



St. Joseph's Church
O'Connell Avenue, Limerick
Church Notices, Sunday 30th March 2025

Fourth Week of Lent

Mass Times and Intentions

Day	Time	Name
Sun. Mar. 30 th	10.30am	Noel Noonan (6 th anniversary)
	12.30pm	Donal Killeen (3 rd anniversary); Tim Frawley
Mon. Mar. 31 st	10.30am	Dessie McDarby (18 th anniversary)
Tue. Apr. 1 st	10.30am	William Mulqueen (special intention)
Wed. Apr. 2 nd	10.30am	Intention of Clergy
Thur. Apr. 3 rd	10.30am	Richard O'Shaughnessy (anniversary); Selina Curtin (anniversary); Mary O'Callaghan
		Confirmation: The Model School / Δn Mhódh Scoil
Sat. Apr. 5 th	10.30am	Kevin Mulqueen (anniversary)
Sun. Apr. 6 th	10.30am	Intention of Clergy
	12.30pm	Deceased members of the Royal British Legion, Limerick; Daniel McCormack (1 st anniversary)

RECENTLY DECEASED

We extend our sympathy to her family, and pray for the repose of the soul of **Adrienne Roche (née McNamara)**, Greenfields, whose Requiem Mass was celebrated here yesterday, Saturday, March 29th. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

CONFIRMATION CEREMONIES

Children from the Model School (An Mhódh Scoil) will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation on next Friday, 4th April and the usual 10.30am Mass will not be celebrated.

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Bishop Leahy has designated St. John's Cathedral as a pilgrimage site in this "Year of Hope" and a pilgrimage, which will include the Holy Rosary, Stations of the Cross and Reflection with Final Blessing by Bishop Brendan Leahy has been arranged for next Friday, April 4th at 3pm. Please reach the Cathedral by 2.55 pm

MESSAGE FROM FAMILY CARERS IRELAND

Are you caring for a loved one at home with additional needs? A spouse, partner, child, close relative or neighbour? Then you are a family carer! Become a member of Family Carers Ireland, the national charity supporting Ireland's 500,000 plus family carers nationwide. Contact (057)9370221 and hear how we can support you or for more info visit www.familycarers.ie

FROM THE DIOCESAN FACEBOOK PAGE

► *Good Morning "As the day unfolds, may God's goodness follow you in every way. Have a day filled with His abundant blessings."*

► *Don't judge yourself by your past. You don't live there anymore.* (Unknown)

REFLECTION FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT- MARCH 30, 2025

Starting over can be a difficult event for most of us. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us of the "Prodigal Son" who returns home to his "forgiving father" who has been waiting to celebrate his return.

Returning home is the only solution for the younger son in this story. It is not uncommon for one to rehearse what they will say when they finally reach home. The younger son of this story thought that his rehearsed words would open the hearts of the family that he left behind. He wanted to tell his father, "I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." The father's joy could not hear these words. Instead, a celebration began. The younger son could have never imagined how long the father had been waiting to celebrate his return.

Unfortunately, the reaction of the older brother is more common than we can imagine. There will always be those who will feel rejected when forgiveness and mercy are given to those whom we feel should be punished. God's way is not our way. The older brother, in effect, disowned his younger brother by saying, "When this son of yours returns after wasting everything, you celebrate him." He continued, "What about me, who has done everything that you asked and I'm not celebrated."

The power of this story is forgiveness and the abundant love of the waiting parents. From death to life and from blindness to sight, loving and forgiving is God who, even while we are far away or lost, never gets tired of waiting for our return. None of our families are perfect. We've all gone through struggles, disappointments, and pain. We survived these moments by God's grace. Who do you identify with the most in this Gospel? The father? The older brother? The younger brother? The "silent mother?"

<https://spiritans.org/news/reflection-for-the-4th-sunday-of-lent-march-30-2025>

POPE FRANCIS ON X

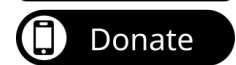
Mar 26: Even if our past seems burdensome, complicated, and perhaps even ruined, we can always give it to God and set out anew on our journey. God is merciful, and He always waits for us! <https://vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2025/documents/20250326-udienza-generale.html>

Mar 23: You have continued to pray for me with so much patience and perseverance: thank you so much! I also pray for you. Let us #PrayTogether for #Peace, especially in martyred Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mar 23: The #GospelOfTheDay (Lk 13:1-9) speaks of God's patience, which encourages us to make our lives a time of conversion. The Lord is a patient farmer, carefully tilling the soil of our lives and confidently awaiting our return to Him.

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long." —Psalm 25:4-5

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