

## SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

### MATTHEW 3:1-12

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to us of the good news of the gospel that God loves us – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc? To whom have we borne that witness?

2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of opposition. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been content to be yourself, without pretending to be more than you are? What was it like to have that freedom, even in the face of criticism from others?

3. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

**John Byrne OSA** Email: [john@orlagh.ie](mailto:john@orlagh.ie)

### CONFIRMATION PREPARATION :

Sunday 11 December at 10.00am Mass - Boys and their families from the JFK school.  
Sunday 18 December at 11.30 am - girls and their families from the Salesian Primary School.

*Thank you most sincerely for all your kind thoughts and gifts on the occasion of my departing Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. I will always remember your encouragement and kindness extended to me over the past 10 years of serving the faithful Community of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish .*  
**Fr. William Walsh**

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** is Thursday 8 December, Mass times as per Sunday.

**FAMILY MASS:** Our monthly Family Mass will be held Sunday next, 11 December, at 11.30 a.m.

**EVENING MASS:** Please note there will be no evening Mass during weekdays from 12 December until further notice.

**THE JESSE TREE:** The Jesse Tree is the 'Family Tree' of Jesus. It represents the ancestors of Jesus and tells the history of His family. Jesse was the father of King David and St Matthew in his Gospel traces the descent of Jesus from David right down to St Joseph. The image is taken from the Prophet Isaiah (Ch 11). The passage is read on the Second Sunday of Advent which is today. 'A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom.' The roots symbolise Jesse, the father of David. Our Lady is the 'shoot' and Jesus is the 'Blossom'.

When you look at our Jesse Tree at the back of the Church, you will notice familiar symbols – the Garden of Eden symbolised by the apple in the grip of a snake; Noah's Ark; Abraham, Isaiah and Moses represented by the pair of sandals he removed when he

realised that he was in God's presence; the Ten Commandments, and many other symbols.

**THE REMEMBRANCE TREE:** The Remembrance Tree recalls a very old Irish custom. In Famine times when people emigrated there was a special 'farewell' often referred to as 'the Irish wake'. The person leaving home usually wrote his/her name on a scrap of paper. If the person could not write someone else did the favour. A piece of Laurel was then taken and pushed through the scrap of paper. It was then placed behind the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus so that the memory of the person would be kept alive.

The cards for the Remembrance Tree are in the basket at the foot of the tree. Please fill in a card with the names of those who will not be home for Christmas and hang it on the Remembrance Tree. We hold their memory dear and we pray for them especially at Mass during Advent and Christmas. Also please take a Remembrance Tree card to send to those living away whom you have included in the prayers.

**YOUTH 2000 CHRISTMAS RETREAT:** Youth 2000 invites all young adults aged 16 – 35 to a Catholic weekend retreat taking place from 16 – 18 December at Newbridge College, Co. Kildare. For more information see [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) or Tel 01 6753690.

**CONCERT:** Chordivarius invite you to a Musical Evening with special guests on Wednesday 7 December at 7.30pm in Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Refreshments and Raffle afterwards in JFK Gym Hall.

Tickets €10 will be available at the door from 7.00pm. Proceeds in aid of RehabCare, Parnell Place.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** will hold their **CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** this weekend, Sat/Sun 3/4 December at all Masses.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Parish Christmas Cards are on sale in the Church at the back porch door: €5 for a packet of 10 in aid of St Vincent DePaul.

<b>Parish Website</b> <a href="http://www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie">www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie</a> 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 & Tue 09:00-12.30 Sunday	
<b>Mass Times: Weekends:</b> Saturday Vigil 18:00 Sunday 10:00; 11:30 <u>Weekdays:</u> Mon. to Fri. 10:00 ; Mon., Tues., and First Fridays: 17:45 Saturday 09:45 <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b> Monday 18:15-19:00 Friday 10:30-17:30 <b>Meditation:</b> Monday 19:00 <b>Baptisms:</b> Saturday 17:00 Sunday 12:15	

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Sat 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>18:00</b> Purgatorial Society Paddy Hartnett ( Rem.)
<b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b> John Cleary (A) <b>11:30</b> James & Mary MacRedmond (A)
<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b> Gerry Bennis (Rec. Dec.) <b>17:45</b> Purgatorial Society
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b> Zena Gilbourne (A) <b>17:45</b> Purgatorial Society
<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b> Purgatorial Society <b>18:00</b> Micheál O'Cathasaigh (A) Dermot Walsh (A)
<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b> Mary Shaughnessy (Rec. Dec.) <b>11:30</b> Dec. Mem. of McDonnell Family
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b> Frank Doyle (Rec. Dec.)
<b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>09:45</b> Seamus & Margaret Flanagan (A) <b>18:00</b> Denis McMahon (A) Jackie Staunton (A)
<b>Sun 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00</b> Rita Fitzgibbon (A) <b>11:30</b> Pat Quane (A) Michael Meaney (JA)

