



Our Lady of the
Rosary Parish
Limerick

Newsletter

8th November 2020

Parish Newsletter

We have resumed the production of our Weekly Newsletter but only for online publication. Please tell your friends that it may be accessed from the Homepage on our Parish Website.

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

Coronavirus Situation

As the situation develops, we are posting relevant information on the Parish Website. From the Homepage, it may be found under the 'Our Parish' menu, with the heading 'Coronavirus Situation'.

Limerick COVID-19 Community Response
Telephone 1800 832005

Limerick City and County Council, in collaboration with civic organisations, sporting groups and a network of volunteers, has established the Limerick COVID-19 Community Response to help people who require assistance with daily needs, such as grocery shopping, medical prescriptions and essential supplies, during these days of restricted movement.

Support for Older People from ALONE
Telephone 0818 222024

Arrangements for November

While we continue to observe Level 5 Restrictions in the National Framework for Living with Covid-19, Masses are celebrated online at the usual times.

RTE continues to broadcast Mass on the RTE News Now channel at 10:30 a.m., Monday to Friday.

The Church is open for personal visits and private prayer from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day, Mon. to Sat. with entry by the side door near the Sacristy.

Mass Intentions for Masses celebrated online

Sat 7 th Nov	18:00	Denis Browne (A) Kathleen Gleeson (A)
Sun 8 th Nov	10:00 11:30	Breda Murphy (A) Helen Keane (Guerin) (A) Patsy & Eddie Hogan (A)
Mon 9 th Nov	10:00	Purgatorial
Tue 10 th Nov	10:00	Anthony Wong (A)
Wed 11 th Nov	10:00	Michael Ryan Rec. Dec.
Thu 12 th Nov	10:00	John McCormack Rec. Dec.
Fri 13 th Nov	10:00	Monica Ryan (Conway) Rec. Dec. Michael O'Doherty Rec. Dec.
Sat 14 th Nov	18:00	Martina Sheahan (A) Liam & Mary Garrahy (A)
Sun 15 th Nov	10:00 11:30	Mildred Windrim M.Mind Sr. Bridget Beggan M.M. Bernard & Mary Ryan (A)

Recently Deceased

Let us pray for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth Hardiman and John McCormack, who died recently.

Purgatorial Society

During the month of November, we remember in a special way those who have gone before us. We honour and we pray to the Saints in Heaven. We honour the memory of our deceased loved ones and we pray that they too may have Eternal Rest.

Purgatorial Envelopes with Lists for the Dead may be collected from inside the porch. For parishioners who have a box of Offertory Collection envelopes, there is a purple envelope with a List for the Dead dated 2nd Nov. enclosed. This may be returned through the Letter Box on the inner door, which is protected by Church Alarm and Security Cameras.

Papal Encyclical

Pope Francis has recently published an Encyclical Letter on Fraternity and Social Friendship named 'Fratelli Tutti'. The title is taken from the writings of St. Francis and the encyclical was signed by Pope Francis on 3rd Oct. 2020 during a visit to Assisi.

The following passage was selected for the Parish Newsletter by Fr. Ryan and further extracts will be presented in the coming weeks. The full text of 'Fratelli Tutti' is available on the Limerick Diocesan Website, where you will also find the references cited in this extract.

CHAPTER THREE - ENVISAGING AND ENGENDERING AN OPEN WORLD

87. Human beings are so made that they cannot live, develop and find fulfilment except "in the sincere gift of self to others" .[62] Nor can they fully know themselves apart from an encounter with other persons: "I communicate effectively with myself only insofar as I communicate with others" .[63]

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No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love. This is part of the mystery of authentic human existence. “Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity. On the contrary, there is no life when we claim to be self-sufficient and live as islands: in these attitudes, death prevails” .[64]

MOVING BEYOND OURSELVES

88. In the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves and towards others.[65] Since we were made for love, in each one of us “a law of ekstasis” seems to operate: “the lover ‘goes outside’ the self to find a fuller existence in another” .[66] For this reason, “man always has to take up the challenge of moving beyond himself” .[67]

89. Nor can I reduce my life to relationships with a small group, even my own family; I cannot know myself apart from a broader network of relationships, including those that have preceded me and shaped my entire life. My relationship with those whom I respect has to take account of the fact that they do not live only for me, nor do I live only for them.

Our relationships, if healthy and authentic, open us to others who expand and enrich us. Nowadays, our noblest social instincts can easily be thwarted by self-centred chats that give the impression of being deep relationships.

On the contrary, authentic and mature love and true friendship can only take root in hearts open to growth through relationships with others. As couples or friends, we find that our hearts expand as

we step out of ourselves and embrace others. Closed groups and self-absorbed couples that define themselves in opposition to others tend to be expressions of selfishness and mere self-preservation.

90. Significantly, many small communities living in desert areas developed a remarkable system of welcoming pilgrims as an exercise of the sacred duty of hospitality. The medieval monastic communities did likewise, as we see from the Rule of Saint Benedict. While acknowledging that it might detract from the discipline and silence of monasteries, Benedict nonetheless insisted that “the poor and pilgrims be treated with the utmost care and attention” .[68]

Hospitality was one specific way of rising to the challenge and the gift present in an encounter with those outside one’s own circle. The monks realized that the values they sought to cultivate had to be accompanied by a readiness to move beyond themselves in openness to others.

The unique value of love

91. People can develop certain habits that might appear as moral values: fortitude, sobriety, hard work and similar virtues. Yet if the acts of the various moral virtues are to be rightly directed, one needs to take into account the extent to which they foster openness and union with others. That is made possible by the charity that God infuses.

Without charity, we may perhaps possess only apparent virtues, incapable of sustaining life in common. Thus, Saint Thomas Aquinas could say - quoting Saint Augustine - that the temperance of a greedy person is in no way virtuous.[69] Saint Bonaventure, for his part, explained that the other virtues, without charity, strictly speaking do not fulfil the commandments “the way God wants them to be fulfilled” .[70]

92. The spiritual stature of a person’s life is measured by love, which in the end remains “the criterion for the definitive decision about a human life’s worth or lack thereof” .[71] Yet some believers think that it consists in the imposition of their own ideologies upon everyone else, or in a violent defence of the truth, or in impressive demonstrations of strength. All of us, as believers, need to recognize that love takes first place: love must never be put at risk, and the greatest danger lies in failing to love (cf. 1 Cor 13:1-13).

93. Saint Thomas Aquinas sought to describe the love made possible by God’s grace as a movement outwards towards another, whereby we consider “the beloved as somehow united to ourselves” .[72] Our affection for others makes us freely desire to seek their good. All this originates in a sense of esteem, an appreciation of the value of the other.

This is ultimately the idea behind the word “charity” : those who are loved are “dear” to me; “they are considered of great value” .[73] And “the love whereby someone becomes pleasing (grata) to another is the reason why the latter bestows something on him freely (gratis)” .[74]

94. Love, then, is more than just a series of benevolent actions. Those actions have their source in a union increasingly directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing and beautiful apart from their physical or moral appearances. Our love for others, for who they are, moves us to seek the best for their lives. Only by cultivating this way of relating to one another will we make possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all.

Given in Assisi, at the tomb of Saint Francis, on 3 October, Vigil of the Feast of the Saint, in the year 2020, the eighth of my Pontificate.

Franciscus