

THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 16:21-27

1. Short-term loss is sometimes necessary for long-term gain, as a student studying, or an athlete training, can testify. When have you found that denying yourself proved to be worthwhile because of what you gained afterwards?

2. Jesus was teaching his followers that the path of discipleship would involve pain and suffering. Peter would have none of it. When have you found that taking up your cross brought you life, even though at the time it may have been difficult?

3. Jesus knew that because his good news message was not acceptable to the authorities he would suffer and die. In spite of this he trusted that the power of God would overcome evil. Have you seen a good news message survive even though opponents tried to stifle it?

4. Jesus promised that those who suffer for the kingdom would be rewarded. Perhaps, even in this earthly life, you have experienced reward for faithful discipleship. What have these rewards been?

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MUSINGS:

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me

To deny oneself is to be aware only of Christ and no more of self, to see only him who goes before and no more the road which is too hard for us.

When Christ calls a person, he bids them come and die.

The disciple-community does not shake off sorrow as though it were no concern of its own, but willingly bears it. And in this way they show how close are the bonds which bind them to the rest of humanity. But at the same time they do not go out of their way to

their way as they try to follow Jesus Christ, and bear it for his sake. Sorrow cannot tire them or wear them down, it cannot embitter them or cause them to break down under the strain; far from it, for they bear their sorrows in the strength of him who bears them up, who bore the whole suffering of the world upon the cross. They stand as the bearers of sorrow in the fellowship of the Crucified: they stand as strangers in the world in the power of him who was such a stranger to the world that it crucified him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

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THE DEEP END: Selfless love

It can be difficult to understand why anyone would willingly place a burden on themselves. We are bombarded daily with promises of a better, easier life. Magazines and lifestyle gurus offer us a better work-life balance. New gadgets pledge to remove obstacles or irritations and make our lives less stressful. It's all a bit of a contrast to the message of today's gospel, where Jesus says that his followers must take up their cross. Why would we deliberately suffer, or take on a burden? Surely we should aim to make our lives as easy as possible!

Yet, we see self-sacrifice all the time. Parents make sacrifices for their children, and many people tend lovingly to elderly parents or relatives. Friends give up their time to listen and support each other. Teachers go the extra mile for a vulnerable child, and nurses, doctors, and care workers often go beyond the call of duty. Countless people give up their time and resources to help those in need, whether it's raising funds for charities or offering practical support to those who are sick, homeless, or struggling. And it's all done out of love.

When Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to suffer grievously and be put to death, they naturally react with shock, as it seems like a strange path to choose. But he is not doing it simply to make life difficult for himself. His sacrifice stems from his passionate love for us, just as we would sacrifice everything for someone we love dearly. Being a follower of Jesus means being prepared to sometimes put others' needs before our own.

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THE HOSPITALITY GROUP welcome you back on WEDNESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2017, and every WEDNESDAY, for the usual cuppa and chat after to 10.00 a.m. Mass in the PARISH CENTRE.

The MONDAY AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER WILL COMMENCE 18th SEPTEMBER at the usual time of 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

LET'S TALK FAMILY; LET'S BE FAMILY

Following the excellent presentation by Cardinal Schonborn on July 13th, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick will launch it's preparations for World Meeting of Families with a **FAMILY FUN DAY IN MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE** on **SUNDAY OCTOBER 8TH**. All welcome (including food stalls, music, sport, film and family fun activities for all generations).

Let's talk Family; let's be Family. Save the date – October 8th

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Will hold their monthly collection on 2nd and 3rd September at all Masses.

CHANGES TO MASS TIMES

No 5.45pm weekday Mass until Autumn
No Adoration on Mondays or Fridays.

Published by the Parish Pastoral Council

PARISH WEBSITE

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

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Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733
Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at *Church Sacristy*
Tel: **325288**

Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays
09:00-12.30 Sunday

MASS TIMES:

Weekends

Saturday Vigil 18:00
Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon to Fri 10:00
Saturday 09:45

Baptisms:

Saturday 17:00
Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 2nd	18:00	Thomas Tierney (A)
Sun 3rd	10:00	Teresa Lynch (A)
	11.30	Ned and Terry Wall (A)
		Maureen O'Connor (1st A)
		Bridie Fitzgibbon (MM)
		Pat Henry (A)
Mon 4th	10:00	Kay O'Shaughnessy (A)
		No Evening Mass
Tues 5th	10:00	Patricia Conroy (A)
		No Evening Mass
Wed 6th	10:00	
Thurs 7th	10:00	
Fri 8th	10:00	
Sat 5th	09:45	
	18.00	Ian Cumisky (A)
		John O'Connor (A)
Sun 6th	10:00	Paddy Mulrooney (A) and
		Deceased Members of
		Mulrooney Family
	11:30	Glen Quinn (1st A)

