

The Baptism of the Lord—You Are My Beloved!



There's something supremely beautiful about how a small child loves you, isn't there? Knowing that that pure honest love is offered to you can brighten even the most cynical soul! We all need to know we are loved, to experience pure love—it nourishes the soul.

After Jesus was baptised in the Jordan by John, the Father spoke—*This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him.* What a beautiful affirmation of Jesus as he began his public ministry.

Imagine what the world would be like if everyone truly believed that they are loved and worth loving.

Imagine what our parish would look like if everyone truly believed that they are welcome and a valued member of the community.

As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, let's honour Jesus by actions as well as words: In our prayers and in our welcome for all the baptised; in how we live our lives as his followers.

May the love between Father and Son encourage us to love unconditionally, to encourage and to bless all we meet with kindness, mercy and love. For God is love, and we are BeLoved.

Most wonderful God,
foolish and flawed though we are,
we too delight in your beloved Son.
As in his name we gather in the house of many praises,
may the heavens be opened for us,
that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love
that transforms our common days
with a beauty not of our making.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Feast of St Ita (15th January)

Kileedy Parish is named for St Ita — one of the patron saint of our diocese. There is always a great celebration of St Ita's feast in her home parish!

St Ita was born in Waterford, but came to Kileedy where she led a community of sisters. She is sometimes called "the white sun of the women of Munster" or the "Brigid of Munster". Ita is also known as the "Foster Mother of the Saints of Ireland" because she was a mother figure to some of Ireland's early saints. St Brendan was in Killeedy for five years under the care of St Ita in the monastery at Killeedy from the time when he was a year old.

Concert of Sacred Music

You are invited to a special celebration at the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, Sacred Heart church, The Crescent on this coming Tuesday, January 12th.

The Australian choir *Prima Luce* will be singing during the 7pm Mass and this will be followed at 8pm by a concert of Sacred Music. Admission is free.

[Taken from Pastoral Development newsletter of 6th January—available online at: www.limerickdiocese.org/newsletter.html]



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH O'Connell Avenue Limerick Sunday 10th January 2016 The Baptism of The Lord

Fr Oliver Plunkett, Adm:.....087-6593176
Fr Frank Downes O.P., Parish Chaplain | Fr Paul Finnerty, Weekend Assistant
St Joseph's Church (Sacristy):
Úna McCarthy (Parish Clerk) and Patricia Quirke (Parish Office):.....(061)313401
Parish email:.....stjosephsparishlk@eircom.net
Website: www.stjosephsparish.ie

Mass Times and Intentions

Day	Time	Name
Sun. Jan. 10 th	10.00am	Bridget Cleary and Jim; Patrick Tobin (anniversaru)
	11.30am	Richard Maher (first anniversary); Agnes Cronin (fifth anniversary); Ursula Walsh-Lane (first anniversary) and John Lane; Gladys Frawley (seventh anniversary)
	5.30pm	Joe and Nellie Martin; William and Margaret O'Dwyer; John English (third anniversary); Marie O'Donohue (eighteenth anniversary); Des Gallivan; Senan Murphy (recently deceased)
Mon. Jan. 11 th	10.30am	Joan Gleeson (fourteenth anniversary)
Tue. Jan. 12 th	10.30am	John Flynn (month's mind); Bobby and baby Gerard Byrne, and Michael and James Byrne
Wed. Jan. 13 th	10.30am	Jean Benson and Johnnie Griffin (anniversaries)
Thur Jan. 14 th	10.30am	
Fri Jan. 15 th	10.00am	
Sat. Jan. 16 th	10.30am	
Sun. Jan. 17 th	10.00am	
	11.30am	Joseph and George Walsh; Liam and Nellie MacNamara; Ted McCarthy; Pat Hanrahan (third anniversary)
	5.30pm	Come Holy Spirit (preparation for Confirmation) John O'Hagan (twentieth anniversary)

Last Sunday's Collection

Thank you for your offerings last Sunday 3rd January: Offertory collection €1017.57

Newly Baptised

We congratulate and ask God's blessing on Michael and Deirdre Lally on the baptism of their daughter Fianna Gillian Mary, and on Carl and Kate Bourke on the baptism of their son Jim Ciaran.

