confronting Herod. John had prophesised revolutionary change but couldn't see it in Jesus. Therefore, the question: 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' Jesus knew his cousin had a depth of spirituality to sustain him and his

response is simple but effective: 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see'.

We've seen it too in others who were confined. St Paul, Nelson Mandela and Viktor Frankl never lost hope. They were not self-preoccupied in waiting but focused on their mission of establishing God's kingdom, ending apartheid or not allowing evil to win the day. 'He who has a *why* to live for can bear with almost any *how*' (Nietzsche). Advent is our time for developing a spirituality that teaches patience; to wait with patience and hope despite the darkness of our time. In the depths of winter we learn to wait for the light. And the light will come just as the days begin to lengthen. We must wait.

Fr Iomar Daniels

NOTICE FROM THE HOSPITALITY TEAM:

The Monday Afternoon Club will close for Christmas from tomorrow, 12 December and will reopen on Monday 16 January 2017 from 2.00 – 4.00pm

Wednesday, 14 December, after 10.00am Mass is our last Morning Tea before Christmas. The raffle for the Crib will take place. Wednesday Morning Teas will begin again on 18 January 2017.

All are welcome.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION :

Today: Sunday 11 December at 10.00am Mass - Boys and their families from the JFK school.

Sunday 18 December at 11.30 am - girls and their families from the Salesian Primary School.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION MASS:

Saturday 17 December at 6.00 pm - Boys and their families from the JFK school.

Sunday 18 December at 10.00 am - girls and their families from the Salesian Primary School.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: The Sacrament of Penance, with assistance from visiting priests, will be held on **Monday 19 December** at 7:30pm.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday 13 December at 7.30pm.

EVENING MASS: Please note there will no evening Mass during weekdays from 12 December until further notice.

REMEMBRANCE TREE: The cards for the Remembrance Tree are in the basket at the foot of the tree. Please fill in a card with the names of those who will be away from home and who you would like included in our Parish prayers during the Christmas Season and hang it on the Remembrance Tree. Also please take a Remembrance Tree card to send to those living away whom you have included in the prayers.

THE ADVENT WREATH is a circle of evergreens, a symbol of God's eternal love for us. Fastened to the wreath are five candles standing upright, at equal distances. These candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, symbolising the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. A rose or pink candle is lit for the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday. The fifth, a white candle, placed in the middle of the wreath, represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.

Today is the third Sunday of Advent.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Parish Christmas Cards are on sale in the Church at the back porch door: €5 for a packet of 10 in aid of St Vincent DePaul.

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 & Tue

09:00-12.30 Sunday

Mass Times: Weekends:

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00

Saturday 09:45

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 18:15-19:00

Friday 10:30-17:30

Meditation: Monday 19:00

Baptisms: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 10th	18:00	Denis McMahon (A) Jackie Staunton (A)
Sun 11th	10:00	Rita Fitzgibbon (A)
	11:30	Pat Quane (2 nd A) Michael Meaney (A)
Mon 12th	10:00	Declan & Mary Walsh (A)
Tues 13th	10:00	Purgatorial Society
Wed 14th	10:00	Karen Kavanagh (A)
Thurs 15th	10:00	Frank Doyle (Rec. Dec.)
Fri 16th	10:00	Don & Rita Ryan (A) Bernadette Winkle
Sat 17th	09:45	David Barry (A)
	18:00	Michael Gleeson (A) Tom Clohessy (A) Peter Phelan (A)
Sun 18th	10:00	Hilary & Eileen Maher Loughnan A
	11:30	Jim & Rose Hurley (A) Henry Morris (A) The Gore Family (A)