

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

THE DEEP END: Reaching out

Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? At first it is the excitement that comes through. Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can. Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women.

We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months; as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin.

Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage. 'Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then.'

With just two days to go until Christmas it is a busy time. But it is also a time that offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult.

Triona Doherty; Email trionad@gmail.com



***Nollaig Naofa, Beannachtaíosa,
Nollaig chroíúil, is
bliainnuamhaith.***

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Monday December 24: Children's Mass
6.00pm

Vigil Mass of Christmas 8.00pm

Tuesday 25 December: Christmas Day

Masses at 10.00am & 11.30am

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

Daily Mass 26 – 28 December: Morning Mass at 10.00am. Prayer Service on Saturday at 09.45am.

CHRISTMAS DUES: The Christmas dues envelopes for the Parish Clergy and the Sacristan have been 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'.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appears
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

BABY JESUS: This year the Parish coCuncil have decided to ask 3 / 4 families with small children to take Baby Jesus and each look after him for a night prior to Christmas Eve, when Baby Jesus will be returned to the crib in Our Lady of the Rosary church. We feel this will be a great way of including children in our Christmas Celebrations.

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.

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 : Praayer Service

BAPTISMS: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 22 nd	18:00	Paddy Hartnett, (Christmas Rem.) Gerry McKeon (A)
Sun 23 rd	10:00	Dec. Mem. of the Legion of Mary
	11:30	James Cantillon (A)
Mon 24 th	10:00	Mary O'Rourke (A) John Clifford (Christmas Rem.)
	18:00	CHILDREN'S MASS
	20:00	VIGIL MASS
Tues 25 th	10:00	CHRISTMAS DAY
	11:30	
Wed 26 ^h	10:00	Humphrey Murphy (A) John & Christine Guirey (A)
Thurs 27 th	10:00	Michael O'Hehir (A) Bernie Cavanagh (A)
Fri 28 th	10:00	John Tobin (Rec. Dec.)
Sat 29 ^h	09:45	Prayer Service
	18:00	Pat O'Connor (A) Humphrey Murphy (1 st A) Paddy Ryan (A) Ita Duffy (A)
Sun 30 th	10:00	Anne O'Brien (A)
	11:30	Dec. Mem of the Hurley Family Lily O'Brien (A) Carmel Corbett(A)