

## SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

### Matthew 3:13-17

1. The Baptism of Jesus marks a turning point in his life, and the start of his public ministry. Recall moments when your life changed and moved into a new phase.
2. The experience was one in which Jesus had a new sense of his own identity. What have been the experiences which have helped shape your sense of who you are?
3. How have you come to an awareness of being a child of God, beloved by God one on whom rests the grace of God?
4. It is surprising that Jesus, the Saviour of the world, asks to be baptised by John. The request symbolises his desire to identify with us. At the same time he is filled with the Holy Spirit. That step of identifying with us is an important element in being able to help us. Have you ever found that when someone identifies with you, it is easier for him/her to help you. Has your ability to identify with others had any impact on your effectiveness in helping others?

John Byrne OSA Email: [john@orlagh.ie](mailto:john@orlagh.ie)

### THE DEEP END *Baptism of Jesus*

John the Baptist was driven by one mission: to point people to Jesus, to prepare the way for Jesus' baptism. The moment has arrived but he is standing before someone much greater than himself and is being asked to minister. John feels unqualified, unworthy of such a task,. After some persuasion 'John

*Gave into him'* and accepted his responsibility. This is a lesson to all of us, not to let feelings of inadequacy stop us from carrying out our various missions and vocations in our lives. Jesus explains to John that this is necessary as a sign for the beginning of his ministry, a public statement of identity.

Today, we might consider our own baptism and what it means to us. At that moment we were anointed as priests, prophets and Kings. To what extent do we live this out in our Christian lives? John points us towards Jesus and we can ask, do we also point the way to Jesus for others? How can we be signposts for others? Remember today those who pointed the way for you at various times in your life. Maybe a chaplain in school or college, a teacher, grandparent, a friend, a retreat you participated in. At various times in our lives we meet these 'signposts' which help us to grow in our faith and deepen our awareness of Christ's love. Let us celebrate all of these 'baptismal' moments today.

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

**CHRISTMAS DUES:** We wish to acknowledge and thank all who have returned their Christmas Offering envelopes for the Priests and the Sacristan and all who are in the process of doing so.

**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS:** This Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus at 11:30 Mass. We will have a special celebration when all

those who were baptised during 2019 are invited to attend.

**FAMILY MASS:** Our monthly Family Mass is this Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30.

### FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

**PROGRAM:** JFK boys and families– Saturday Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, 6.00pm Mass

Girls and families –Salesian Primary School Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10.00 am Mass

### HOSPITALITY GROUP:

The Hospitality Group would like to thank you all for your support in making 2019 a very successful year. Congratulation to Kay Quin on winning the Carol Singers in our raffle, these were made and donated by Molly Doherty to help raise funds for the Centre. A special thanks to Santa for taking time off his very busy schedule to come join us for a cuppa.

Our thanks to all the parishioners who helped to deliver the Christmas Dues Envelopes. Please note we are back again for the cuppa and chat on Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Jan after 10.00am Mass and also for the social get together on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 2.00pm to 4.00pm

**THE SIGN OF PEACE:** The Sign of Peace was reintroduced into the Mass when the Liturgy was reformed after Vatican II. As with everything else in the liturgy, it has great purpose and meaning. We are offering our peace to our greater community and to the world at large. The Sign of Peace can be stressful to people who have medical conditions or who are susceptible to the flu etc. Given that the flu season is at its peak we are to suspend the giving of the Sign of Peace between now and the beginning of Lent. In its place we can give a smile or a greeting and pause for a moment and pray

for some person or situation suffering a lack of peace.

**REFLECTION:** Deal with the faults of others as gently as your own. *Chinese Proverb*

### PARISH WEBSITE

[www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie](http://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: 061 325288

Office Hours: 09:00 - 09:45 Weekdays  
09:00 - 12.30 Sunday

### MASS TIMES: Weekends and Holy Days

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

### Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00

Saturday 09:45 : Prayer Service

**BAPTISMS:** Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	Ronan O'Riain (Rec. Dec.)
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Michael, Bridie & Willie Ryan (A)
		Brenda Fitzgerald (A)
	11:30	Liam O'Shanahan (A)
		Margaret & Seamus Flanagan (A)
		Paddy & Birdie Fitzpatrick (A)
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Pro Popolo
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Nancy Leahy (Rec. Dec.)
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Paddy Quilligan (A)
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Special Intention
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Patty Rafter (Rec. Dec.)
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	09:45	Prayer Service
	18:00	Molly & Deffie O'Carroll (A)
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Paddy Quilligan (A)
	11:30	Fr. Colman Ryan (Rec. Dec.)

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