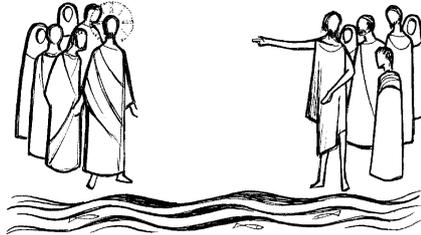


SACRED HEART CHURCH ROSCOMMON

PARISH NEWSLETTER

17th January 2021

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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JOHN THE BAPTIST: A MODEL FOR CHRISTIANS.

Every human being in the universe has a designated mission to accomplish. John's mission was to be the precursor of Christ. This he did. We see John rightly acknowledging and pointing to Christ as "the Lamb of God". John depicts certain sterling qualities:

1. **JOHN'S COMMITMENT TO HIS MISSION.** John did not lose focus amidst the myriad distractions of his society then. He did not get entangled by the desire for success in the world's standard. Neither did he bask in the popularity that came with his prophetic voice. He resolutely remain focus. Sometimes in our bit to accomplish God's purpose we lose focus. We get distracted by mundane accolades, And drift into exaggerated self-importance that is self-destructive. We must remain focus.

Like John all of us in one way or the other have been called to point others to Jesus. As parents you have been saddled with the responsibility of pointing Jesus to the children. Some have done so excellently well; although some of the children today may not be practicing but as parents you have sown the seed of faith and I tell you in years to come they will surely come back. While others have failed in their duties to point Jesus to their children. They argue: "Let the child grow up to decide for himself/herself." The eventual outcome is as it is said "if you don't stand for something then you will fall for anything". Also, priests we must point Jesus to others. All believers must point Christ to others by our lives. Sadly, this is not always the case as seen in the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. You Christians are so unlike your Christ."

2. **THE HUMILITY OF JOHN.** Having enjoyed great popularity, John was ready to concede, to recede to the background. By pointing at Jesus he knew he will not take prime place but Jesus would. Very often, we find it difficult to acknowledge that other people are greater and better than us. Of course, we all have equal dignity before God. But our social status may not be the same, and financial strength may not be the same, our talents may never be same and our achievements do vary. We must learn from John's humility.

3. **JOHN WAS NOT A JEALOUS MAN.** The moment he pointed at Jesus, two of his disciples left him and followed Jesus. He wasn't embittered by their choice of leaving him. John realised that "a flower does not think of competing to the next flower, it just blooms". Life for him is not a competition. Sadly, we live in world that is so competitive that we stop living our lives and live other people's lives. We compete with so much bad blood. Hence, we begin to hate others we simply cannot be like. Steve Maraboli captures this well when he says: "Most haters are stuck in a poisonous mental prison of jealousy and self-doubt that blinds them to their own potentiality." Therefore, "whether your co-worker got a promotion or you best friend got engaged, it is important to remember that their story isn't your story" (Lindsay Holmes). The bible in James 3:16 warns us: "For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice."

Like John like us appreciate our uniqueness and the uniqueness of others and not be consumed by jealousy and self-pity. Remember "jealousy only eats up your beauty. Have more faith in yourself, you got something that other people don't" (Cassyael).

Fr. Douglas

Mass Intentions for the coming week:

MONDAY	11 am	Annie Hoare
TUESDAY	11 am	Bridie & Paddy Lydon
WEDNESDAY	11 am	Maud Johnston & her deceased parents
THURSDAY	11 am	Padre Pio Mass for Peace
FRIDAY	11 am	Mary (Molly) McKeon (2nd Anniversary)
SATURDAY	11 am	John MacGuinn Frank Kelly Jackie & Carmel Donnellan
	7 pm	Vigil Mass
SUNDAY	12:15 pm	Morning Mass



We also remember Mary, Peter & Katie McDermott, Leo Finnemore & Tom Horan whose anniversaries occur around this time.

UPDATE

Masses will be broadcast on www.churchtv.ie/roscommon and parish radio 105.9FM during this level 5 of restrictions at the following times:

Monday- Friday 11.00am,
Saturday- 11.00am and 7.00pm (Vigil),
Sunday -11.30am.

The Parish Office is open for telephone calls (090-6626298), text (087 7903324) and emails (roscommonparish3@gmail.com) from 9.30 am - 12.30 pm Monday to Friday.
Sacred Heart Church remains open for private prayer: Monday to Saturday 8.30am- 10.30am and 12pm -5pm and Sunday: 1pm- 5pm.

Likewise, Kiltewan Church will be open every day from 10.30am to 7.30pm for private prayer

Happy New Year, stay safe and every health and blessing for 2021!

THANK YOU

Sincere thank you to all who continue to drop in their Christmas and parish envelopes. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please keep safe and well.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm by calling **0818 222 024**.

THANK YOU FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

S.V.D.P. St Coman's Conference Roscommon Town thank most sincerely all individuals, anonymous donors and business people who responded so kindly to our Christmas Appeal.

As we were unable to distribute food hampers this year your financial donations enabled us to help the most needy in our area with food/fuel vouchers.

A special thank you to all local school children, who through their Carol Singing, Christmas Jumper Days and Virtual Walks contributed so generously.

As the demand for our service continues to grow, all contributions are appreciated. If you are in need of help, please phone **086 0741352** or letters to: **15 Castle View, Off Castle Street, Roscommon Town.**