

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 1:7-11

1. John gives an example of humility as a person confident in his own role but not seeking to claim to be more than he is. He is able to acknowledge that Jesus is greater.

There is a freedom in being able to acknowledge the gifts of others without losing a sense of one's own giftedness. Recall times when you were able to do this.

2. The baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. What have been these milestones for you?

3. 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' Bring to mind memories of experiences in which you knew you were the beloved (of God or of another person) and that the one who loved you was well pleased. Bring these experiences to mind with gratitude, knowing that the only proper response to love received is thankfulness. Perhaps you have also given that experience to another.

4. It is easy to lament the growing secularisation in the world today, but the Spirit of God who spoke loudly to the world in the Christ-event is active today. How can we be open to the new things the Spirit is saying to the Church today? *John Byrne OSA*
Email: john@orlagh.ie

THE DEEP END: A searching God

He came in search of John.

He came in search of baptism.

He came in search of blessing.

He came in search of the Spirit.

He came in search of God's favour.

He came in search of God's love.

The first active step that Jesus takes as he begins his ministry is to search. He journeys from Nazareth to the River Jordan to find John, in order to be baptised. While John feels he is 'not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals', Jesus still seeks him out. He needs this moment of baptism and blessing to begin his ministry. This is his moment of divine calling and endorsement from the Father: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

We know what it is like to search. We yearn for meaning, for love, and our hearts are always searching for God. Today's first reading from Isaiah speaks of this great thirst: 'Oh come to the water all you who are thirsty'; 'Seek the Lord while he is still to be found'. We must seek constantly to bring ourselves into the presence of God, who will give us his blessing and strength for the road ahead.

'You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.' St Augustine

Triona Doherty

Athlone, Co Roscommon

Email: trionad@gmail.com

FAMILY MASS: Our monthly Family Mass will be held next Sunday 14 January at 11.30.

CHRISTMAS DUES: We wish to acknowledge and thank all who have returned their Christmas Offering envelopes for the Priests and the Sacristan and all who are in the process of doing so. If you are contributing by cheque, please make the cheques payable to 'Our Lady of the Rosary Parish' and in relation to the Sacristan to 'Margaret Clifford'.

PARISH ENVELOPES 2018: Parish Envelopes for 2018 will be distributed at the end of this Calendar year. We acknowledge all who give to the Parish in whatever way that suits. We also encourage you, if you can, to consider giving through the Envelope System as the Parish receives tax refunds based on your contribution. Anyone who wishes to join the envelope System should contact the Sacristy.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS: This Sunday, 7 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 2017 have been invited to attend.

IMMIGRANT SUNDAY

Sunday, 14 January has been designated **Immigrant Sunday**. We will celebrate it in our Parish at our Family Mass 11:30 on that day.

We welcome **all immigrants** to our parish and invite them to attend and to refreshments in our Parish Centre after Mass. Our immigrants are asked to provide a photo of a church from their native country or some other suitable item for display in our church on 14 January. Contact Fr. Ryan at 087 299733 or after Mass for details.

TROCAIRE VOLUNTEERS: 'Are you interested in volunteering and becoming part of something really worthwhile?' Trocaire is looking for volunteers to bring social justice alive in parishes. Information leaflets available from the sacristy/

back of the church. Also contact Noirin at the Pastoral Centre on 061 400133 or email: volunteering@trocaire.org

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: 'How much better family life would be if every day we lived according to the words. 'please', 'thank you' and 'I'm sorry'. – Pope Francis

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 <i>Church Sacristy</i> Tel: 325288	
Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays	
17:00-17:30 Mon	
09:00-12.30 Sunday	
Mass Times: <u>Weekends:</u>	
Saturday Vigil 18:00	
Sunday 10:00; 11:30	
<u>Weekdays:</u>	
Mon. to Fri. 10:00 ;	
Mon. 17:45	
Saturday 09:45	
<u>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</u>	
Monday 18:15-19:00	
<u>Baptisms:</u> Saturday 17:00	
Sunday 12:15	

MASS INTENTIONS		
Sat 6 th	18:00	Kathleen & Tom Hegarty (A) Harry Leahy (M.M.) Martin Phelan (M.M.) Jackie Gibbons (M.M.) Patricia Cussen (A)
Sun 7 th	10:00	Marie Heenan (A)
	11:30	Brenda Fitzgerald (A)
Mon 8 th	10:00	Anne Kenny (A)
	17:45	Joe Connolly (Rec. Dec.)
Tues 9 th	10:00	Noreen Moloney (Rec. Dec.)
Wed 10 th	10:00	
Thurs 11 th	10:00	
Fri 12 th	10:00	Maura Naughton (Rec. Dec.)
Sat 13 th	09:45	
	18:00	Joe Connolly (M.M.) Michael Bridie & Willie Ryan (A)
Sun 14 th	10:00	Nuala McElligot (A) Brenda Fitzgerald (A)
	11:30	Paddy Quilligan (A)