

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

1. John opens his Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation, of life and of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that filled you with gratitude to God for creation, and the beauty and wonder of the world: *'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.'*

2. We often listen to a reading from the gospels. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, *like a light that shines in the darkness*. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety or sadness and helped you to see what action would be most life giving for you and for others.

3. Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world – speaking the truth for the world to hear, *as a witness to testify to the light*. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by witness of their own lives and words.

4'No one has ever seen God. It is only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him know.'

Jesus came to us to teach us about God and put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day, and for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God, and to believe in a God of love. Recall how the life and ministry of Jesus have changed your picture of God.

John Byrne OSA Email: john@orlagh.ie

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:

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.

MASS TIMES FOR FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:

Monday, 6 January: 10.00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS: On Sunday 12 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 2019 will be invited to attend.

PARISH ENVELOPE SYSTEM: Fr McAuliffe, Fr Ryan and the Parish Finance Committee would like to thank you all most sincerely for your contributions towards the upkeep of the Church and the parish.

To explain the Envelope System: under current tax legislation the parish receives a tax rebate on donations of €250 or more in a tax year. Such

contributions made by parishioners may consist of the weekly envelope collections and also the Christmas and Easter dues. This rebate amounts to approximately €112 for every €250 donated to the parish annually. Over the past few years, for example, the tax refunds to the parish have averaged over €36,000 per annum.

Parishioners who are in the Envelope System are each given a number and a record is kept of their weekly donations. If their total contributions during the year including their Easter and Christmas dues, amount to more than €250, the parish receives a rebate.

However there are parishioners whose total Christmas and Easter dues amount to €250 or more but who are not in the Envelope System – the parish can claim for rebate on their dues contribution but not on their weekly contributions on the plate, because it is not recorded (under the Envelope System).

Also, there are parishioners who are not in the Envelope System and whose dues contributions are just less than €250 per annum but when taken together with their weekly plate contributions would amount to €250 or more – the parish cannot claim for a rebate in respect of any of these contributions as they are not in the system.

The parish would benefit greatly from the additional rebate it would receive from the latter two categories. Therefore the Parish Finance Committee would be very grateful if you would please consider signing up to the Envelope System. You can do this by calling to Margaret in the office.

Signing up to the Envelope System does not commit parishioners to a weekly contribution and you are free to opt out at any time.

Eligible contributors complete a simple tax form every 5 years. The Parish will contact the relevant people regarding this as needed.

REFLECTION: 'We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. This book is called opportunity and its first chapter is the first week of the New Year'. Edith Pierce

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: 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 4 th	18:00	Eamon Beston (A) Humphry Murphy (A) Vincent Collins (1 st A)
Sun 5 th	10:00 11:30	John Savage (Rec. Dec.) Maureen Duffy (Rec. Dec.) Gertrude Hayes (M.M.)
Mon 6 th	10:00 11:30	Sr. Monica Power (A) Fr. Michael Hoare (Rec. Dec.) & his parents Nora & Patrick (A)
Tues 7 th	10:00	Anna Doyle (Rec. Dec.) Marie Heenan (A)
Wed 8 th	10:00	Maureen Duffy (Rec. Dec.)
Thurs 9 th	10:00	Leo Family (A)
Fri 10 th	10:00 12:00	Bridie & Jim Cuffe (A) Retirement Mass for Catherine Walsh (Deputy Principal Salesians)
Sat 11 th	09:45 18:00	Prayer Service Ronan O'Riain (Rec. Dec.)
Sun 12 th	10:00 11:30	Michael, Bridie & Willie Ryan (A) Brenda Fitzgerald (A) Liam O'Shanahan (A) Margaret & Seamus Flanagan (A) Paddy & Birdie Fitzpatrick (A)

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