

Reflection:

To say that Jesus was a wonderful teacher would be a huge understatement. He excelled in the art of drawing faith out of people's hearts rather than imposing himself on them. This is still true. Jesus doesn't compel us, he lovingly and patiently invites us.

The preface in today's Mass reads: "when he asked the Samaritan woman for water to drink, he had already created the gift of faith within her and so ardently did he thirst for her faith, that he kindled in her the fire of divine love."

At about midday, in the scene described for us in the Gospel passage, tired by his journey, Jesus sat down by Jacob's Well while his disciples went into the town about a half a mile away to buy some food.

Then an apparently chance encounter occurred. A Samaritan woman came to the well. The fact that she was a Samaritan and a woman are both significant. The Jews and the Samaritans did not associate and, as we are told, when the disciples returned they were "surprised to find Jesus speaking to a woman." But as we know, Jesus was not one to be bound by the conventions of his day especially when they tended to injustice or lack of charity. He was prepared to cut across them at the risk of misunderstanding and even hatred to achieve his purpose of drawing people into a loving relationship with their God.

When he met the woman at the well, he asked her for water. She had expected him to ignore her, look down on her, disdain her. Instead he disarmed her with a simple, humble request. Then followed a dialogue between them and before she knew it she had admitted to him, openly and honestly, the story of her sad and unfulfilled life. Gradually, she came to realize that the living water he offered was not the ordinary kind she had come to draw from the well but the kind that would satisfy her deepest longing for love and understanding and meaning in her life.

Even at a merely human level, we know that we draw the best out of people with kindness and understanding rather than judgement and condemnation.

Jesus meets us where we are and when we admit our poverty and weakness and sin and are truly our most honest, humble, vulnerable selves before him and when we acknowledge how thirsty we are for lasting happiness, meaning and love, the same Jesus who ardently desires our faith too will kindle in us the fire of divine love.

In the words of a writer whose name is long forgotten: Prayer is not asking things of God but receiving what he wants to give 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 Baptised

We welcome into the Christian Community
Emilla De Lima Byrnes
Tomás Charlie Tynan
Ruby McAllister
Archie McMahon O'Sullivan
We wish Nessa and her family every blessing.

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers
Kathleen Halvey RIP
May she rest in eternal peace.

Cathedral Shop

Mon - Sat, 10:30am - 1pm.
Sympathy cards, 1st holy communion and confirmation cards & other religious goods available to buy.

Split the Pot Draw

Congratulations to **Fionn & Fiadh McNamara** winner of last weekends draw. Draw Envelopes available at the back of the church. All proceeds go toward the maintenance of the Cathedral. Thank you for your continued support.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS
PRIESTHOOD - MARRIAGE - RELIGIOUS LIFE

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL LIMERICK
7:00-8:00pm -2026-
21 January
18 February
18 March

Prayer for Peace

"God of all nations, hear the prayers of Your children around the world. Calm the storms of conflict and fear... so that peace may grow in every land".

Donal Walsh Retreat Day

Book your place for Donal Walsh Retreat Day. Contact Knock Youth Ministry team for more information at youthministry@knockshrine.ie or phone 094 93 75321

ABLEFEST Killarney 2026
MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

Sunday 15th March
12pm to 4pm

Festival Zone
Beech Road Car Park, Killarney

Inclusive music and arts festival, celebrating individuals of all abilities, together with their families and friends.

LIVE MUSIC ART DANCE DRUMMING
SILENT FUNFAIR TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL
DISCO BRICKX CLUB MAGIC
ANIMALS ...AND MUCH MORE!!

SENSORY FRIENDLY AREA

Tickets on sale on www.stpatricksfestivalkillarney.ie
€50 Family (2 Adults + 3 kids) | €25 adults | €10 children

KILLARNEY Fáilte Ireland



Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday 26th March.

Please visit purpleday.org.

Maranatha Healing Retreat

This Sunday 8th March

St Michael's Church, Denmark St.

Starting at 2.30pm

Commencing with beautiful music and song followed by

Mass at 4.30pm.

Children accompanied with parents welcome.

May 7th
10am-3pm
Free Event
Looking Essential

LIVE LIFE YOUTH RETREAT

An engaging experience with interactive activities, guided self reflections, and prayer. Take time to explore Donals Room, Knock Museum, the CreationWalk, and more...

youthministry@knockshrine.ie