

## SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

### LUKE 13:1-9

Jesus rejects the idea that personal misfortune is God's punishment for sin. Yet a serious illness or accident can serve as a wake-up call for how we live our lives. How have such experiences given you a greater appreciation of the value of your life and relationships, and of the time and opportunities at your disposal?

'I'll wait till tomorrow to do that'. Have you ever said that and then found the chance is gone the next day? In the story we are called to recognise God at work in our lives and respond to Him. Now is the opportune moment. When have you been glad you did not put off action to the following day?

Perhaps there have been times when you saw yourself like the tree in the parable – useless, merely a waste of space, unable to achieve what you wanted. Think of friends who came to you at such a time, people who saw your potential and were prepared to give you another chance, people who also dug the soil around you and gave you the help you needed to grow. Perhaps in your turn you have been able to do this for others.

**John Byrne OSA; email [jb Byrneosa@gmail.com](mailto:jb Byrneosa@gmail.com)**

### THE DEEP END – 'It may bear fruit next year'

Today's Gospel brings a thorny question for Jesus, as the people ask why a number of Galileans were killed by the Romans as they made sacrifices to God. The basic question is why do bad things happen to certain people? Some Jewish leaders at the time viewed the Galileans as second class Jews, and so they are raising more than a question about meaningless suffering here. They want to know if the Galileans suffered because they were not really 'Jewish enough.' Jesus responds with a

sharp question about a recent tragedy involving those killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them. Were they worse offenders than others in Jerusalem? No, Jesus responds further by focusing on those who are still living. In the parable of the fig tree we hear that the tree is not producing any fruit and probably should be cut down. However, the owner of the vineyard agrees to one more year, during which it is given special attention. Jesus' response to the difficult question on suffering is to focus on the living. We are still alive and therefore should be producing much fruit. Perhaps those who are questioning Jesus need, like the fig tree, much fertiliser, nourishment and growth so that they can focus on producing fruit for the world. The fig tree is blessed, and has received much grace in terms of time and care. The parable is a reminder to all of us of the nourishment and time we have been given; it is a call to examine the fruits that we produce in this world, in our communities, our families and in our church.

**Jane Mellett: [mellettj@gmail.com](mailto:mellettj@gmail.com)**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Lent after 10.00 am Mass

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** on Fridays during Lent after 10.00 am Mass until 12.30 pm.

**LENTEN SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** will take place in the Salesian Convent, Fernbank on **April 1st**, from 10.45 am - 12.30 pm.

Venue: Salesian Convent, Fernbank. Facilitator: Sr. Mary Downey  
Please phone Elizabeth at [0872546492](tel:0872546492) if you wish to attend.

**LECTIO DIVINA** Scripture Reflection will be held in the Salesian Don Bosco Centre Caherdavin on Thursdays during Lent at 8.00pm.

### LENT AT GLENSTAL ABBEY

'Journeying with God's People in Exodus' - Join us over 5 of the Sundays in Lent and explore this journey, theirs and ours, through Exodus @4.30pm, in the Library followed by Refreshments & Vespers.

Contact: [events@glenstal.com](mailto:events@glenstal.com) / 061 621005 / [www.glenstal.org](http://www.glenstal.org)

### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April we will celebrate the 'Sacrament of the Sick' at 10.00 am Mass. We invite all who wish to do so to be present for the celebration. Ministers to the Housebound will invite those to whom they bring Holy Communion on Sundays. If you can offer transport to a neighbour, please do so.

### TRÓCAIRE LENTEN CAMPAIGN:

This year's Trócaire Lenten campaign highlights the different ways land is stolen from vulnerable people in the developing world. It could be by corporate land grabs, by war or simply because they are women. To find out more visit

[www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org) <http://www.trocaire.org>

Trócarie Boxes are available in the Church, please bring one home.

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE:** Thank you to the students and teachers from ÁrdScoil Rís, Villiers, JFK and Salesian Primary School who participated in the recent Ecumenical Service which was an uplifting experience for all who attended. The Theme of the Service was **SOCIAL JUSTICE**. The message to the students as they left the church was to go forth and remember that 'you are the church'.

**REFLECTION:** 'The same set of stones can be stumbling blocks or stepping stones depending on how we use them.' *Russian Proverb*

### PARISH WEBSITE

[www.ourladyofthecosaryparishlimerick.ie](http://www.ourladyofthecosaryparishlimerick.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 23<sup>rd</sup> 18:00**

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Sheila Bruen (A)**

**Nora Foley (A)**

**11:30 Anne Keane (A)**

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Kay Reynolds (A)**

**Tues 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Fr. Tom Power (A)**

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Derry Brosnan (A)**

**Thur 28<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Ian Comisky (A)**

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Mick Hurley (A)**

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 09:45 Prayer Service**

**18:00 Helen Clooney (M.M.)**

**Jacqueline Cleary (A)**

**Sun 31<sup>st</sup> 10:00 Dec. Mem. Roche Family**

**11:30 Mary Casserly (A)**

**Peter O'Malley (A)**

**Phil & Eugene O'Brien (A)**

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