

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY Our Church from 1950 Our Parish from 1964		PARISH NEWSLETTER 26 / 27 September 2026 Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time World Day of Migrants and Refugees
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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: (from the Irish Catholic)

Commenting on the vocations downturn a wise priest once told us eager students, 'Gentlemen, we have enough priests to minister to practicing Catholics. What we don't have is enough priests to minister to cultural Catholics'. Increasingly I think he was correct.

Much of the present discussion about priest shortages begins with the assumption that we must somehow preserve the existing ecclesiastic machinery, only with fewer men operating it. Yet if current trends continue, we can expect that around 62% of the population will identify as Catholic in the next census, while regular practice remains only a fraction of that. Therein lies the elephant occupying the spare room in the presbytery!

We continue to prepare children for First Communion and Confirmation just because they attend a 'Catholic' school, lest anyone suffer the unimaginable trauma of missing the big day. Canonical requirements for Baptism are completely overlooked for fear of saying 'not yet' risks causing offence. Funerals (now renamed 'celebrations of life') are theatrical performances with the priest afforded a 'supporting role'. Unfamiliar couples expect a Catholic Wedding because, well, the church does look nice in the photographs.

The crisis is not simply that we have too few priests. The crisis is that we are asking the few to maintain a sacramental service industry built for the maintenance of cultural Catholicism.

The answer is not revisiting parish structures or asking parishioners to hold the ladder. We need the courage to distinguish between maintenance and mission. The Church must always have her doors open to those seeking Christ. But an open door is not the same thing as a drive-through takeaway.

If we lack the courage to change this model ourselves, the priest shortage will eventually change it for us.

(Fr. Mark Quinn Tuam – Letter in the Irish Catholic 10 September 2026)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT from 10:30 to 11:30 on First Fridays returns on Friday 2 October next

HOSPITALITY ON WEDNESDAYS: Last Wednesday our tea/coffee and chat returned after the summer break with a very successful fundraiser in aid of **Milford Hospice** where over **€700** was generously donated. We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday. Thank you to all who helped out.

FAMILY MASS: Our Monthly Family Mass will resume on the second Sunday of each month beginning on Sunday 11 October next at 11:30. All families are invited to attend. All those who are participating with readings and leading the prayers are asked to be in attendance at 11:15 please. Thank you all those who volunteer to help with the preparation of the readers, the music and the teas. **Everyone** is invited to the Parish Centre afterwards for tea and a chat. It is a lovely opportunity to meet up with your fellow parishioners.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: The monthly collection for the local conference will be taken up after each Mass next weekend 3 / 4 October.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 26th		18:00	Mae Cleary (M.M.) Breda Carmody (A) Jackie Goodwin (1 st A) Geraldine Nardone (1 st A)
Sun 27th		10:00 11:30	Pat Fayne (1 st A) Des Quaid (1 st A) Cyril & Mary Power (A) Rune Fuglesang (2 nd A)
Mon 28th		10:00	Pro Popolo
Tues 29th		10:00	John Cooney (A) Tom Cooney (Rem)
Wed 30th		10:00	Damian Clifford (A)
Thurs 1st		10:00	Denis O'Neill (A)
Fri 2nd		10:00	Michael O'Flanagan (2 nd A)
Sat 3rd		18:00	Billy Nealon (M.M.) Gerry Prendergast (A)
Sun 27th		10:00 11:30	

Mass Times: Daily Mass – Mon to Fri – 10:00 Sat Vigil & Eve of Holy Day – 18:00 Sunday & Holy Day – 10:00 & 11:30 Baptisms: Sat 17:00 & Sun 12:15 by appointment Marriages: by appointment	Pries Canon Des McAuliffe P.P. tel: 061 324825 Fr. Tom Ryan C.C. tel: 087 2997733 Adoration: First Friday after 10:00 Mass. (October to May) Parish Website: www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie	Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at Church Sacristy Tel: 061 325 288 Office Hours: Mon - Fri 09:00 to 10:30 & Sunday from 09:00 to 12:30 Church Open for Private Prayer: Mon – Sat from 09:30 to 15:00
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