

**Reflection** In the Gospel of St Matthew, Jesus presents what sounds at first like a severe demand: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me". Jesus is not demanding that we hate our families. He is warning against idolatry, allowing even good things, like family or culture, to become the ultimate centre of our lives. To be "worthy" means to ascribe the proper weight or value to something. A disciple must tip the scales of life completely toward God. We are challenged to look at what holds us back. True freedom comes from breaking the attachments that stifle our commitment to Christ.

The call to take up our cross and follow Jesus is deeply intertwined with our identity. As St. Paul highlights in his letter to the Romans, baptism is an absolute break from our old life. We are ritually buried with Christ so we can walk in "newness of life". Dying to sin and living for God is a lifelong process, not a one-time decision. It means choosing Christ at every moment of our lives.

The second half of the Gospel shifts from severe demands to beautiful promises regarding hospitality.

In the First Reading, a wealthy woman senses the holiness of the prophet Elisha and builds a room for him. Her pure, unselfish hospitality brings a miraculous blessing into her empty life.

Jesus tells us, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me". When we open our doors and hearts to others, we are dealing directly with God.

We do not need to do extraordinary things to be disciples. Jesus highlights that even a simple 'cup of cold water' given to a disciple will not lose its reward. Love is most visible in small, attentive acts of daily service.

### Knock Pilgrimage 2026

The annual Limerick Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine takes place on **Saturday, 11th July 2026**.

St. Joseph's Church is organising a bus departing at **10am sharp**.

**€20 per person**. Please contact the parish office at 313401 to book.



**Marriage Enrichment Weekend**  
Invest in your marriage. Strengthen your love.

Couples are invited to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend from **2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October 2026** at the Focolare Centre, Curryhills, Prosperous, Co. Kildare.

For details and to apply: [www.marriageencounter.ie](http://www.marriageencounter.ie)

Presented by Catholic Marriage Encounter in Ireland.

**Priests of the Parish**  
Canon Gerard Garrett  
Fr Daniel Tomasik  
Fr Peter Claver Emeke Eze  
Fr Krzysztof Tyburowski  
In residence Canon John Daly

**Cathedral Shop**  
Mon - Sat, 10:30am - 1pm.  
Sympathy Mass cards,  
Occasional cards,  
Candles and other religious goods  
for sale.

**Mass Times**  
Mon-Fri 10am, 5.45pm  
Sat 10am & 6pm Vigil  
Sun 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10.30am  
**Baptisms**  
Saturday 4.30pm

**Recently Baptised**  
We welcome into the Christian Community  
**Arabelle Bourke**  
**Brodie Hughes**  
We wish them and their families every blessing.

**Recently Deceased**  
We remember in our prayers  
**Charlene McNamara RIP**  
**James Thompson RIP**  
**Gerard Williams RIP**  
May they rest in eternal peace.

**Split the Pot Draw**  
Congratulations to **Helen Woodland** winner of last weekend's draw. Draw envelopes available at the back of the church.

Scan QR code to donate



## Church Notices

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
Friday's 4pm-5.30pm in the Adoration Chapel  
All are Welcome

**Summer Dues will be taken up at all masses this weekend 27 / 28 June**

**Dues go towards the upkeep of the clergy.**  
**We thank you for your generosity.-**



As another school year comes to a close:

**To our amazing Teachers, SNA's and Staff:**  
Thank you for guiding, inspiring, and shaping our school community every single day.

**To our brilliant pupils:**  
Congratulations on all your hard work, growth, and achievements this year.

**To Parents / Guardians**  
We wish you a safe, happy, and relaxing summer break.

May the holidays be filled with fun adventures and a well-deserved rest and recharge.

We look forward to welcoming you all back for a brand-new school year in September.

Fr Gerard



**Limerick Historical Society Outing**  
**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**  
Our June outing is on today Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

We will meet at the **Art Gallery in Pery Square at 1 30 p.m.**

**Lifts will be available.**  
We will start the outing from

**Mungret GAA Car park at 2 p.m.**

### Castletroy's Blood Donation Clinics

**Castletroy Park Hotel**  
**Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th June 4:20pm - 7:40pm.**  
New Donors always welcome.  
Tel 1800 222 111 for appointment.

The donation process takes about an hour, but the impact can last a lifetime. One donation can help save and improve the lives of several patients.

**Every donation makes a difference:**