

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

John 1:29-34

1. John is one who directs people to Jesus as the one who had a life-giving message for them. Who have been the people in your life whose example or advice pointed you in the direction of a fuller life? Who has helped you to appreciate the importance of Jesus and his message?

2. In the narrative, John recognised that Jesus had more to offer people than he himself had. John had the humility not to need to be the star of the show. Who have you known with that grounded sense of their own place?

3. John proclaims Jesus is one who takes away the sin of the world. Who have been the people who, for you, continued this mission of Jesus and led you from sin and guilt to forgiveness and freedom? For whom have you done this?

4. It was not just on the cross that Jesus gave his life as the Lamb of God. His public ministry was a constant struggle against injustice and oppression. When have you shared in this mission of Jesus? Who have been models of this for you?

John Byrne OSA Email: john@orlagh.ie

THE DEEP END *The Lamb of God*

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist is inviting us to *look* at Jesus. He calls Jesus the '*lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*'. We say these words often at mass and today we are invited to meditate on them more closely. What does it mean? In Jesus's time, two lambs were sacrificed in the temple in Jerusalem each day. It was a ritual that invoked purity. Jesus will preach a love that is radical for many, in a

world that was, and still is, broken. John refers to Jesus as the *lamb* as he knows that if one loves in such a way, they will suffer at the hands of unjust systems and institutions. When we look at the 'sins' of our world today – broken relationships, crisis, can we also see those who, like Jesus, 'take away' the sins of the world?

Christ's love was not passive, he actively challenged systems that were oppressive and which prevented people from living life to the full. Whether it be the climate crisis or the homelessness crisis or any number of issues we face, '*look*' where Jesus walks and is actively working to ease this suffering. When we hear these words at mass, let us be reminded of all those who sacrifice much to ease the sufferings of others. This is Christ, the 'lamb of God' active in our world today.

'The descent into the waters of our spirit, is a journey into the presence of divinity ... all human beings are children of God but not all live in the awareness that there is 'that of God' within them' W.L. Wallace

Jane Mellett; Email: mellettj@gmail.com

RECENT DEATHS: We remember our parishioners who died during the month of December and express our sympathy to their families: **Gertrude Hayes, William Hogan, Christine Foote, Maura Torpey, Bernadette Clancy.**

May they rest in peace.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAMME: JFK boys and families – Saturday 18th Jan, 6.00 pm Mass.

Girls and families – Salesian Primary School Sunday 19th Jan, 10.00 am Mass

ST MUNCHINS CHURCH is holding a fundraising **CONCERT** with **THE LIMERICK CHORAL UNION** in aid of a new church roof on Sunday 26th January

THANK YOU: Our Lady of the Rosary conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul wish to thank all those who contributed to the Christmas Appeal 2019. This year the conference assisted almost 100 families with food and fuel over the Christmas period. Our Parish's very generous support throughout the year and particularly at Christmas is very much appreciated by the conference and the recipients as it makes a real difference in their lives. We wish all of you a very Happy New Year.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Our prayer for Christian unity is deeply rooted in the Bible. We pray for unity because Jesus prayed that His disciples would be one, that the world might believe (John 17:20-21). St Paul also urged the churches to which he wrote to recognise their unity in Christ, even though there was much diversity within them (1 Corinthians 12:12 – 27).

For this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we accompany the churches of Malta praying with and alongside them, praying also for them in their Christian journey as they seek the unity for which Christ prayed. And we rejoice with them that Malta traces its Christian origins back to the time of the Apostles. And in so doing, we enter into the drama of St Paul, those that travelled with him, and the inhabitants whom they met, to discover our shared unity and in so doing recognise the importance of unusual acts of kindness that bear witness to the Gospel of peace and reconciliation.

REFLECTION: The Church has always been a refuge for the weak and not a home for the perfect. From the Lord they will hear no words of condemnation or rejection. They will only hear words of understanding acceptance and love.' **Bishop John Buckley**

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: 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 18 th	18:00	Molly & Deffie O'Carroll (A) Peter Meehan (A) Rose Mary O'Brien (1 st A)
Sun 19 th	10:00 11:30	Paddy Quilligan (A) Fr. Colman Ryan (Rec. Dec.) Bernadette Clancy (M.M.)
Mon 20 th	10:00	Pro Popolo
Tues 21 st	10:00	Pat Meaney (Rec. Dec)
Wed 22 nd	10:00	Betty Hickson (Rec. Dec.)
Thur 23 rd	10:00	Eddie Grimes (A)
Fri 24 th	10:00	Seamus Ryan (Rec. Dec.)
Sat 25 th	09:45 18:00	Prayer Service Ger O'Donovan (A)
Sun 26 th	10:00 11:30	Dec. Mem. of the Rodgers Family Liam Aherne (A)

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