

Pope Francis’ Message for World Day for Migrants and Refugees



The World Day for Migrants and Refugees is celebrated today, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Pope Francis' message to mark the day is based on the theme, “Migrants and Refugees Challenge Us. The Response of the Gospel of Mercy”. The Holy Father recalls what he said in the Bull of indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, *Misericordiae Vultus*; that is, “at times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that

we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives.” He points out that migration continues to grow worldwide as more and more refugees are fleeing from their homes. Although this can challenge traditional ways of life, Pope Francis urges people not to take the suffering of others for granted. “Today, more than in the past,” he says, “the Gospel of mercy troubles our consciences.” He added that migration movements are now a structural reality, and the priority at this time must be to provide programmes which address the causes of migration and the changes it entails, including its effect on the makeup of societies and peoples. In a desperate plea for justice, Pope Francis reminds us that migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, one in which poverty, hunger and the unjust distribution of the planet’s resources is overcome. Concerning some of the challenges that migrants and refugees face, he said that they must change some of their most distinctive characteristics and, whether they like it or not, those who welcome them are forced to change too. This challenge to the societies who welcome them must be overcome in order to prevent the danger of discrimination or extreme nationalism. Referring to the Bible, the Holy Father reminds us that in welcoming the stranger we welcome God, and that in the faces of others we see the face of Christ. As such, he stresses that the Church cannot fail to be inspired to action and to the realisation that the response to the Gospel is mercy. Pope Francis concludes by imparting on all migrants and refugees an Apostolic blessing, and by pleading with them, that they do not allow themselves to be robbed of the hope and joy of life born of an experience of God’s mercy, as manifested in the people they meet on their journey.

Adapted from Vatican Radio: [www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-message-world-day-for-migrants-and-refugees](http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-message-world-day-for-migrants-and-refugees)  
The full text of the Holy Father’s message is available at:  
[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150912\\_world-migrants-day-2016.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20150912_world-migrants-day-2016.html)



**ST. JOSEPH’S PARISH**  
**O’Connell Avenue**  
**Limerick**  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**Second Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

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. 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	
	11.30am	Joseph and George Walsh; Liam and Nellie MacNamara; Ted McCarthy; Pat Hanrahan (third anniversary)
	5.30pm	<b>Preparation for Confirmation (Come Holy Spirit)</b> John O’Hagan (twentieth anniversary)
Mon. Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	
Tue. Jan. 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	
Wed. Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mary McMahon
Thur Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	
Fri Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	
Sat. Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	
Sun. Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Paddy Chawke (fourth anniversary)
	11.30am	Kay Joyce (twelfth anniversary); Dermot Healy (month’s mind); Michael O’Shea (anniversary); Mary Shine (fourth anniversary), and David and Moira Shine; Peg Curtin, and Gladys and Paddy Buckley
	5.30pm	<b>First Holy Communion programme (Do this in memory)</b> Billy and Margaret Hoare (thirty-fifth and second anniversaries)

Offertory Collections for week ending Last Sunday

Thank you for your offerings on the Feast of the Epiphany, 6<sup>th</sup> January €294.78 and on last Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January €1108.49

### Newly Baptised

We congratulate and ask God's blessing on Nelson and Paulina Silva Grundi on the baptism of their son Javier Nicolas.

### Recently Deceased

Pray for the happy repose of the souls of: ●Marie McGill, Munster terrace, O'Connell avenue, ●Paddy Reid, Swanson terrace, O'Connell avenue, ●P.J. Kenny, Rosbrien and ●Michael O'Donoghue, Laurel Hill court, Summerville avenue. We extend our sympathy to their families, relatives and friends.

### Journey to the Heart: Meditation with Lonán Ní Dhubháin

The first meeting of the New Year will take place on next Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January in Westbourne Convent, Ashbourne Avenue at 5pm when the spring programme will be set out. Lonán says "We look forward to meeting all those who have attended in the past and we also welcome newcomers." and "Don't worry if you have not practised before or if your practice is not as regular as you would like." For enquiries contact Lonán at 086-3633127.

