

**SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS**

**Luke 1:26-38**

We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you – a messenger of good news?

'Do not be afraid'. Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path and wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an 'angel' helping to lower your anxiety?

Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the 'right moment'. 'Here I am Lord'. What invitations have come to you at the 'wrong time' and how have you responded?

Mary's response serves as a model for us - she is one who says 'yes' to what life offers. What is it like for you to say 'yes' to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say 'Here I am, Lord'?

**John Byrne OSA Email: [john@orlagh.ie](mailto:john@orlagh.ie)**



**Beannachtáina Nollag agus Síocháí  
n san AthBhliain**

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

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

**Sunday December 24: Children's Mass**  
6.00pm

**Vigil Mass of Christmas** 8.00pm

**Monday 25 December:** Christmas Day  
Masses at 10.00am & 11.30am

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

**Daily Mass 26 – 29 December:** Morning  
Mass at 10.00am.

**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'.

**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.

**IMMIGRANT SUNDAY**

Sunday, 14 January has been designated **Immigrant Sunday**. We will celebrate it in our Parish at our Family Mass 11:30 on that day.

We welcome **all immigrants** to our parish and invite them to attend and to refreshments in our Parish Centre after Mass. Our immigrants are asked to provide a photo of a church from their native country or some other suitable item for display in our church on 14 January. Contact Fr. Ryan at 087 299733 or after Mass for details.

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

**Parish Website**  
[www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie](http://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  
17:00-17:30 Mon  
09:00-12.30 Sunday

**Mass Times: Weekends:**  
Saturday Vigil 18:00  
Sunday 10:00; 11:30

**Weekdays:**  
Mon. to Fri. 10:00 ;  
Mon. 17:45  
Saturday 09:45

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Monday 18:15-19:00  
**Baptisms:** Saturday 17:00  
Sunday 12:15

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Sat 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>18:00</b>	Lillie & Peter Stokes.(A) Terry Horan (A)
<b>Sun 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	Dick Bateman (Rec. Dec.)
	<b>11:30</b>	Paddy Hartnett (Rem.)
	<b>18:00</b>	CHILDREN'S MASS
	<b>20:00</b>	VIGIL MASS
<b>Mon 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	CHRISTMAS DAY
	<b>11:30</b>	
<b>Tues 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	Sr. Ita Madigan (Rec. Dec.)
<b>Wed 27<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	Michael O'Hehir (A) Bernie Cavanagh (A)
<b>Thurs 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	
<b>Fri 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	Eamon Beston (A)
<b>Sat 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>09:45</b>	Carmel Corbett (1 <sup>st</sup> A) Tom Corbett (A) Anne O'Brien (A) Pat O'Connor (A) Ita Duffy (A) John Nash (M.M.) Patricia Nash (A)
	<b>18:00</b>	
<b>Sun 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b>	Michael McMahon (M.M.)
	<b>11:30</b>	Jim & Rose Hurley (Rem) Lily O'Brien (A)