



# St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

## LIMERICK

1st January 2017

### Mary, The Holy Mother of God

**Pastoral Office: 061 415374, 061 415126**  
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### St. Augustine's New Year Services

Monday 2nd Jan.  
10.15 am & 4.00pm

Tuesday 3rd Jan  
7.30am, 8.30am,  
10.15am, & 4.00pm

Confessions Resume:

Wednesday 4th Jan  
10.45am-12.00noon  
3.00pm-4.00pm

### St. Augustine's Feast of the Epiphany Friday 6th January

Masses  
7.30am, 8.30am,  
10.15am 1.00pm  
& 4.00pm.  
Extra Mass at 1.00pm



### Guiding Star

Lost and confused,  
be our guiding star.  
Open our eyes to  
daily epiphanies.  
Reveal your  
presence to us in  
labyrinthine ways.  
May we find you in  
surprising places,  
with oriental Kings  
bringing gifts.  
Home by another  
road the search  
goes on.

*L. Ryan*

## Mary Pondered all these things in her Heart

It is the purpose of poetry to enrich, enable and encourage. Therefore we print today a little bit of seasonal poetry for Christmas. A very happy New Year to you all. **Fr. Iggy O'Donovan**

### From the Poem 'Christmas'

By John Betjeman



And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
**A Baby in an ox's stall?**  
The maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me?

No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare-  
That God was Man in Palestine  
And lives to-day in Bread and Wine.

### Christmas Everywhere

By Phillips Brooks



Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!  
Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,  
Christmas in lands of the palm-tree an vine,  
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,  
Christmas where cornfields stand sunny and bright.  
Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,  
Christmas where old men are patient and gray,  
Christmas where peace, like a dove in his flight,  
**Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight;**  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all;  
No place too great, no cottage too small.

## Christmas Shoebox Appeal

It was announced recently that the total number of gift fill shoeboxes sent from Ireland this year was 255,855. That's up 41,853 boxes on last year!

From the Shoebox Team  
WELL DONE & Thank You for your continued support & Happy New Year!



## Story Time

With Roisin Meaney

Half and hour of stories, songs and dancing at 11.30am on Saturday 7th January Limerick City Library The Granary Michael's St. Limerick Official age group 3-6 but anyone can join in! Admission Free



The Augustinian Community wish you a happy, peaceful and safe New Year.

## Letting Go....

The transition from one year into another is a form of pilgrimage, a time of reflection and review, the highlights and lowlights of the previous twelve months, letting go of the past and embracing the uncertainty of the future. When we bring a dimension of faith to all these feelings the personal journey is different. Belief brings us to a place that is deeper than the darkness and pain of 2016. Trust and hope in God **provide courage as we face into a new year. A wise philosopher once said "The past is history, the future is mystery and the present is gift. That is why we call it the present"**.

## Never Alone

From our first beginnings our great desire is never to be left alone. In the beginning we are encased in the nourishing womb of a mother who loves us but then suddenly we are cast out into a world of robed strangers. Perhaps the reason we are born crying is that we sense that we have lost our nurturing companion. In the bright **light of the delivery room we sense that "we are on our own" and our tears do not** cease until we are embraced again in the warm arms of those who care about us.



They hand us over to our mother and though we now perceive **that we are "outside" her we begin to understand that she still** wishes to nourish us and be with us during the new frightening experience of facing the world. The revelation that the coming of Jesus Christ brought to this world is simply this: We are not Alone! **We are not "on our own" as we struggle through the ups and downs of our lives.**

D. Burt OSA

## Catching your Breath at Glenstal Abbey

A one-day workshop of gentle movement, breath, chant and meditation Glenstal Abbey, Murroe. Jan 14 th , 2017. From 9.30am to 5pm.

Breath is the spirit and essence of life, expression and communication. Many of **life's events and disappointments can limit our breath. Any restriction reduces our** enjoyment of life and being Christmas is a time of great joy and re-birth, but it can also be a time of extra demands and breath-holding.

**Join us for this New Year's retreat in Glenstal Abbey, exploring and restoring** freedom in your breath through gentle activities, breath, chant and meditation. Fee €85, includes workshop, materials, lunch, teas and coffees. Workshop Leader, Niall Kelly is a certified Alexander Technique teacher who has been teaching since 2004. He has run a number of similar workshops in Glenstal and around Ireland. He also teaches Alexander Technique on the MA in Ritual Chant and Song in UL, and on a number of other programmes.

## Grateful Thanks

- To those who assembled the Advent Wreath with its candles and greenery.
- To Patricia Cahill who with Fr. Noel presented the Advent Posters at the back of the church.
- **To the girls in the Abbey Bookshop who handled the 'rush' very patiently.**
- The volunteers who decorated our Christmas tree and prepared the Family **Mass including our choir who's loyalty at this time is very much appreciated!**
- **Frank Purcell erecting the Crib and Denis Ryan's great support.**
- Brother Michael as Sacristan who always does such a wonderful job.
- **Mary for the beautiful flower displays on the altar & arrangements by 'The Flower Studio' Cecil St.**
- Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and helpers at Christmas Masses and throughout the year and to Gerry Williams & Benny Barrett who work behind the scenes.
- All our loyal friends and congregations.
- To all of you, thank you for your generous support throughout the year.