

### THE DEEP END: *Displaced*

'One of the unsettling things about my journey, mentally, physically, and emotionally, was that I wasn't sure when or where it was going to end.' (from *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah)

We like to imagine, sometimes, what the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph were like. What was their daily routine? How did they eat, work and pray together? There are very few details in the Gospels about Jesus' early years, other than the accounts of his birth and one story detailing the time he went missing in Jerusalem and was found in the Temple.

But in today's Gospel we get an insight into some of the early challenges faced by this little family. While Jesus was still small, Joseph was urged in a dream to escape with the family to Egypt as Jesus' life was under threat. Can you imagine what that experience was like for them – leaving their home and fleeing to another country, not knowing when, or if, it would be safe to return home? Sadly, millions of people in our world do not have to imagine this type of experience – they live it every day. Like many others, the Holy Family were, for some time, forced to leave their home country due to persecution – this is the very definition of a refugee or displaced person.

This painful human experience was at the very heart of the family experience of Jesus himself. Later in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us that when we welcome strangers, we welcome Jesus himself. Compassion and welcome for strangers, particularly those who are vulnerable, was a key element of Jesus' life and ministry. It should be central to ours, too.

**Triona Doherty** ([trionad@gmail.com](mailto:trionad@gmail.com))



### **Athbhliainfaoishéan 'isfaoimhaisedaobh**

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

**CHRISTMAS DUES:** We wish to acknowledge and thank all who have returned their Christmas Offering Envelopes for the Priests and the Sacristan and all who are in the process of doing so. 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'.

**PARISH ENVELOPES 2020:** Parish Envelopes for 2020 will be distributed at the end of this Calendar year. We acknowledge all who give to the Parish in whatever way that suits. We also encourage you, if you can, to consider giving through the Envelope System as the Parish receives tax refunds based on those contributions. Anyone who wishes to join the Envelope System should contact the Sacristy

### 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

We are fascinated by the claim that this Christmas song was written when the Catholic faith was proscribed in England under severe penalties. It was a kind of catechism to teach young Catholics the tenets of their Faith. The 'true love' refers to God Himself the 'me' who receives the gifts is the baptised Christian and the partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God

\*The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus

\*The 2 turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments

\*The 3 French hens stand for faith, hope and charity

\*The 4 calling/collybirds stand for four gospels

\*The 5 gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (law) or the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament

\*The 6 geese a-laying stand for the 6 days of creation

\*The 7 swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the holy Spirit

\*The 8 maids a milking are the 8 Beatitudes

\*The 9 ladies dancing are the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit

\*The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments

\*The 11 pipers piping represent the 11 faithful Apostles.

\*The 12 drummers drumming symbolize the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed

**REFLECTION:** 'We spend the early days of January walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk the rooms of our lives not looking for flaw, but for potential.' – Ellen Goodman

### 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: 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 28 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	Paddy Ryan (A) Ita Duffy (A) Pat O'Connor (A) Ann O'Brien (A) Hartnett, Murphy & Carroll Families (Rem.)
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 11:30	Fr. Sean McCarthy & Parents(A) Lilly O'Brien (A) Carmel Corbett (A) Liam Kelly (A) Ger McNamara (A) Ann O'Brien (A)
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Pro Popolo
Tue 31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00	Michael Power (Rec. Dec.)
Wed Jan1	10:00	Nancy Leahy (Rec. Dec.)
Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00	Mary Brosnan (Rec. Dec.)
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00	Bernard Hanley (Rec. Dec.)
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	09:45 18:00	Prayer Service Eamon Beston (A) Humphry Murphy (A) Vincent Collins (1 <sup>st</sup> A)
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 11:30	John Savage (Rec. Dec.) Maureen Duffy (Rec. Dec.) Gertrude Hayes (M.M.)