### Family Carers Ireland: Full Healthcare Award

Family Carers Ireland will commence QQI FETAC Level 5 Communications Module as part of the Full Healthcare Award in Limerick on 19/01/2016

For further information please contact the Training Department: phone Carol at (057)9370221 or email: [trainingsupport@familycarers.ie](mailto:trainingsupport@familycarers.ie). Web: [www.familycarers.ie](http://www.familycarers.ie)

### Two New Courses This Spring

Some places are still available on these two courses which have been arranged for the pastoral centre in Denmark street. If you're interested contact Sharon Clohessy 087 9027217 or Eilish Carter 087 8170420 (after 6pm).

**The Bible Exposed:** Join us for a crash course in the bible and see it brought to life! Commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, for ten consecutive Mondays from 7.30pm to 9pm

**The Joy of the Gospel:** Have you heard about "The Joy of the Gospel"/Evangeliu 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 from Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January, for six Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 9pm

### Newsletter Changes

As and from next week (Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>) our newsletter and missalette will be one and Mass times/intentions will be shown for the current and following Sunday only. We will discontinue putting in the Mass intentions for weekdays.

### Parish Pastoral Council

Our training evening for the members of the parish pastoral council will take place on next Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 8.30pm and will be held in our meeting room. The entrance to the meeting room is the first gate between the church and the parish centre/

### This Week's Saints

20 <sup>th</sup> (Wednesday):	St Fabian, pope and martyr and St Sebastian, martyr
21 <sup>st</sup> (Thursday):	St Agnes, virgin and martyr
22 <sup>nd</sup> (Friday):	St Vincent, deacon and martyr

### Message from The Samaritans (Limerick-Tipperary Branch)

We are looking for volunteers for the Samaritans in our branch, our vision is to alleviate emotional distress and reduce the incidence of suicidal feelings and behaviour. We are a confidential and non-judgemental service. Anyone can become a Samaritan, from all walks of life and backgrounds, and a full training scheme will ensure that you will be able to deal with any call. In 2015 we have answered almost 500,000 calls, reaching out to those who needed our support at difficult times in their lives. We are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. We are holding two more information sessions in our branch at 20 Barrington Street on next Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Saturday week, 30<sup>th</sup>, January at 11am each day.

The training takes place over several months and is a great way to meet other Samaritans and develop a skill that will last a lifetime, and maybe save a life. It is a way to give something back to the community. Our Freephone is 116123 and we can be contacted online at [www.samaritans.ie](http://www.samaritans.ie) or text on 087-2609090

Thanks, Philip Bray, Deputy Director, Limerick-Tipperary Samaritans

### Vocations

*For Zion's sake, I will not keep silent and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest.* (Is. 62:1)

The prophet Isaiah comforted God's people with the promise that God would once again gather them to Himself. He would strengthen them and they would be his people. God will not keep silent. Is God calling you to be his prophet today to comfort his people with the good news of gospel joy?

If so, why not contact: Fr. Leslie McNamara (Limerick Diocesan Vocations Director) at (061)414624 or 087-2028189 or mailto: [lesliemcnamara@eircom.net](mailto:lesliemcnamara@eircom.net).

**Prayer:** We pray for those studying for the priesthood or religious life, that they may be given the grace to persevere in their vocation and always feel supported by our prayers.

### Limerick City Flood Risk Management Options: Public Consultation Day

Jacobs Engineering Ireland, the company conducting the Shannon CFRAM Study, on behalf of the OPW and with the support of Limerick City and County Council, has produced flood risk management options for **Limerick City**. To provide an opportunity for all interested persons to view and comment on these options, a public consultation day will be held in Limerick City and County Council Office, Merchant Quay, Limerick City from **2pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016**. This will be an opportunity to preview the options and discuss them with members of the Shannon CFRAMS Project Team. The Draft Flood Maps can be found via this link: <http://www.shannoncfрамstudy.ie/maps.aspx>.

### The Popes Intentions for January

**Universal: Interreligious Dialogue**—That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

(Check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vI0tiN88ldE>.)

**Evangelization: Christian Unity**—That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

On the web: ●Parish: [www.stjosephsparish.ie](http://www.stjosephsparish.ie) ●Diocese: [www.limerickdiocese.org](http://www.limerickdiocese.org)  
●Diocese on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dioceseflimerick](http://www.facebook.com/dioceseflimerick)  
An electronic version of this newsletter may be seen on our website.  
Newsletter prepared by Cathal McCarthy