

Reflection: Today's passage from St. Matthew's Gospel seems a bit strange. In it Jesus appears to be uncharacteristically harsh. We are presented with Jesus being in the region of Tyre and Sidon which was very far north, about 200km from Jerusalem as the crow flies, but given the terrain it would have been a much longer walk and would have taken about a hundred hours. The population was predominantly Canaanite and the Canaanites and the Hebrews did not get on well at all. In fact they had fought wars against each other. The Canaanites were a Semitic people who believed in a number of gods and were made up of a variety of ethnic groups.

From the Jewish point of view, the Canaanite woman was an outsider not worthy of Jesus' consideration. In the account of this incident in St. Mark's Gospel, while Jesus did point out that his principal mission was to the lost sheep of the House of Israel, he didn't exclude consideration for other people.

So why does he appear to be so harsh in St. Matthew's Gospel. The answer lies in St. Matthew himself. We know that he had been a tax collector. He had been a hated agent of a foreign power. He had been every bit as much an outsider as the Canaanite woman. So, in his account when Jesus is persuaded, as it were, to cure her daughter, it is a clear declaration by St. Matthew that Jesus' mission is in fact to all people, something of which Matthew himself had had first-hand experience.

Also, the Canaanite woman called Jesus son of David. To do so was to acknowledge him as the Messiah, the Saviour, because the Jews believed that the Messiah would come from the House of David. In fact, she is shown as having more faith than the Jews who did not accept Jesus as the Messiah.

The same theme of God's inclusion runs through all of today's readings. In our first reading, Isaiah declared that foreigners were making their way to God's Holy Mountain and in our second reading St. Paul declared himself the Apostle of the Pagans.

In short, the message of today's readings is that God excludes nobody - it is people who exclude themselves - and his message is addressed to everybody. God, grant us the grace to listen.

Interested in re-entering the workforce?

The Community Employment Scheme is looking for a groundsperson to work 19 1/2 hours per week
For further details contact Sherry at 061 414646

Priests of the Parish
Canon Gerard Garrett
Fr Daniel Tomasik
Fr Peter Claver Emeka Eze
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
Preston Moran
Nicholas Howley Avdieiev
We wish them and their
Families every blessing.

Recently Deceased
We remember in our prayers
Kieran McShera RIP
Mary Russell RIP
May they rest in eternal
peace.

Split the Pot Draw
Congratulations to
Orlaith Mullins
winner of last weekends draw.
Draw envelopes available at
the back of the church.

Scan QR code to donate



DANCING THE WALLS OF LIMERICK FESTIVAL
Sunday 16th August, 2-5pm
Old Clare Street, Limerick

Traditional dance meets the Walls of Limerick.

FREE FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES

Irish Tugues or The Ball's Twine

Logos: An Chomhairle Oidhreachtas The Heritage Council, Limerick City & County Council, Limerick City & County Council, Limerick City & County Council

EMBRACE the Grace
Legion of Mary
Young Adult (18-40)
Catholic Conference
SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2026
9.30AM - 6.00PM

LEGION OF MARY, DE MONTFORT HOUSE, MORNING STAR AVENUE, DUBLIN 7, D07V A03

Logos: Legion of Mary, Morning Star Avenue, Dublin 7, D07V A03

COMMUNITY BINGO
TUESDAY AUGUST 19TH 7PM - 9PM
TUESDAY AUGUST 26TH 7PM - 9PM
FUN • FRIENDS GREAT PRIZES! ★
EVERYONE WELCOME!
IT'S FREE TO ATTEND!
THE CRESENT O'CONNELL AVENUE LIMERICK

Logos: JCI Ireland, All Ireland, Limerick City & County Council, Summer City

ST JOSEPH MEN'S CAMINO (BOYNE VALLEY)
25KM • ONE DAY • ONE PILGRIMAGE
A pilgrimage that will test the body, enlighten the mind and strengthen the soul

Saturday, 12 September
Drogheda, Co. Louth

Logos: Holy Mass, Adoration, Confessions, Fellowship

AUGUST 21 7-8PM
@ St. John's Cathedral Cathedral Place Limerick

National Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME WITH ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL ORGAN
~1864 to the present day~

Join cathedral organists Bernadette Kiely and Pádraig Wallace in a presentation on this historically, culturally and musically significant pipe organ.
Hear the story of the organ from the time of its construction and inauguration in 1864, through 162 years of maintenance by skilled craftspeople, to the current project which will ensure the continuation of this valuable and intrinsic part of the cathedral.
Enjoy performances demonstrating the majesty of this 2,500 pipe organ.

FREE TALK ON BEREAVEMENT

Following the death of someone close, we may experience strong and conflicting emotions. Grief can be powerful and feel overwhelming.

DATE: TUE 25th OF AUGUST 2026
TIME: 7.00—8.30 PM
VENUE: MILFORD CARE CENTRE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CASTLETROY LIMERICK

Who is this intended for?
The evenings are designed to give general information on grief and bereavement to bereaved people, their family and friends.

Members of the Bereavement Service will be present to answer specific questions, however counselling is not available on the evening.

What happens?
• Short talk by staff members about the different experiences of Grief
• Information on Support Services available.
• Question Time.

For more information please contact the Social Work Department at 061 485800 or socialwork@mifordcarecentre.ie

Saints of the Week: Mon 17th - Our Lady of Knock,

Wed 19th—St John Eudes

Thur 20th - St Bernard,

Fri 21st— St Pius