Just Married

Our congratulations to the happy couple, Bryan Sheahan and Jean O'Donovan who celebrated their wedding here in St Joseph's on New Year's eve, Thursday, 31st December 2015.

Recently Deceased

Pray for the happy repose of the souls of: ●Kevin O'Donohue, Ballinacurra road and ●Dave Barry, O'Connell avenue. We extend our sympathy to their families, relatives and friends.

Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

At today's Masses (the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord) we invite all parents who have had their children baptised here in St Joseph's during 2015 to come with their child's baptismal candle which will be lit during Mass. We will also have a special blessing for both parents and newly baptised.

Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Mercy is the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to a hope of being loved forever despite our sins — Pope Francis.

You are welcome to celebrate the Lord's gift of Mercy each Saturday morning here in Saint Joseph's in the sacrament of reconciliation between 11am and Noon.

Church Restoration Fund: Bagpacking

Our grateful thanks to those who turned out for our bagpacking session in Tesco's at the Crescent Shopping Centre on Tuesday 22nd December. The total collected was €1042.

Serenity Prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change.

The courage to change the things I can

And the wisdom to know the difference.

Al-Anon Meetings in Limerick City and County

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| Monday: | 8.00pm | Hospital, County Limerick. |
| | 8.30pm | Reparation Convent, Laurel Hill, Ave. |
| Tuesday: | 11.00am | Pastoral Centre, Denmark Street. |
| | 8.00pm | Parish Office, Convent Road, Abbeyfeale, County Limerick. |
| Thursday: | 8.00pm | Reparation Convent, Laurel Hill Ave. |
| Friday: | 11.00am | Pastoral Centre, Denmark Street. |

The Al-Anon family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems. Information Centre Dublin: (01)8732699. Local Contact: 087 6739917.

This Week's Saints

13 th (Wednesday):	St Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church
15 th (Friday):	St Ita, virgin (co-patron of our diocese)
16 th (Saturday):	St Fursa, abbot and missionary

The Bible...EXPOSED!! (Ten Week Course)

Join us for a crash course in the bible and see the bible brought to life, come to our bible course at the Pastoral Centre, Denmark Street, commencing on Monday 18th January, for 10 consecutive Mondays from 7.30pm to 9pm. For further details, contact Sharon Clohessy 087 9027217 or Eilish Carter 087 8170420 (after 6pm). The booking deadline is Monday 11th January and places are limited. The fee is €10 per night.

I came so that you could have life and have it to the full— John 10:10

“The Joy of the Gospel” (Six Week Course)

Have you heard about “The Joy of the Gospel”/Evangelii Gaudium? It's a wonderful document written by Pope Francis. If you would like to learn more about it, join us for a six week course. We will study, read and reflect on “The Joy of the Gospel, and also look at how we can put it into action in our lives and parishes. You can join this course at the Pastoral Centre, Denmark Street, commencing on Wednesday 20th January, for 6 consecutive Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 9pm. For further details, contact Sharon Clohessy (087 9027217). The booking deadline is Monday 11th January and places are limited. The fee is €10 per night. Copies of “The Joy of the Gospel” will be provided. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits afterwards!

Jan 16: Come and See—Distance Learning with the Dominicans

Come and See—Come and Taste...

Would you like to learn more but are unable to travel weekly to a course, or are nervous of the expectations?

Now you can 'come and see' what long distance education is all about! Learn about a course that you can complete from your own home!

With the experience of presenting the Bible as a life-giving source the Dominicans in Limerick offer a ‘taster’ of what is on offer by the Priory Institute, Tallaght, in the *Introduction to Scripture* module for the spring semester 2016.

Taster Moments on Saturdays from 10am to 12.30pm

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| January 16: | Adult Education and Course Content |
| February 13: | Distance Learning—your questions answered. |
| February 27: | Sharing the experience of distance learning. |

The taster is free and without any obligation to sign up for the Priory Institute *Introduction to Scripture* spring module. Enquiries to (061)412333.

On the web: ●Parish: www.stjosephsparish.ie ●Diocese: www.limerickdiocese.org

●Diocese on Facebook: www.facebook.com/dioceseflimerick

An electronic version of this newsletter may be seen on our website.

Newsletter prepared by Cathal McCarthy