

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 1:6-8, 19-28

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know about Jesus but do we know him? What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?

2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc? To whom have you borne that witness?

3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?

4. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' - announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

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THE DEEP END: Light and Darkness

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth

gospel, we hear John's voice and testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and its opening verses proclaim that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light-bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you? We thank God for them.

Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church... We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light... teachers, community leaders, grandparents leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome. *Michel de Verteuil*

Jane Mellett; melletti@gmail.com

CONFESSIONS:

Each year during Advent, we have had a Penitential Service with the opportunity for Confession. This year Advent is shorter and there are a number of events on, so there will be a change. Our Priests will hear Confession after Morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the week before Christmas (December 18th 19th 20th)

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve

Masses at 10.00 am & 11.30am

Vigil Mass of Christmas – Children's Mass 6.00pm

Night Mass of Christmas 8.00pm

Monday 25 December: Christmas Day

Masses at 10.00am & 11.30 am

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

THE 8TH AMENDMENT:

We can make a difference with Prayer and Action! We can retain the 8th Amendment – the Constitutional Equal Right to Life of the unborn and mother by being true to our Faith.

Our Abortion rate is estimated to be 5% in contrast with Britain's 20% (90% of people in the UK who know their child will be born with Downs Syndrome have an abortion) Countries like Iceland claim to have eliminated all births of babies with Down Syndrome. Some Nordic countries have approved abortion based on gender! The Netherlands now approve Child Euthanasia! We place all our unborn, now and in the future, under the protection of Our Lady and the intervention of the Divine Mercy of the Infant Jesus.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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 16th	18:00	Carmel Custy (A) Martina Sheahan (M.M.) Peter Phelan (A) Henry Morris & the Gore Family(A)
Sun 17th	10:00	Karen Kavanagh (A) Eddie Holliday (A)
	11:30	Hillary & Eileen Maher (A) Dec. Mem. Of Maher & Loughnan Families.
Mon 18th	10:00	Martina Sheahan (Rec. Dec.)
	17:45	Michael Gleeson (A)
Tues 19th	10:00	Kitty Gavin (Rec. Dec.)
Wed 20^h	10:00	Fr. Sean McCarthy & Parents (A)
Thurs 21st	10:00	Ann Reidy (Rec. Dec.)
Fri 22nd	10:00	Paddy Rea (A)
Sat 23rd	09:45	Mary O'Rourke (A)
	18:00	Beroy, Lillie & Peter Stokes.(A) Terry Horan (A)
Sun 24th	10:00	Dick Bateman (Rec. Dec.)
	11:30	Paddy Hartnett (Rem.)