



ABBHEYFEALE PARISH NEWS



17th Jan 2016 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Wedding Feast of Cana - notice, response, gratitude

This Sunday's Gospel is the story of the wedding feast of Cana. A family gathering, a crisis averted by a mother's awareness, Jesus teaching and blessing in the most human of moments. God's glory revealed.



Three invitations from this gospel:

- Mary was paying attention and she noticed a need emerging. Once noticed, it was possible to help. In Sunday's first reading Isaiah reminds us that that we will no longer be known as 'forsaken' but as 'my delight' ... Let us notice one another more this week: notice the joys but also notice where people are struggling.

- Mary considered what was needed and asked Jesus for help. Mary was an older guest, she could easily have left the worrying to others but she recognised that she could offer something - she could bring her concern to Jesus. The second reading reminds us that 'there is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit'. No matter what age, ability or energy - we have some gift to offer as part of the Body of Christ. ... Let us notice how we can make a difference this week

- Once she had handed it over to Jesus, Mary let go. The Gospel account no longer mentions Mary after she had said 'Do whatever he tells you'. She didn't claim credit or stand in for a selfie! Instead Mary stood with everyone else in watching and learning from Jesus. ... Let us 'do whatever he tells us', and let the focus and the gratitude remain on Jesus.

*O God of steadfast love, at the wedding in Cana
 your Son Jesus turned water into wine, delighting all who were there.
 Transform our hearts by your Spirit, that we may use our varied gifts
 to show forth the light of your love as one body in Christ. Amen.*

Exhortation at the Celebration of Marriage

Dear children of God,
 You have come today to pledge your love before God and before the Church here present in the person of the priest, your families and friends.
 In becoming husband and wife you give yourselves to each other for life.
 You promise to be true and faithful, to support and cherish each other until death, so that your years together will be the living out in love of the pledge you now make.
 May your love for each other reflect the enduring love of Christ for his Church.
 As you face the future together, keep in mind that the Sacrament of marriage unites you with Christ, and brings you, through the years, the grace and blessing of God our Father. Marriage is from God:
 God alone can give you the happiness which goes beyond human expectation, and which grows deeper through the difficulties and struggles of life.
 Put your trust in God as you set out together in life.
 Make your home a centre of Christian family life.
 The Christian home makes Christ and his Church present in the world of everyday things.
 May all who enter your home find there the presence of the Lord: for he has said 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.'

In the Bible, there is no stronger image for the covenant between God

Intentions for this weekend

- Sat 7pm** Nora O'Keeffe, Graigue Anniv.
 Maurice & Nora O'Connor, Knocknasna Anniv.
 Michael Roche, Church St. Anniv.
9.30am James Gardiner, Purt Anniv.
 Mary Foley, St Ita's Rd. 6th Anniv.
 Jack O'Riordan, Main St. Anniv.
12noon John O'Connor, Knocknagoshel
 Tom O'Brien, Collins Park Months Mind

Intentions for the week

- Mon 7pm** Tom, MaryAnn Moloney, The Hill
Tues 8.15am Special Intention
Tues 10am Dorris Broderick wife of Michael
 Upper Purt recently deceased and all deceased members of the Broderick Family
Wed 8.15am Special Intention
Wed 10am Leah Harnett, The Belfry Anniv.
Thurs 8.15am
Thurs 10am Tim O'Connor, St Ita's Terrace
 died in Sydney during the week.
Fri 8.15am
Fri 10am Mary Harnett, Knockbrack Anniv.
Sat 11am

Intentions for next weekend

- 7pm.** Christy Leahy & Patrick Sheehan,
 Knockbrack Anniv.
 John Broderick, Knocknasna Anniv.
9.30am John Dunne USA
 Denis McEnery, Dromtrasna Collins
12noon Catherine Murphy, Clash Road Anniv.
 Patie Broderick, Mountmahon and
 deceased family members

Ministers for 24th Jan B,C,A
Readers 24th Jan Team 5
Joanne Linehan
Molly O'Rourke

Church Unity Week 18th—25th Jan "Called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord"

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is the above verse and the biblical text for 2016 is 1 Peter 2:9-10. This text and theme were chosen by members of different Churches in Latvia

Prayer

Holy Spirit, Fire of Love, purify us, removing all the divisions in our hearts, in our communities and in the World, and so make us one in Jesus's name.
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit, dwell in us so that we may become a communion of love and holiness. Make us one in you, who live and reign forever and ever.
 Amen.

Baptismal Meeting will take place in
 Athea on 9th Feb @ 8pm in the Sacristy.
 Parents from the Pastoral area intending
 to baptize their child in the next month are
 encouraged to attend this gathering of just one hour.



Jan 15th Feast of St Ita, Patroness of Limerick Diocese

St. Ita used to say that the Lord loves three things in a Christian most of all: faith in God with a pure heart, a spiritual Christian life with simplicity, and generous love; but the Lord especially dislikes in us the following things: a gloomy face (according to another variant: hatred in our hearts), persistence in sin and excessive reliance on money.
World Day for Refugees and Migrants 2016
 Prayer for Refugees & Victims of War
 Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war, those separated from their loved ones, young people who are lost, and those who have left home or who have run away from home.
 Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need
 Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for those away from Home

Loving God, we pray for those whom we love,
 but who are absent from us. Keep them safe from all harm,
 evil and danger.

Feb 5,6: Come and See - Priesthood

Maybe you have been thinking about the priesthood as a way of life for you? Maybe you have felt you are being called?

This event is an opportunity for you to 'Come and See'. Together with other men from Munster, we will gather in St. Patrick's College, Thurles on February 5th with dinner at 6.30pm, followed by some time for prayer, meet others thinking of the priesthood and some recently ordained priests. Stay overnight February 6th prayer, breakfast, a brief talk on discerning a vocation, preparation for Mass, lunch, discussion, depart.

Contact: Fr Leslie McNamara. Vocations Director, Diocese of Limerick at
lesliemcnamara@eircom.net 061/414624

Irish Blood Transfusion Service

Our mobile unit will be holding a Blood Donor Clinic in Colaiste Ide agus Iosef on Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th January from 6-9pm each evening. 3000 units of blood are required every week. 1000 people receive blood or a blood product every week. 1:4 of our population require blood at some point in their life 3% only of our population give blood
 Why not begin the new year by giving blood if you are healthy and available to donate.

St Ita's Faith Camp

Important notice for all volunteers (over 18s) who help at our Faith Camp. A brief meeting will take place in the boys school on WEDNESDAY 20th Jan @ 7.30pm. All members have to complete a NEW Garda vetting form this year. This is compulsory for all volunteers. Please make an effort to attend and spread the word and bring a friend.

Scoil Mháthair Dé are in the process of forming a new library in the school and have purchased a considerable number of books. Some parishioners may have books, which are in good condition and which are no longer being used at home. We would be very grateful for any donations of such books. They may be dropped to the school on any school day. Míle Buíochas.

Art by Emma and Rag rug making courses will both run from Wednesday 20th January for 7 weeks in Coláiste Íde agus Iosef. Art class will include still life and painting, Costing €50 it will run from 7:30- 9pm. Rag rugs will involve making rugs from waste material in your home and will run from 7pm - 9pm each week, costing €60. For info or to book please call 068 30631.