

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 2:22-40

1. What started out as an ordinary day for Joseph and Mary turned out to be a day with an encounter they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you too have had significant encounters on what you expected to be just an ordinary day?

2. Simeon gave thanks because his eyes saw the salvation God had prepared. In what ways have you experienced God's salvation in your life: an experience of being loved, or discovering a sense of purpose in life, or being touched by the wonders of creation? Give thanks for those memories.

3. Simeon also 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, advice which would be for their good. Perhaps a sword has sometimes pierced your soul as well. What has helped you to maintain hope in such times?

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 *John Byrne OSA*
Email: john@orlagh.ie



Athbhliainfaoishéan 'is faoimhaisedaobh

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 2017: Parish Envelopes for 2018 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 EnvelopeSystem as the Parish receives tax refunds based on your contribution. Anyone who wishes to join the envelope System should contact the Sacristy.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS: On Sunday 7 January we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus at 11:30 Mass. We will have a special celebration when all those

who were baptised during 2016 will be invited to attend.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:

Saturday: 6 January.

Mass times: Vigil Mass Friday: 6.00pm

Sat: 10.00, 11.30.

This feast commemorates the visit of the wise men to worship the baby Jesus. Tradition tells us that their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The men were astrologers who were looking for the star that would lead them to the promised Messiah. This was prophesied in the Book of Micah. According to the Gospel narratives, the wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh with them. These gifts were very meaningful. Gold was a precious and expensive gift, and showed how important Jesus was. Frankincense is a sweet perfume which was often burned in the temple to worship God. It was a sign that Jesus should be worshipped. Myrrh was used to keep things fresh and was used by the women to anoint Jesus' body when he died. By bringing it as a gift to Jesus, the wise men foretold his suffering and death.

IMMIGRANT SUNDAY

Sunday, 14 January has been designated **Immigrant Sunday**. We will celebrate it in our Parish at our Family Mass 11:30 on that day.

We welcome **all immigrants** to our parish and invite them to attend and to refreshments in our Parish Centre after Mass. Our immigrants are asked to provide a photo of a church from their native country or some other suitable item for display in our church on 14 January. Contact Fr. Ryan at 087 299733 or after Mass for details.

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 flaws but for potential.' – Ellen Goodman

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: 325288

Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays

17:00-17:30 Mon

09:00-12:30 Sunday

Mass Times: Weekends:

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon. to Fri. 10:00 ;

Mon. 17:45

Saturday 09:45

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 18:15-19:00

Baptisms: Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 30th	18:00	Pat O'Connor (A) Ita Duffy (A) John Nash (M.M.) Patricia Nash (A)
Sun 31st	10:00	Michael McMahon (M.M.)
	11:30	Jim & Rose Hurley (Rem.) Lily O'Brien (A)
Mon Jan 1	10:00	
Tues 2nd	10:00	
Wed 3rd	10:00	Tony Bromell (1 st A)
Thurs 4th	10:00	
Fri 5th	10:00	Harry Leahy (Rec. Dec.)
	18:00	Derek Crowe (A)
Sat 6th	10:00	
	11:30	Kathleen & Tom Hegarty (A)
	18:00	Harry Leahy (M.M.) Martin Phelan (A)
Sun 7th	10:00	Marie Heenan (A)
	11:30	Brenda Fitzgerald (A)