

## SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

### Luke 2:22-40

1. It was a day that started without an expectation of anything unusual. Simeon and Anna set about making a visit to the Temple; that had become part of their daily routine. Joseph and Mary were going to make the presentation of their child in the Temple, an optional but common practice of God-fearing parents. What started out as an ordinary day turned out to be a day with a meeting they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you too have had significant meetings on what you expected to be just an ordinary day?

2. Simeon acknowledged that not all would accept the light that would shine through Jesus, and this rejection would be a cause of pain to Mary. It can be a source of pain to parents, teachers, church ministers, and all who work for others when some reject values, projects, or advice which would be for their good. Perhaps a sword has pierced your soul as well. What has helped you to maintain hope in such times?

3. Even within ourselves we can be aware of division, at times being open to the light of God and at other times resisting it. Have you known the pain of that struggle? What has helped you to keep seeking the light of God?

4. The final sentence speaks of Jesus as one who grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom. What has helped you to grow in wisdom? Have you seen others grow in wisdom through the experience of life? Recall times when you had a sense of growing up in some way. What brought that about? Think also of how you have seen growth in another person.

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## THE DEEP END

It was an important day for this little family, when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Did they expect everything to go smoothly, or had they already had to let go of some of their dreams and plans? After all, the story of Jesus' birth had already been unusual, not to mention the shepherds turning up to visit the newborn Messiah.

Still, they could not have expected two elderly people to suddenly appear in the Temple with a message about their child – that he was going to do great things but also would be rejected and cause great pain to his mother. Was it at this moment that they realised life would never be the same again?

The most important messages can come from unexpected sources. Anna and Simeon we advanced in years, wise and devout people who had lived well, and still hoped and trusted in God's plan. This encounter was unexpected for them too, taking place close to the end of their lives; but they were ready, willing and able to recognise its significance. Their call was to be among the first people to encounter the Messiah and to share the Good News.

What is our call? The story of Anna and Simeon shows us the value of being open to an encounter with Jesus. Despite what we have been through, or what stage we are at in life, there are good things to come. Each of us has something unique to offer. We pray that we will recognise the unexpected opportunities to encounter God that come our way.

**FAMILY MASS:** Our monthly Family Mass is next Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February, at 11.30, followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre.

*Published by the Parish Pastoral Council*

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** will hold their monthly collection this Sat/Sun 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.

**CHURCH GATE COLLECTION** in aid of Milford Hospice will take place on Sat/Sun 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Feb

**THE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** will meet in our Parish Centre with those who have been bereaved on the **First Friday, 7 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**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2020** begins this Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February with a SERVICE OF LIGHT in Our Lady of the Rosary Church at 7:30 pm.

JFK Boys and their families: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 6.00pm Mass

Salesian Girls and their families: Sunday 10.00 am Mass

**FEASTS OF ST. BLAISE:** Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> is traditionally the Feast of St. Blaise. Blessing of throats takes place at 10.00 am Mass

**LITURGY GROUP** will meet at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

## SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

Bishop Leahy has invited the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church (NBSCCCI) to undertake an audit of the safeguarding arrangements in the Diocese of Limerick. This audit will commence in January 2020.

Any person who wishes to express their views about safeguarding in Limerick Diocese can contact the NBSCCCI at New House, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co.Kildare. Phone no: 01 505 3124. Fax: 01 505 3026. Email: [admin@safeguarding.ie](mailto:admin@safeguarding.ie)

The Diocesan Safeguarding Website can be accessed

<http://www.limerickdiocesesafeguarding.com>

**REFLECTION:** 'Very few burdens are heavy if everyone lifts.' *S. Wise*

## 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 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 1 <sup>st</sup>	18:00	Liam Wrenn (A) Dermot Smalle(A)
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00 11:30	Eddie Cahill (A) Rotary Society Remembrance Ignatius & Elizabeth Henehan
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00	Pro Popolo
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Dr. Billy Murray (A)
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Frank Davis (Rec. Dec.) John Anslow & Mary Anslow Morgan (A)
Thur 6 <sup>h</sup>	10:00	Frank Davis (Rec. Dec)
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Sheila, Desmond, Raymond & Yvonne Tighe (A)
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	09:45 18:00	Prayer Service Richard & Bridie Fitzpatrick (A)
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 11:30	Frank Davis (Rec. Dec.) Liam & Anne Moloney (A) Nora Bennis (A)