

Reflection

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday and also Vocation Sunday. The two ideas are closely linked.

The Gospel passage reads: "the sheep hear his voice" that is, the shepherd's voice, and "one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out.... the sheep follow because they know his voice."

The call of Jesus to each Christian begins in baptism.

Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. The person baptised belongs no longer to himself or herself, but to him who died and rose for us. The baptised person belongs to Christ. That is why at the beginning of the rite of baptism, the priest calls the child by name and says, "I claim you for Christ our Saviour....." and so the call has begun.

The fruit of Baptism, or baptismal grace, or what baptism does for us, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin, birth into the new life by which the person becomes an adopted child of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. By this very fact the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ and an heir to the Kingdom of heaven. Baptism imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual sign or character, which consecrates the baptized person for Christian worship.

That's a very detailed, compact and rich synopsis of what the catechism has to say about baptism. Each one of these graces could bear much reflection but the one I'd like to emphasize here is: 'Heir to the Kingdom of Heaven.' God has in store for us a blessed future in eternity. What God has in store for us is Heaven; that is his profound desire for us. The catechism put it yet another way: Why did God make me? The answer: To know love and serve Him in this life and to be happy with Him forever in the next." That again is the language of invitation, the language of call, the language of vocation.

Between baptism and Heaven is the wonderful adventure called the Christian life and the Christian life, in which ever form we are called to live it - marriage, single life, priesthood, religious life, as a doctor, plumber, teacher - is following Jesus. We are called to be followers of Jesus, to live our lives in imitation of him, according to his values which are set out for us in the Gospels. And he summarized that for us very succinctly: "you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength." And "you must love your neighbour as yourself." (Mk 12: 30 -31)

The hallmarks of the Christian life are love of God and love of neighbour. Living like that is difficult but made possible by God's grace. But God doesn't force his grace on us. We are invited, called to intimacy with Jesus - setting aside the lure of the easy, sinful path and the distractions and noises all around us - through daily prayer and worship, through frequent repentance and self-sacrifice and reception of the sacraments. The Christian life is a joyous, life-long endeavour, in company with Jesus and the destination is the eternal blessedness God longs for, for us.

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

Eucharistic Adoration
Friday's 4pm—5.30pm in the Adoration Chapel.

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 Deceased
We remember in our prayers
Wlodzimerz Gladkowski RIP
Brendan O'Brien RIP
Eileen Hickey RIP
Michael Clohessy RIP
May they rest in eternal peace.

Recently Baptised
We welcome into the Christian Community
Ubachi Ugwuchukwu
Rosiny Wallace
Sunny Lawlor
Johnnie Walsh
We wish each of them and their families every happiness and blessing.

Cathedral Shop
Mon - Sat, 10:30am - 1pm.
Sympathy cards, First Holy Communion, Confirmation cards, gift sets & other religious goods available to buy.

Split the Pot Draw
Congratulations to Billy Ryan
winner of last weekends draw.
Draw Envelopes available at the back of the church.



HEALTH INFORMATION DAY
Pennywell Day Centre, Limerick
Wednesday 13TH MAY 2026
From 11:00AM - 3:00PM

EIR CODE V94 A497

FREE REFRESHMENTS TEA AND COFFEE

Come and join us, at the Pennywell Day Centre where we will have some Health and well-being advice on hand.



Available on the day will be:

Blood Pressure

Community Nurse

Nutrition and fitness

Hand massage, Mindfulness, Yoga

Mental health

Health Information Leaflets



Milford Care Centre

INVITATION

We wish to invite you to attend a **Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving** for those people who have died under the care of Milford Care Centre. We in Milford hope to give you the opportunity to join us as we grieve together in community and solidarity. You're loved one's memory is a continuing source of encouragement and strength to your life and that of your family.

In bereavement we are challenged by deep emotions. The memories we cherish are enduring, the pains and sorrows we feel do not often pass quickly, and we are conscious of our lives continuing to be changed by the past and the present.

Often, we are sustained by the love and care of others who support us while, for many, faith nourishes with the promise that eternal life binds us together in life and death. As we cherish memories we return to freshen and deepen our understanding of those who have died, attend to them again, bring them closer, embrace them in their absence, reconnect with some of the best in life, feel grateful, feel the warmth of our love for them, sense that they are grateful for our remembering and feel the warmth of their love for us.

Whatever your experience of bereavement and faith may be, you are most welcome to come and share in this special occasion that will be suitable for people of all ages.

We invite families to bring along a stone either from your home, or a place that holds a special significance to you and your loved one. Feel free to write your loved ones name on it. At some point in the service a member of each family will have an opportunity to come forward and place the stone on the altar or alternatively you may wish to wait till after the service. These stones will be placed beneath the altar at Christmas and again at the foot of the Easter cross next year here at Milford thereafter to find a final resting place around our 'Light up a Memory Tree'.

We hope that you may wish to join with us, and we look forward to sharing with you this act of remembrance and thanksgiving to be held at **Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Castletroy, on Sunday 10th May 2026 at 3pm.** Please feel free to invite family and friends to join you in solidarity and support.



St. Bartholomew's Church, Athea

The **Knitted Bible Exhibition** on display
St. Bartholomew's Church, Athea

Featuring hundreds of individually knitted characters (including 100 sheep!) from 28 scenes from the Bible lovingly made by Church of Ireland - Blarney. The exhibition will run until the end of May and is well worth a visit!

REGENERON GREAT RUN LIMERICK

IMPORTANT NOTICE
EXPECT TRAFFIC DELAYS
SUNDAY MAY 3rd

THE ANNUAL REGENERON GREAT LIMERICK RUN TAKES PLACE ON SUNDAY MAY 3rd STARTING IN PERY SQUARE WHERE THERE WILL BE THREE RACE STARTS

9.00AM..... MARATHON
11.00 AM..... HALF MARATHON
13.30PM..... 6 MILE

All races finish on O'Connell Street

THE RACE WILL INVOLVE FULL ROAD CLOSURES, & ROLLING ROAD CLOSURES PARKING RESTRICTIONS WILL ALSO APPLY FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT 083-326 6087 OR LOG ONTO WWW.GREATLIMERICKRUN.COM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
The Bear Group, Brownsbarrow Depot, Brownsbarrow Ct, Kingswood, Dublin, D22 HX95

Diocesan needs collection will be taken up at all masses next weekend. 3 / 4 May.

Thank you for your generosity.