

## Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Limerick



Newsletter for 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### The Most Holy Trinity

We celebrate the mystery of three Divine Persons in the one God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The following is from the Association of Catholic Priests [[www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie)]:

“Today is known as ‘Trinity Sunday’ and is one of the most unusual days in the whole Christian calendar. It is the day when we are asked by the cycle of feasts to reflect on what we say about God. We believe that we are drawn into the mystery of God – who is Father, Son, and Spirit – by the Son coming among us as one of us, the human being named Jesus. Jesus opened for us the way to the Father and he sent the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. The Spirit dwelling in our hearts makes us call out to God: ‘Abba, Father!’. The set of relationships we are caught up in is a mystery and we give it the name: ‘the trinity’.”

### Parish Newsletter

Since October 2020, we have produced 33 weekly editions of the Parish Newsletter for online-only publication. We are taking a break for the Summer and we hope that it will be possible to resume printing the Newsletter with Mass leaflets in the Autumn.

## Mass Intentions

Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> May	18:00	Brid Brosnan (A)
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> May	10:00	Frances O’Doherty (1 <sup>st</sup> A) Jack & Ethna Benson (A)
	11:30	Bob Keane Maureen McInerney
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> May	10:00	Pro Popolo
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> June	10:00	Michael Holmes Rec.Dec. Fiona O’Donnell
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	10:00	
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	10:00	
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00	John Hannon
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> June	18:00	James & Mary Curtis
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00	Fiona O’Donnell
	11:30	Gerry McCabe (A)

## Recently Deceased

We pray for the repose of the souls of Fergus Maher, who died recently, and all who have died during the pandemic. May they rest in peace. We remember the families whose grief has been more difficult with the necessary restrictions. May they be consoled.

## Eucharistic Ministry

For the time being, we have just two distribution points for Holy Communion and we do not need to operate a rota of Eucharistic Ministers. Until a higher level of vaccination has been achieved, we are not in a position to resume the weekly service of bringing Holy Communion to the housebound. Fr. Mc Auliffe, however, continues to make First Friday visits.

## Preparing for the Sacraments

Resources to help children prepare for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation, are currently available on the Diocesan Website [[www.limerickdiocese.org](http://www.limerickdiocese.org)].

These video presentations and lesson worksheets are recommended for use at home and in school over the coming weeks.

## First Communion & Confirmation

Confirmation for Boys: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7:30 pm  
Practice: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7:30 pm

Confirmation for Girls: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30 pm  
Practice: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7:30 pm

Boys First Communion: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 11:00 am  
Practice: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 7:30 pm

Girls First Communion: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 11:00 am  
Practice: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30 pm

## Back to Catholic Basics

Fr. Mc Auliffe has drawn our attention to the following editorial from The Tablet of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021, which is reproduced in full [[www.thetablet.co.uk](http://www.thetablet.co.uk)].

“The traditional obligation for Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday was lifted in Britain and virtually everywhere else in the world more than a year ago. So the familiar distinction between practising and non-practising Catholics was suspended. This week, the Catholic bishops of England and Wales have issued “The Day of the Lord”, a reflection on the way back to normality. They do not indicate whether and when they intend to reimpose that obligation. Perhaps they should leave things as they are.

The bishops write that they are aware of three groups of people they are seeking to reach out to: those who have simply lost the habit of weekly church-going; those who are not sure they can see the point of it anymore; and those who have only recently encountered the Catholic Church during the pandemic – “the Covid curious” – and may be attracted by what they found.

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Few in these three groups would be likely to respond to pressure to conform, which is what the re-establishment of canon law requirements about Mass attendance would entail. For most, it could well have the opposite effect.

Participation in the Eucharist is the fount and summit of a Catholic's spiritual and moral life, and Mass attendance on Sundays and Holy Days is the mark of Catholic identity. As the bishops say, the Sunday Eucharist is "food for the unique mission with which we have been endowed".

The principal events in the life of the universal Church during the pandemic have included Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* and his call for dialogue between faiths during his recent visit to Iraq. Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster signed an ecumenical letter to the prime minister last autumn calling for an end to poverty, especially among children. His diocese and Cardiff's, under the banner of Caritas, have collected and distributed impressive large sums of money for the relief of hardship.

The Catholic Church's witness for social justice and its wealth of teaching on the matter is one of its most compelling characteristics, especially among younger generations. The world is crying out for clear moral direction. The bishops praise the contribution of Catholics to the food bank movement, but fail to ask the obvious question – why are food banks necessary? Why were an estimated 4.3 million children living in poverty even before Covid arrived? How could Church leaders ignore such a scandal?

The Eucharist feeds the soul and it feeds a hunger for justice in the world. Clearly reaffirming the unbreakable link between participation in the sacraments and action for social justice would be a clear trumpet call to the faithful, those with doubts, those drifting away as well as those feeling the pull to return. Every Catholic should respond positively to the bishops' invitation, "Come back to Mass to heal your soul"; had the invitation been augmented to a call

to, "Come back to Mass to heal the world", it would have had even greater power and conviction."

#### From the Department of Social Protection

"We are aware of fraudulent phone calls and text messages, claiming to be from the department, seeking personal information, for example PPS Number / bank account details. DSP staff never ask for such details by phone or text. If you receive such a call or text, please do not engage with the caller and do not share any part of your PPS Number, bank account details or any other personal information with them. If you have provided any such information to a caller that you believe to be a scam call or scam text, please contact the Gardai immediately." [www.gov.ie]



#### Public Health Advice

We are advised by the HSE to continue to observe the usual precautions: hand washing; use of sanitiser; coughing and sneezing etiquette; face covering; social distancing. Here is an extract from the Chief Medical Officer's letter of 13 May to the Minister for Health:

"While we have noted a clear impact of vaccination in long-term residential care, healthcare workers, and those aged 75 years and older in the community, and there is currently a broadly positive epidemiological outlook, Ireland remains vulnerable in the coming weeks as the wider population is not yet protected

through vaccination. As such, the situation remains uncertain, and we need to continue to follow the basic precautions while keeping close contacts low in order to minimise risk of transmission."

#### From the Bishop of Limerick

In a pastoral letter for Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Brendan Leahy reflected on the past year, as follows:

"Now that we are returning and that some semblance of normality finally appears to be taking hold around us, let's be mindful of those for whom this past year has had nightmare elements – elderly cut off from loved ones, those dying unaccompanied, the isolated bereaved and many of those bereaved on foreign shores, the hidden victims of domestic abuse, the increasing numbers of those with mental ill-health issues. It has been nothing less than a traumatic, stressful and exhausting time for some and that has touched us all in some way or another. I heard from one person who talked about seeing some parishioners – and not just elderly ones – for the first time in months at Mass last weekend and how their health had very visibly deteriorated. So, let's be very attentive to those around us who may need a reassuring word, a helpful gesture, a listening ear as they nervously greet this new normal.

It is a time to again acknowledge the care so heroically given during COVID by healthcare workers and many others. We must continue to take inspiration from that and bring that deep sense of care with us into our everyday lives as we move forward. They fought so hard this past year, trying to keep people alive. They fought so hard also trying to ease the tragic and lonely passage for people who were, without loved ones by their sides, departing to the next world – another remarkable illustration of how much we treasure life. I am mindful also of priests' ministry especially to the bereaved. In time, I hope we can dedicate a special Sunday to celebrate healthcare/frontline workers. In the meanwhile, these days we remember healthcare workers as they face added strain due to the cyber-attack on the IT system."