

Seeing your Life through the Lens of the GospelJohn4:5-42

1. Jesus leads the woman along a wonderful journey towards a deeper, fuller human life. You can enter the story from the perspective of the woman. Recognise her resistance to growth, her complacency, her evasions, and her eventual acceptance, partial though it was, of Jesus. When have you made a similar journey in your relationship with God? With others? With your own self?
2. The woman is attracted by what Jesus is saying, but for a very human motive: the thought of having water in such a way that she did not have to come and draw it from the well. We too can be attracted by very mixed motives, some of them matters of personal interest: belonging, community, security. What have been the motives attracting you to faith, prayer, religion, church? In what way have these been stepping stones to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus? Perhaps we can also see the same movement in the growth of some of our human relationships.
3. You can also enter the story with Jesus, the ideal leader, parent, teacher, or spiritual guide. Notice how he meets the woman where she is, needing her assistance, how he is patient with her, but also challenges her to grow to what she is capable of.

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The Deep End ‘Give me a drink!’

In today’s Gospel, we hear the wonderful account of the woman at the well. We hear of physical thirst but also of a much deeper thirst, for connection and conversion. During Lent,

we are invited into the lives of Trocaire’s

in the global south. We meet Madris in Kenya, who walks around the dusty brown patch of land beside her small home, where she lives with her six children. There are no crops visible, just a few scraggy bushes. Madris tells us, ‘I feel very bad when the rains don’t come because all my plants depend on rainfall’. Water scarcity worldwide is being accelerated by the climate crisis. Scientists tells us that rainfed agriculture will drop by 50% worldwide by 2030, due to global warming.

When we think of how we might help, we give, and that is good. But we must also be aware of a deeper conversion that is needed. Change is possible, solutions are there, and as faith communities we are invited into this journey of change. The woman in the Gospel today is so deeply affected by her encounter with Christ that she runs to tell the others. May we also be enthused and open to a real thirst for climate justice, aware that we are called to ‘an ecological conversion whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue, it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.’ (Laudato Si, 217)

A **challenge**: How much water do you use? Where water is concerned how can you serve God more fully? For water tips, see www.taptips.ie

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Dear Sisters and Brother in Christ, Lent has begun. The next forty days are a time when Christians all over the world

focus on the quality of our relationship with God and with others. Since it is five years since Pope Francis wrote his wonderful encyclical, *Laudato Si*, on the care of our planet, “our common home” as he calls it, I suggest we live Lent this year with an eye on how we relate to God’s creation.

At times we might feel the crisis needs a greater response than anything we can do personally. Yet simple steps can make a difference such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights.

Pope Francis knows that some might say these efforts are not going to change the world. They seem insignificant. But he believes our small deeds benefit society, perhaps often in ways unknown to us because they create ripples of goodness that inevitably tend to spread. He also suggests that such actions can restore our sense of self-esteem; they can enable us to live more fully and to feel that life on earth is worthwhile.

Our Parish prays for those preparing for **First Holy Communion** this year. “Lord Jesus, this evening, in our Parish Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, we pray for those who are preparing for First Holy Communion. Bless each boy and help him to prepare well. Bless his family so that this may be a very special time for them all. Amen.

The Irish Blood Transfusion Service will be holding a blood donor clinic in the **Greenhills Hotel**, Ennis Rd., Limerick, on **Monday 16th of March. Time: 5pm – 8pm.**

Enriching your Marriage: A Marriage Enrichment Weekend is for married couples of all ages. The next Weekend takes place at The International Hotel Cork 3rd to 5th April 2020

(Fri.730 pm to Sun 4 pm). For info. and to book please visit www.marriageencounter.ie or Ph: 087-216 2436.

Reflection:Our Lenten prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God’s eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us to Him. **# Pope Francis Twitter**

PARISH WEBSITE
www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

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Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733
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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 14 th	09.45	Prayer Service
	18:00	Katherine Phelan (A) Anthony Murnane (A)
Sun 15 th	10:00	
	11:30	Bridget & James Cantillon Joseph McGrath (1 st A) Dan Healy
Mon 16 th	10:00	Pro Popolo
	18.00	Vincent, Ursula & Barry O’ Callaghan (A).
Tues 17 th	10:00	Maureen Reeves (Rec.Dec) John & Marie Murphy (A)
Wed 18 th	10:00	
Thurs 19 th	10:00	
Fri 20 th	10:00	Frank Davis (Rec. Dec.)

Sat 21 st	09:45	Prayer Service
	18:00	Anne Keane (A)
Sun22 nd	10:00	Josephine McNamara (1 st A)
	11:30	Joe Gilligan (A)
		Donal Norrie (A)
		EthnaBensen (A)
		Rita Keane (M.Mind)