

THE DEEP END *The power of forgiveness*

'I bear no ill will. I bear no grudge. Dirty sort of talk is not going to bring her back to life. She's in heaven and we shall meet again. I will pray for these men tonight and every night'

These words of Gordon Wilson echoed across the world, in 1987, just hours after his 20-year-old daughter Marie was killed in an IRA bomb in Enniskillen. Very few words in the history of Northern Ireland conflict had such a powerful impact. His extraordinary capacity to forgive the people who had caused him so much pain helped to move along the slow process.

Gordon Wilson was the personification of the words of Jesus: 'love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you' It is one of the most difficult and challenging passages in the Gospels: one commentator calls it 'Jesus' most unreasonable command'. Living under oppressive Roman rule, with torture and murder not uncommon, the disciples knew what it was to hate their enemies. As we read and listen to the news today, the cruelty of people continues to astound and upset us.

But Jesus reminds us that everyone is human. All are children of God, who 'causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good.' While we clearly don't accept or excuse the terror and evil in the world, we cannot dehumanise those who carry out despicable actions. It is much easier said than done, but we must strive to meet hatred with love. With God, there is always forgiveness; there is always hope.

'Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.'

TrionaDoherty ; Email: trionad@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We wish to thank those who volunteered to prepare the Parish Newsletter during 2019. Additional volunteers are needed this year.

Do you have a computer; can you type and send an e-mail? The preparation of the Parish Newsletter involves collecting information / news and a list of Mass Intentions by Wednesday from the Sacristy. Typing it up and emailing it to St John's Parish office by Friday, collecting the printed newsletters and bringing them to the Church by Saturday morning. Training will be provided. Please contact the Sacristy.

ARISE: CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS EVENT IN KNOCK ON 7TH MARCH 2020 - Arise is being organised by Catholic Youth Ministry Ireland. **Arise is a new Catholic event for young adults over the age of 18. It is a day of great speakers, prayer, music, workshops and community.**

About this Event

Whether you're confident in your faith or you feel you have more questions than you know what to do with, Arise in Knock on March 7th is the day for you. It's going to be laid back and fun. It's also going to have thought provoking speakers, inspiring testimonies, and powerful moments of reflection and prayer. We have workshops on drumming, It's an opportunity to celebrate your faith with people from all around Ireland in Knock.

Please contact Aoife at 061-350000 or aoife.walsh@limerickdiocese.org if you would like to go or if you have any questions.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT INFORMATION EVENING will take place in Milford Care Centre on Tue 25th February 2020 from 7pm - 8.30pm.

The Bereavement Information evening is designed to give general information on grief and bereavement to bereaved people, their family and friends.

Bereavement Counsellors will be in attendance to provide general information on Grief and Bereavement. The evening will comprise of: Short talk by a Bereavement Counsellor, Different experiences of Grief, Services available and Question Time.

The Information Evening is Free

DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

Friday 28th February has been set aside as a day of prayer for victims and survivors of abuse. All are asked to keep victims and survivors in their thoughts and prayers in a special way on that day. For information on the Diocese's work, check out The Diocesan Safeguarding Website which can be accessed @ <http://www.limerickdiocesessafeguarding.com>

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will hold their monthly collection on Sat/Sun 29thFeb/1st March.

DESERT DAY IN PREPARATION FOR LENT

A Desert Day will take place in Westbourne, Ashbourne Avenue on Saturday, February 29th from 10.30 to 5.00. The day will give you an opportunity to enter more deeply into the season of Lent in the peaceful surroundings of Westbourne Convent. There will be time for quiet prayer, reflection, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and will conclude with the Eucharist.

Booking is essential as places are limited.

For information contact: Sr. Phyllis Moynihan at 0879636893

Email: phymoy@yahoo.co.uk

REFLECTION: 'Life is not a brief candle. It is a splendid torch that I want to make burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.' **George Bernard Shaw**

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 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 22 nd	18:00	Aiden Larkin (A) Peggy Flanagan (A) Maureen Reeves (M.M.)
Sun 23 rd	10:00	Brendan Murphy (A) Pat Corbett (A)
	11:30	Gertrude Begley (A) Sheila & Joe Kirby (A)
Mon 24 th	10:00	Pro Popolo
Tues 25 th	10:00	Eileen Webster (A)
ASH WED 26 th	10:00	Kay Reynolds (A)
	17:45	
Thur 27 ^h	10:00	Philomena McCarthy & Parents (A)
Fri 28 th	10:00	Mary Toomey (A)
Sat 29 th	09:45	Prayer Service
	18:00	Kitty & Matty Cooney (A) Claire Kelly (A) Brid & Marisa Fitzsimons (A)
Sun	10:00	
Mar 1 st	11:30	Jacqueline Cleary (1 st A)

Michael Cleary (A)
Robert Crawford (A)