

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

LUKE 2:16-21

The story tells us that the shepherds helped Mary to realize the significance of the child born to her. She treasured their words and pondered their meaning. Who have been the people who have helped you to understand the meaning of significant events in our life? Remember them gratefully.

We are told that Mary 'pondered these thoughts in her heart'. What part has prayerful reflection on life played for you? How has it been helpful to you in deepening your appreciation for the gift of life? When the shepherds realized that they had been witnesses to a wonderful manifestation of God's love for his people, they glorified and praised God. Recall ways in which you have been made aware of God's love for you. How have you expressed your gratitude?

John Byrne OSA Email: john@orlagh.ie

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS: On Sunday 8 January we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus at 11:30 Mass. We will have a special celebration when all those who were baptised during 2016 will be invited to attend.

CHRISTMAS DUES: We wish to acknowledge and thank all who have returned their Christmas Offering Envelopes for the Priests and the Sacristan and all who are in the

Athbhliain faoi shéan 'is faoi mhaise daoibh

From

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

process of doing so. 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 2017: Parish Envelopes for 2017 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.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:

Fri: 6 January.

Mass times: Vigil Mass Thurs: 6.00pm

Fri: 10.00, 11.30.

This feast commemorates the visit of the wise men to worship the baby Jesus. Tradition tells us that their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthassar. The men were astrologers who were looking for the star that would lead them to the promised Messiah. This was prophesied in the Book of Micah. According to the Gospel narratives, the wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh with them. These

gifts were very meaningful. Gold was a precious and expensive gift, and showed how important Jesus was. Frankincense is a sweet perfume which was often burned in the temple to worship God. It was a sign that Jesus should be worshipped. Myrrh was used to keep things fresh and was used by the women to anoint Jesus' body when he died. By bringing it as a gift to Jesus, the wise men foretold his suffering and death.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

We are fascinated by the claim that this Christmas song was written when the Catholic faith was proscribed in England under severe penalties. It was a kind of catechism to teach young Catholics the tenets of their Faith. The 'true love' refers to God Himself the 'me' who receives the gifts is the baptised Christian and the partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God

*The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus

*The 2 turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments

*The 3 French hens stand for faith, hope and charity

*The 4 calling/colly birds stand for the four gospels

*The 5 gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (law) or the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament

*The 6 geese a-laying stand for the 6 days of creation

*The 7 swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the holy Spirit

*The 8 maids a milking are the 8 Beatitudes

*The 9 ladies dancing are the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit

*The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments

*The 11 pipers piping represent the 11 faithful Apostles.

*The 12 drummers drumming symbolize the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed.

REFLECTION: 'We spend the early days of January walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk the rooms of our lives .. not looking for flaws but for potential.' – Ellen Goodman

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

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

Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00 ;

Saturday 09:45

Baptisms: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 31 st	18:00	Bridie Fitzpatrick (A) Pat O'Connor (A) Ita Duffy (A)
Sun 1 Jan	10:00	Eamon Beston (A)
	11:30	Bernie Cavanagh (A)
Mon 2 nd	10:00	Dec. Mem. of the Levins Family
Tues 3 rd	10:00	John & Julie Hayes & Family (A)
Wed 4 th	10:00	Jack, MaryAnne, John, Billy & Mary Moriarty
Thurs 5 th	10:00	
	18:00	Michael Madigan (Rec. Dec.)
Fri 6 th	10:00	Gerry Bennis (Rec. Dec.)
	11:30	Derek Crowe (A)
Sat 7 th	09:45	Ann Kenny (A)
		Marie Heenan (A)
	18:00	Sheila & Joe Kirby (A)
Sun 8 th	10:00	Kathleen Hegarty (1 st A)
	11:30	Lilly O'Brien (A)

Published by the Parish Pastoral Council