

THE DEEP END – ‘Don’t look back’

‘No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed...’ (Isaiah 43: 18-19)

‘All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead...’ (Phil 3:13)

These poignant words taken from today’s first and second readings provide the perfect preamble to our dramatic Gospel reading. Perhaps the line that is most often quoted from the story of the woman caught in adultery is Jesus’ challenge to the crowd who bring her before them: ‘If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.’ It is a challenge to all of us to look inward before we ‘cast stones’ to judge others. But there is another equally powerful statement here by Jesus, this time to the woman herself. It is delivered quietly, when she is left alone with Jesus after all her accusers have drifted away: ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go away, and don’t sin anymore.’ We notice that Jesus doesn’t rake over the woman’s past. He doesn’t ask her about the claims of her accusers. He does not condemn or criticise her. Instead he accepts her, loves her, treats her with the respect and dignity that was so lacking in the mob, and gently nudges her forward into a new way of living.

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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

FAMILY MASS: Our monthly Family Mass is Sunday 7th April at 11.30 am.

FAITH& LIFE Group Meeting: the next meeting takes place Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

MASS of CHRISM: On Wednesday April 17th, our Bishop will celebrate the Mass of Chrism in St. John’s Cathedral at 7.30pm. The Holy Oils used in the administration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Ordination will be blessed at this Mass.

ALL are invited to this celebration.

INVITATION: One of the elements of the Liturgy of **Holy Thursday** is the **Washing of the Feet**. This ceremony reminds us that Jesus washed His disciples’ feet as an example of the love and service we are asked to give to others in our families, our work place, etc. If you would like to be one of those taking part in this ceremony, **please leave your name and a contact number in the Sacristy before Monday April 15th.**

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION MASS:

Saturday 6th 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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL will hold their monthly collection Sat/Sun 6th/ 7th 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.

RECENT DEATHS: We remember our parishioners who died during the month of January and express our sympathy to their families: **Jacqueline Cleary, Anthony Murnane, Joseph McGrath, Josephine McNamara. May they rest in peace.**

REFLECTION: ‘Patience and time do more than force and rage.’ Jean de la Fontaine

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: 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 6 th	18:00	Paddy Finucane (A) Paddy Hartnett (Rem) Tom Noonan (A)
Sun 7 th	10:00	Bridie, Willie & Michael Ryan (A) Eulick Burke (A) Barney Sheehan (A)
	11:30	Jerry O’Sullivan (1 st A) Michael Ryan (Old Church) (A)
Mon 8 th	10:00	Pro Popolo
Tues 9 th	10:00	Martin McNamara (A)
Wed 10 th	10:00	Phylis Murphy (A)
Thur 11 th	10:00	
Fri 12 th	10:00	Mel Carmody (A)
Sat 13 th	09:45	Prayer Service
	18:00	John & Kathleen Tiernan (A) Joe McGrath (M.M)
Sun 14 th	10:00	Willie, Bridie, Michael & Sarah Ryan (A)
	11:30	Moira Gallagher (A) Tom Corbett (A) Catherine O’Leary (1 st A)

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