



# St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LIMERICK

## 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time 26th February 2017

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## Ashes to Ashes

Next Wednesday 1st March is Ash Wednesday. This season of Lent moves people in the direction of health and wholeness for spiritual and religious reasons: giving up cigarettes, tackling obesity by fasting, serenity through prayer and meditation, marathon walks and runs for charities, including Trocaire. In former times, Lent was programmed down to the last ounce of food. Fast and abstinence were prescribed for the forty days. Apart from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, penance is now a matter of personal choice. The desert is very much part of the human and spiritual story and Jesus provided the ultimate motivation for Lent - Ashes, Cross and Passion on the way to Resurrection.

### Reflection:

Life is full of reminders of our mortality, the fragility of our hopes and dreams, our feet of clay. The Ashes of Ash Wednesday roots us to the earth and clay out of which we were formed by God and returns us to the dust of our own dying. We must not forget that there is fire in the ashes, a fire that melts, moulds and shapes us, the fire of the holy Spirit bringing us the touch of God. How do I cope with the ashes of failure, defeat and broken dreams?

**Prayer:** Lord, mould us into your image and plan. Speak to us through the cracks of our brokenness.



### Mass Times

Monday –Friday  
7.30 am, 8.30am,  
10.15am & 4.00pm

Saturday  
8.30am, 10.15am  
3.00pm  
(Mass for the Sick)

Sunday  
9.00am, 11.15am,  
Evening Mass  
7.30pm

### Confession

Monday, Wednesday  
&Friday  
10.45 am–12.00  
3.00pm– 4.00pm  
Saturday  
10.45 am –12.00  
2.30pm –4.00pm

### Taize

Continues every  
Thursday at 5pm

## Order of St. Augustine Vocation Weekend

Fri 31 Mar– Sun 2nd Apr

If you're interested in  
learning more about the  
Augustinian way of life,  
contact:

Fr. Colm O'Mahony  
086- 8845747

## St. Augustine's Church Ash Wednesday Masses

7.30am, 8.30am,  
10.15am, 1.00pm  
& 4.00pm

Ashes blessed &  
distributed at all  
Masses.

Please note an extra  
Mass at 1.00pm

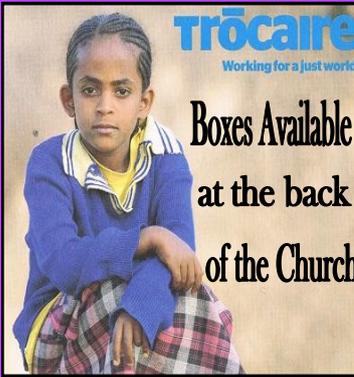
## Memorial Mass: Words of Thanks

The Augustinian Community wish to thank all who participated and who made such a resounding success of the Suicide Support Mass here in the church on February 19th. A special word of appreciation must be extended to bereaved families and friends who attended what must have been for them a difficult and emotional experience. Also hugely significant was the presence of members of An Garda Síochána, members of the rescue services along with the Mayors O'Hanlon and Hourigan as well as other public representatives. Well done too to Charlotte and the local pastoral team who provided vital back up.

The Curraghgower Singers put in a sterling performance in leading the music on the day. Now that we have made this beginning we hope to build upon it and try to make our church more relevant to the challenges which daily confront our believing community.  
Fr Iggy O'Donovan OSA

Fr. Iggy making a presentation to  
Mr. Timothy Schinnick (Choir Director)





## Thought for the Day

Thought for the day Jesus had a way of speaking which unsettled and attracted. At the same time, the invitation not to worry at all, even about food or clothing seems, well, not so practical. God knows we need these things. Remember that the Jewish way is to set up startling extremes so that the true message stands out. What is that true message? It is a question of what we put first in lives. We recognise this by going back over recent choices and decisions—even simple observations, such as what to I devote time? Jesus’ teaching is to put the kingdom first and after that everything will find its just place.

### Prayer

Jesus, you want us to be free. Help us to embrace your vision of true freedom, by seeking first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness. Amen

## Encouragement

One of the most beautiful gifts in the world is the gift of encouragement.

When someone encourages you, that person helps you over a threshold you might otherwise never have crossed on your own.”

John O’Donohue  
Eternal Echoes: Celtic Reflections on Our Yearning to Belong



## Spring

## Lenten Scripture Session

### When?

First one is Tues, 28th Feb at 7.30pm (Tuesdays in Lent)

### Where?

Augustinian Priory (Blue Front Door)

### Why?

To explore the Sunday Readings & Gospels throughout Lent.

### How?

With offerings by Fr. Sean & Patricia Cahill

N.B. These are not lectures or fancy presentations but rather focus points for discussion & sharing of insights.

## Limerick Choral Festival

The Limerick Festival of Church music and choral singing has its official opening in St. Joseph’s church next Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm. The Schools’ Choral Competitions (primary and post-primary) take place that same morning from 11.00 am onwards in the Redemptorist Church .

The grand opening will be marked by The Curraghgower Singers & Ensemble with Choral director Mr. Timothy Schinnick in concert at 7.30pm in St. Joseph’s Church. The Festival continues throughout the weekend with competitions and events of various kinds, including a competition here in St. Augustinian Church on Saturday evening at 7.30 pm.

With many choirs participating, and coming from many parts of Ireland your support would be most encouraging. The closing concert and Organ Recital will feature The Lassus Scholars (Dublin) and will begin at 5pm in the Sacred Heart church O’Connell St. on Sunday 5th March. For more details check out the poster at the back of the church.



## Women's World Day of Prayer

This is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian Women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year’s theme is ‘Am I being unfair to you’ the programme written by the prayer committee of the Philippines. As part of Christians Unite we in St. Augustine’s are joining with other churches for this special prayer service in Christ Church O’Connell St. on Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm. If you have never been to this church this is an ideal time to join us and we would also like to extend a warm invitation to members of the Filipino community to attend this prayer service.

## SUPPORT FAIRTRADE

The launch of **Fairtrade Fortnight 2017** takes place here tomorrow morning at 11.00 am. We are encouraged to use Fairtrade products such as tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, biscuits, bananas in our workplace. Farmers in the developing world benefit greatly from Fairtrade. They are paid a fair price for their produce. It empowers women who must be included in the Fairtrade Co-operatives. The Fairtrade co-operative also receives a Social Premium for a community project. Members



spend the Social Premium on wells, school rooms and books for the children, literacy classes, a solar light for a village, seeds and fertilizers for their land. Fairtrade lifts people out of poverty through trade not charity. Why not support them by using Fairtrade @Work? Further information at [www.fairtrade.ie](http://www.fairtrade.ie)