

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

MARK 13:33-37

1. The coming of the Lord is not just the moment of death, but any moment of grace. Recall unexpected graces – good things that happened when they were not anticipated.
2. Perhaps some of these were moments when you were particularly alert and aware of what was going on in and around you, and this enabled you to be open to the moment of grace. Recall the contrast with moments when that alertness and awareness were not present.
3. The servants were given charge of the household 'each with their own job'. Identify with the servants as people given a responsibility within the household of God's people. What has it been like for you when you have been shown trust in this way by another person. What is it like for you to see yourself trusted in this way by God?
4. Jesus says that what he is saying to his disciples he is saying to all. Have there been times when you have been a messenger of hope to those. Encouraging them to wait for a moment of grace. Who have been the ones to encourage you?

John Byrne OSA Email: john@orlagh.ie

THE DEEP END: Keep Awake

We are surrounded these days by the commercial 'circus' of Christmas shopping and 'getting ready'. It might be far removed from the story we are celebrating. The story of a poor refugee family 2,000 years ago

who had a very special delivery. The story of God choosing to intervene in human history in such an intimate and shocking way; God choosing to be born into a situation of poverty and danger. It is good to ask ourselves at this time of year, what are we getting ready for? Advent is a wonderful season which invites us to use our waiting to grow spiritually. We are invited to make space for ourselves and for God in the midst of the rushing. Can we stop and be still and ask ourselves: 'Where do I see God being born around me today?' In those I meet? In my community? In my own heart? Have a more 'aware' Advent. Be mindful in all you do. Be aware in your rushing, be aware as you stand in that queue, be aware as you eat, be aware of your feelings, be aware of your thoughts. By watching all of this we become more awake, more able to recognise our true selves and more able to see God being born continuously each day within us and around us. Our awe and wonders grows and we can be prepared for the coming of the Gift himself. How we prepare determines what will be.

Jane Mellett; melletti@gmail.com

MASS TIME CHANGES: Please note that during December Evening Mass will be held only on Monday at 5.45pm, this will be followed by Adoration until 7.00pm.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION is Friday 8 December. The Vigil Mass is **Thursday at 6.00pm** and Masses on 8 December are at **10.00 and 11.30 am**. There is no evening Mass on Friday 8 December.

The **Advent Wreath** is a circle of evergreens, a symbol of God's eternal love for us. Fastened to the wreath are five candles standing upright, at equal distances. These candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, symbolising the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. A rose or pink candle is lit for the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday. The fifth, a white candle, placed in the middle of the wreath, represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: A Concert in aid of the **Children's Grief Centre** will be held in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 9 December at 8.00pm. It will be a unique evening of Christmas favourites and songs from the shows with **Aoide Choir** and renowned tenor and Musical Director, Owen Gilhooly and Guests. Tickets are €15 and are available from email: academy@owengilhooly.com or 083-4659415 or available at the door on the night.

FAMILY MASS: Our monthly Family Mass will be held next Sunday 10 December at 11.30.

ADVENT AT GLENSTAL ABBEY, 'Hearing the Prophets Speak' Advent with the monks of Glenstal Abbey on Sun 3rd, Sat 9th and Sun 17th December, at 4.30pm followed by refreshments and finish with Vespers at 6pm.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION: Journey to the Heart, a special Christmas Meditation with Lonán Ní Dhubháin will be held at Mount St Alphonsus on Friday 8 December from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. For further information contact Lonán at 086-3633127 or Fr Joe at 087-675820

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will hold their **CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** this weekend on Sat/Sun 2/3 December at all Masses.

Parish Website

www.ourladyofthecosaryparishlimerick.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

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| Sat 2 nd | 18:00 | Denis McMahon (A) |
| Sun 3 rd | 10:00 | Síle Quilligan (M.M.) |
| | 11:30 | Desmond Fry Tom Goodwin |
| Mon 4 th | 10:00 | Dec. Mem. of the Brosnan Family |
| | 17:45 | Jennifer Sheedy (Rec. Dec.) |
| Tues 5 th | 10:00 | The McDonnell Family |
| Wed 6 th | 10:00 | Bridget O'Brien (Rec. Dec.) |
| Thurs 7 th | 10:00 | Purgatorial Society |
| | 18:00 | John Cleary (A) |
| Fri 8 th | 10:00 | Mary & John Beggan (A) |
| | 11:30 | |
| Sat 9 th | 09:45 | Jerry O'Sullivan Baker (A) |
| | | Special Intention |
| | 18:00 | Jackie Staunton |
| Sun 10 th | 10:00 | Liam O'Leary (1 st A) |
| | 11:30 | Pat Quane (A) |
| | | Michael Meaney (A) |
| | | Ann O'Sullivan (1 st A) |
| | | Paddy O'Sullivan (A) |