

First Reading 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19 The Lord calls Samuel	Second Reading 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20 Paul reminds the Corinthians that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.
Responsorial Psalm Psalm 39(40):2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 A prayer of commitment to follow the will of the Lord.	Gospel Reading John 1:35-42 John the Baptist recognises Jesus as the Lamb of God, and Jesus receives his first followers.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season.

Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptised by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with the Last Supper.

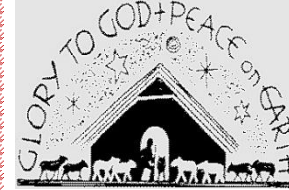
We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother Simon to Jesus. Immediately Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him *Peter*, which in Greek means "rock".

In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael. Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

(Loyola Press/Sunday Connections)



PARISH NEWSLETTER 14 JANUARY 2024 **Second Sunday Of Ordinary Time, Year B**



The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost, to heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others,
 To make music in the heart.

(Howard Thurman)

***January 15th: Feast Day of Saint Ita, patron saint of
the Diocese of Limerick***

"Do This In Memory" Programme – This Weekend
Saturday 13th January / Sunday 14th January

We welcome the children of Second Class from Ballybrown and Patrickswell National Schools, along with their families, to our Masses this weekend Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th January as they continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion Day.

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Mike Cussen Tel. 061 353711 Mobile 087 1279015
Parish Office: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 11.30am to 3.30pm
(excluding church holy days and public holidays)
Tel: 061 353454 Email pwbparishoffice@gmail.com
Website www.pwbparish.com

Happy New Year to all our parishioners, friends and neighbours

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, support and presence in a number of ways throughout the year and especially at Christmastime, decorating the churches, providing security during the Masses and the Choirs and Musicians giving us the gift of music and song. Sincere thanks also for the very generous offerings to the weekly collections throughout 2023 and the Christmas Dues. Your generosity is a reflection of your goodwill which is very much valued and appreciated. May you receive all the blessings that you need for 2024. Fr Mike.

Day of Discernment – Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia, St. Saviour’s Limerick:

For single women aged 16 – 30 years. Join us on Saturday 20th January 2024 for a day of discernment, fun and fellowship! Contact limerick@op-tn.org for more details. "If you are who you are created to be, you will set the world on fire!"

Appeal For Blood Donations: The Blood Transfusion Service will be at Limerick Greyhound Stadium, Dock Road, Limerick on Monday 22nd January and Tuesday 23rd January from 4.20pm to 7.40pm. This is an appointment clinic. Appointments may be booked on tel. 1800 222 111. New donors are welcome! More info at <https://giveblood.ie/>

Ballybrown National School Application Form Is your child starting school in 2024? Application forms for pupils wishing to enrol for Junior Infants in September 2024 must be returned before Wednesday 24th January. Application form [here](#) and can also be found on the school website at <http://www.ballybrownns.ie/> If in doubt, please contact the school on 061 353276.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Adult Formation Course: Would you like to be a Catechist for Children? Are you interested in working with children and young people? Why not use this opportunity to be formed as a Catechist? This coming year the **Dominican Sisters at St. Saviour’s Limerick** will host three training dates:

Level 1, part one: 12 Feb – 17 Feb, 2024

Level 1, part two: 28 Oct – 2 Nov, 2024

Level 2, part one: 28 June – 3 July, 2024

Contact limerick@op-tn.org for more details or call tel. 085 2255796.

Spaces are limited.

Information and Support for Birth Mothers - whose babies were placed for adoption may be found at www.birthinfo.ie or by calling the relevant section of TUSLA at tel. +353 (0)818 445 500.

Booking of Anniversary Masses

If you wish to book an Anniversary Mass please go to the Church Sacristies. All Masses must be recorded in the book held in the Sacristy to ensure no Anniversaries requested are omitted. This can be done before or after any Mass during the week or at weekends. Thank you.

Limerick Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage is back in its full capacity for 2024, bringing a full team of workers and assisted pilgrims. If you know someone (family member, neighbour, friend, etc.) who would like to travel as part of our Assisted Pilgrim Section please let them know. Further information may be obtained from the Limerick Diocesan Office on tel. 061 350000.

GROW Mental Health - Friendly Community based groups for anyone experiencing mental health issues through 12 Step Programme of connection, hope, identity by empowering people to nurture their positive wellbeing by supporting personal growth through education, peer support and self-teaching. Based at 33 Henry Street Limerick and also Croom, several meetings including new meeting on Monday 11am-1pm. Contact Michael tel. 086 6063182 or Celia tel. 086 1526966. www.grow.ie

PARISH WEEKLY MASSES: 15th January – 21st January 2024

PATRICKSWELL:

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday & Friday: 9.30am (unless a funeral is scheduled)

Saturday 6.30pm (Vigil Mass); Sunday 11.30am

Adoration: Saturday from 8.00am to 11.30am

BALLYBROWN:

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday & Friday: 10.30am (unless a funeral is scheduled)

Saturday 8.00pm (Vigil Mass); Sunday 10.00am

Tea/coffee and chat after 10.30am Tuesday Mass in Ballybrown. All welcome.

Our churches are open daily from 11.00am to 4.30pm.

MASS INTENTIONS

PATRICKSWELL

Sun 14th Jan: Norrie & Pat Greaney; Nora Doherty; John L. O’Sullivan & his nephew Derek Lehane; Michael Gavin; Liam Shinnors.

Sat 20th Jan: Joe McNamara; Julia Coleman

BALLYBROWN

Sun 14th Jan: William & Mary Fitzgerald; Nancy Bennis

Sat 20th Jan: John & Elizabeth Carroll; Jimmy Guerin

Sun 21st Jan: Mick & Peggy Mulqueen

May They Rest In Peace

Notices for the Newsletter should be submitted to the Parish Office before 1.00pm on Thursdays.