

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

1. As we move into prayer on the passage, we move from consideration of the mystery of how 'God with us' was revealed to the world in the person of Jesus 2000 years ago, to a reflection on how we become aware of 'God with us' now in our daily lives.

2. It took some time for Joseph to accept the fact that, in Mary, there truly was Emmanuel – God with us. God is with us now, but at times we struggle to perceive God's presence. Where have you unexpectedly discovered the presence of 'God with you'? Recall those experiences and give thanks.

3. Joseph was confused and uncertain about what he should do. It took time, and outside help, for him to discern what his next step should be. Perhaps you have also had difficulties along the way to some decisions or commitments. Recall that journey and the moments when it became clear to you what was being asked of you. Give thanks for the angels who helped you along the way.

4. Mary bore Jesus within her, unseen to all and unacknowledged by most. In Joseph she found one who believed in the treasure that she bore. We can be bearers of Jesus to others, and they to us. When have you been that kind of a bearer of Jesus to another? Who has been that to you?

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Beannachtaí na Nollag agus Síocháin san Ath Bhliain

*From
Fr. Des, Fr. Tom, Margaret & the
Parish Council*

THE CRIB: Many years ago, in the thirteenth century, when most ordinary people could not read, St. Francis decided he would demonstrate the Christmas story in a way anyone could understand. He set up a stable scene in a cave not far from his home in Assisi, with real people and animals. As people gathered around to see what he was doing, he told them how Jesus had been born in a simple stable and how angels had appeared to shepherds telling them to go and find for themselves the Messiah who had been born. The idea gradually caught on and now the Christmas Crib (also called a creche or Nativity scene) is a universal part of the celebrations.

THE CANDLE OF LOVE: The fourth candle, the last purple candle, the 'candle of love' oftentimes called the 'Angels Candle,' is lit today. The angels announced the good news of a Saviour. God sent his only Son to earth to save us because he loves us.

On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the

'CHRIST CANDLE' and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The colour white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour.

CHRISTMAS DUES: The Christmas dues envelopes for the Parish Clergy and the Sacristan will be distributed to houses during the week. If you are contributing by cheque please make the cheques payable to 'Our Lady of the Rosary Parish' and in relation to the Sacristan to 'Margaret Clifford'.

PARISH ENVELOPES 2016: Parish Envelopes for 2016 will be distributed at the end of this Calendar year. We acknowledge all who give to the Parish in whatever way that suits. We also encourage you, if you can, to consider giving through the Envelope System as the Parish receives tax refunds based on your contribution. Anyone who wishes to join the envelope System should contact the Sacristy.

ADORATION: Friday weekly Adoration will resume after the Christmas break on Friday 20 January 2017. The commitment of the regular volunteers is much appreciated. More volunteers for 2017 would be very welcome.

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

***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.***

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| 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 <i>Church Sacristy</i> | |
| 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 |

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| MASS INTENTIONS | |
| Sat 17th | 18:00 Michael Gleeson (A) Tom Clohessy(A) Peter Phelan |
| Sun 18th | 10:00 Hilary & Eileen Maher Loughnan A |
| | 11:30 Jim & Rose Hurley (A) Henry Morris (A) The Gore Family (A) |
| Mon 19th | 10:00 Purgatorial Society |
| Tues 20th | 10:00 Bob & Eamon Keane (A) |
| Wed 21st | 10:00 Paddy Rea (Rem.) |
| Thurs 22nd | 10:00 James Cantillion (A) |
| Fri 23rd | 10:00 Dan & Rita Ryan (A) |
| Sat 24th | 09:45 Mary O'Rourke (A) |
| | 18:00 CHILDREN'S MASS |
| | 20:00 VIGIL MASS FOR CHRISTMAS |
| Sun 25th | 10:00 CHRISTMAS DAY |
| | 11:30 |
| Mon 26th | 10:00 Edmond Holliday (A) |
| Tues 27th | 10:00 Micheál O'Hehir (A) Bernie Cavanagh (A) |
| Wed 28th | 10:00 Liam Tobin (Rec. Dec.) |
| Thurs 29th | 10:00 Joan Keady (Rec. Dec.) |
| Fri 30th | 10:00 Jim & Rose Hurley (A) Anne O'Brien (1 st A) Carmel Custy (1 st A) |
| Sat 31st | 09:45 Bridie Fitzpatrick (A) 18:00 Pat O'Connor (A) Ita Duffy (A) |
| Sun 1st Jan | 10:00 Eamon Beston (A) |
| | 11:30 Bernie Cavanagh (A) |