

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS Matthew 22:1-14 Oct 15

There are two parables here that Matthew has joined together. Looking at the first one: 1. Scripture often speaks of the kingdom of God as a banquet. The image of people being at a meal where everyone is happy and welcome and where all hunger and thirst is satisfied gets across the idea that God loves, accepts and welcomes us and wants us to make that experience available to one another. Think of times in your life when you have had 'banquet' experiences and when you have felt accepted and loved? 2. The host enlists the help of his servants to invite people to the banquet. We are commissioned by the Lord to invite people to the banquet of the kingdom, to the fullness of life – as parents, teachers, friends, etc. What has it been like for you to play a part in leading others to a fuller life? 3. As in the parable last week there is a message about being alert to invitations that offer a fuller life and the danger of losing out if we neglect to respond to such invitations. Perhaps there have been opportunities offered to you that you missed, and now regret. Think also of the blessings you received because you seized the moment and took an opportunity that presented. 4. The second parable puts the focus on how we respond to invitations. Some invitations are ones that challenge us to change, to conversion, to put on a 'wedding garment'. What has been your experience of changing in response to an invitation you received? *John Byrne OSA,*

MUSINGS

Priests will continue to minister to 'occasional Catholics,' or the 'semi-attached.' This is sometimes a source of frustration for priests. In part, this is because there does not seem to be any coherent strategy, not only at a national level but even within dioceses, for instance, with regard to admitting children who are from non-practising families to the sacraments of initiation and providing for sacramental marriage. In other countries people are quick to register formally 'in' or 'out' of the Church. In Ireland, we tend to be pragmatic rather than to take principles stances, and so it is likely that many people will drift in and out of the Church. The challenge here is to get the balance right between providing pastoral care sensitively, on the one hand, and inviting people into fuller communion and conversion, on the other. Fr Eamonn Conway, 'Being a Priest in Contemporary Culture,'

THE DEEP END: What do you want?

What people want is at the heart of today's parable. A king invites people to his son's wedding banquet, but their minds are on other things; they don't see the value of the invitation. They don't want it. Jesus' story tells us that rather than being an imposition, our faith is an invitation, a gift.

It's been said that the biggest problem with consumerism is not that it makes us want too much, but that it makes us want too little; it diverts and distracts us with lesser things. The world we live in is, now more than ever, full of appeals to our most

precious possession: our attention. We are, so to speak, in constant receipt of many invitations. There is so much that conspires to steal our attention from what is deepest and most important.

When the king of Jesus' parable issued the invitation to his son's wedding banquet, people's attention was elsewhere, they wanted other things. And some of them, evidently, were angry at what they perceived to be an imposition on their time and on their priorities.

HOME BOUND IN HOSPITAL OR NURSING HOME:

As Priests, we welcome the opportunity to visit the sick in their homes hospitals or nursing homes. If you wish us to call, please let us know.

Thank you for the Family Fun Day for those who organised and those who attended.

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us.

Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us.

Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us.

Sacrament of the Sick Wed Oct 18th 10am

will be administered in Church during 10am Mass Oct 18th feast of St Luke. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Parish centre. If you can help someone to attend, by providing transport and care, please do.

Irish Blood Transfusion Service holding a blood donor clinic in the Greenhills Hotel Wednesday 18th Oct 5pm to 8pm.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: Meditation has resumed on Mondays at 7.00pm in the 'Crying Room' in the Church.

CHANGES TO MASS TIMES AND ADORATION: Mass at 5.45 pm resumes on **Mondays** only, followed by Adoration until 7pm.

Adoration will be held after 10.00am Mass until 5 pm on **First Fridays** followed by evening Mass at 5.45 pm.

Parish Website

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

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

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Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at *Church Sacristy*

Tel: 325288

Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays

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

Mon (from 9 Oct) 10:00 and 17:45

First Friday: 10:00 & 17:45

Baptisms: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 14 th	18:00	John, Betty & Carmel O'Connor (A)
Sun 15 th	10:00 11.30	Irene & Eddie O'Neill (A) The Connaughton Family (A)
Mon 16 th	10:00 5.45pm	Kieran Moylan & Family Purgatorial
Tues 17 th	10:00	Joseph Casey (A)
Wed 18 th	10:00	Andy Donovan (A)
Thurs 19 th	10:00	
Fri 20 th	10:00	Jim Condon (Rec. Dec.)
Sat 21 th	09:45 18:00	Patricia Dillon Teresa Ryan (A)
Sun 22 th	10:00 11:30	Eugene Feeley (A) Tim Leddin (A)
		Gerry & Phil Brinn (A)

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