

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

LUKE 1:1-4, 4:14-21

1. The scene in the synagogue marks the launch of the public ministry of Jesus in Luke. Read the quotation from Isaiah slowly. Reflect on each line carefully. Which of these images captures something of what Jesus and his message has meant for you?

2. Jesus was filled with the Spirit and sent. He came bursting with a message to communicate. When have you had the experience of being enthused by something in that way? Who have been the people you met who had that kind of enthusiasm?

3. His message was addressed to those who were poor, oppressed, blind, or captives. Who are these today? In what ways have you been, or are you, among these? How has the message of Jesus been good news for you, freed you, given you new sight, or revealed God's favour to you?

4. The message Jesus had was one of liberation and he told his listeners that it was being fulfilled even as they listened. It is being fulfilled even as we hear it now. If this does not resonate with you right now, when has the gospel given you an experience of liberation?

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THE DEEP END: 'So that you may know the truth'

There is something about the opening sentences of Luke's Gospel that grabs one's attention. He is the only Gospel writer to give us information about his purpose and sources. He writes for Theophilus, whose name in Greek suggests 'lover of God'. Theophilus may have

been a patron of Luke's, but we can also take this name to mean that Luke writes for all lovers of God, i.e. all of us.

Jesus, 'as was his custom,' attends the service at his local synagogue. It is clear that Jesus was a faithful Jew even though he is about to have some serious run-ins with the Jewish religious leaders. This moment is one of the most powerful passages in the New Testament, as Jesus sets out his manifesto for ministry. Reading from Isaiah, Jesus tells the crowd that this passage is being fulfilled as they hear it, his ministry would be one focused on freeing people from various types of oppression. This passage is as relevant in our world today as it was for Jesus' time: people still await liberation, the oppressed are not free. This is not a passage read in the past: it is very much alive, a vision for all to have as Christians and to work out of. Just as the scriptures are fulfilled in Jesus, they are also fulfilled in each of our lives.

'Although they heard you, Lord, they failed to listen. They heard only what they wanted to hear. The truth hurt them, you made them feel uncomfortable, and they rejected you ... Show us how we may seek your Kingdom and help to bring peace to a troubled world.' Tony Singleton

Jane Mellett ;Email mellettj@gmail.com

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will hold their monthly collection next weekend on Sat/Sun 2nd/3rd February at all Masses.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD is celebrated on the 2nd February. Mass will be celebrated at 9:45 am on Saturday instead of the Prayer service. This is a major Feast of the Church. It recalls the Presentation of Jesus in

the Temple by Mary and Joseph. As part of the Liturgy, candles are blessed for use in our homes. Some people like to donate candles to the Church. These are used for Mass during the year. If you would like to have candles blessed, either for your home or for use in the Church, please leave them in the Sacristy or place them in the baskets at the Altar. They can be collected after Mass or from the Sacristy.

Feb 2nd is also the **Feast of Consecrated Life**. On this morning, the Religious of our Diocese gather for a special celebration of their consecrated life and mission.

FEASTS OF ST. BLAISE: February 3rd is traditionally the Feast of St. Blaise. We have our throats blessed on that day. This year the Feast falls on a Sunday, so we cannot have the Mass of St. Blaise. **However, we will have our throats blessed.** Ministers of the Eucharist are asked to help at this ceremony. Please inform Margaret in the Sacristy if you can help so that the candles will be ready. Thank you.

THE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP will meet in our Parish Centre with those who have been bereaved on the **First Friday, 1st February** after **10.00 am Mass** to offer support in a relaxed friendly and confidential environment with a cup of tea/coffee.

All are welcome.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION MASS:

This Saturday 26th January at 6.00 pm - Boys and their families from the JFK School.

Sunday 27th January at 10.00 am - Girls and their families from the Salesian Primary School.

CATHOLIC PAPERS: The Irish Catholic newspaper is available at the back of the church. Please put payment in the box.

Published by the Parish Pastoral Council

REFLECTION 'You can do anything if you have enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is the yeast that makes your hopes rise to the stars. Enthusiasm is the spark in your eye, the swing in your gait, the irresistible surge of your will and the energy to execute your ideas.' **Henry Forde**

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 : Prayer Service

BAPTISMS: Saturday 17:00
Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 26 th	18:00	Eddie Gavin (A) Ger O'Donovan (A) Shane Courtney (A)
Sun 27 th	10:00 11:30	Liam Aherne (A) Sheila & Joe Kirby (A)
Mon 28 th	10:00	Eithne Roberts (A)
Tues 29 th	10:00	Purgatorial Society Christy Barry (A)
Wed 30 th	10:00	
Thurs 31 st	10:00	
Fri 1 st Feb	10:00	Thomas & Sarah Deegan (A)
Sat 2 nd	09:45	Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
	18:00	Dermot Smalle (A)
Sun 3 rd	10:00 11:30	Eddie Cahill (A) Richard & Bridie Fitzpatrick (A) Bill & Ena Leonard (A) Pat Ebrill (A)

