

### THE DEEP END – ‘The Elder Son’

Sometimes we can be so familiar with a Gospel passage we tend to switch off after the first few sentences. That would be a shame, especially when the Gospel is one of the great blockbuster parables. The real challenge in today's Gospel is what happens after the lost son returns. The elder brother has 'worked like a slave' all those years and is understandably upset. The Father's welcome of the younger son would have been considered extremely foolish by those listening to this story. However, the Father makes it clear that his outreach to the younger brother will not change his love for the older brother. It will cost the elder brother nothing to reach out. We have nothing to lose in welcoming home the lost.

Today, we can try to place ourselves somewhere in this narrative: where do you stand? This Gospel shows us that God returns the lost to the community, regardless of the boundaries that we might put in place. Jesus teaches us a lesson in radical hospitality. No matter how far we wander from home, God is still a loving God. The elder brother has a choice: to come to the party or to sulk in the corner. Luke, excellent story-teller that he is, leaves the reader to decide the outcome.

*‘God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power... that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live’ (Pope Francis, Laudato Si, 246)*

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### THE GARMENT OF SUFFERING:

Life is a journey that brings joy and happiness, but also pain, hurt, suffering and grief. Pain and hurt may come from the death of a loved one, broken relationship, living with an alcoholic, ill-health, abuse, unemployment etc. Each individual carries his/her own pain in life. For many pain, hurt and grief have never been healed. It is important to have an opportunity to OWN our own individual pain or hurt, and enter into a healing process.

Rituals provide healing. It is our hope that the ritual of the **GARMENT OF SUFFERING** will provide the opportunity for healing in our lives. Lent, when we reflect on the pain and suffering in the life of Jesus, gives us that opportunity to revisit our pain and grief.

Between now and Palm Sunday, we invite you to place a piece of cloth – about 4 inches square – in the basket at the foot of the altar, as a symbol of your suffering, pain, grief or hurt. During Holy Week, these patches will be sewn into the Garment of Suffering. This will be draped on the Cross on Good Friday – the symbol of grief being carried by the people of our Parish. It will be burned in the Paschal Fire on Holy Saturday night.

### ‘LOVE NO FLOOD CAN QUENCH, NO TORRENTS DROWN...’ Song of Songs 8:7

2.5 million people may have been affected by the devastating cyclone and floods that have hit southern Africa. Trócaire is responding on the ground with life-saving support and the Lenten campaign will help not only the people in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe but thousands of others facing hardship across the developing world. [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April we will celebrate the ‘Sacrament of the Sick’ at 10.00 am Mass. We invite all who wish to do so to be present for the celebration. Ministers to the Housebound will invite those to whom they bring Holy Communion on Sundays. If you can offer transport to a neighbour, please do so.

**FAMILY MASS:** Our monthly Family Mass is next Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30 am.

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION MASS:** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00 pm - Boys and their families from the JFK school.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Lent after 10.00 am Mass

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** on Fridays during Lent after 10.00 am Mass until 12.30 pm.

**LENTEN SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** will take place in the Salesian Convent, Fernbank on [April 1st](#), from 10.45 am - 12.30 pm.

Venue: Salesian Convent, Fernbank. Facilitator: Sr. Mary Downey  
Please phone Elizabeth at [0872546492](tel:0872546492) if you wish to attend.

**THE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** will meet in our Parish Centre with those who have been bereaved on the **First Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April** after **10.00 am Mass** to offer support in a relaxed friendly and confidential environment with a cup of tea/coffee.

**All are welcome.**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** will hold their monthly collection Sat/Sun 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> April at all Masses

**LECTIO DIVINA** Scripture Reflection will be held in the Salesian Don Bosco Centre Caherdavin on Thursdays during Lent at 8.00pm.

**REFLECTION:** ‘Love is the flame that warms our soul, energises our spirit and supplies passion to our lives. It is our connection to God and to one another.’ Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

### 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 30 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	Helen Clooney (M.M.) Jacqueline Cleary (M.M.)
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 11:30	Dec. Mem. Roche Family Mary Casserly (A) Peter O'Malley (A) Phil & Eugene O'Brien(A)
Mon Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00	Gerald Mulvin (A)
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00	Purgatorial Society Bernie Forde (Rec. Dec.)
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00	Pro Popolo (For the People)
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Thomas Brosnan(A)
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Ann & Mick O'Connor
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	09:45 18:00	Prayer Service Paddy Hartnett (Rem) Tom Noonan (A) Paddy Finucane (A)
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 11:30	Bridie, Willie & Michael Ryan(A) Ulick Burke (A) Jerry O' Sullivan (A)

