



# St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LIMERICK

First Sunday of Lent  
5th March 2017

## 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

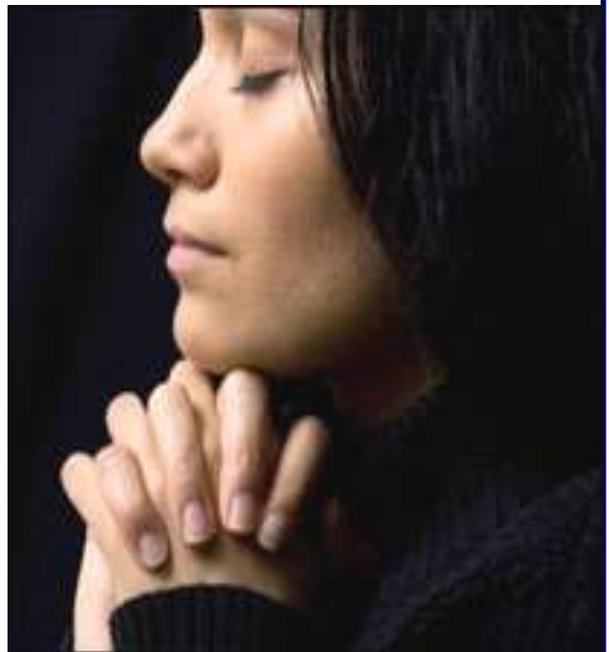
**Pastoral Office: 061 415374, 061 415126**  
**website: [www.augustinianslimerick.com](http://www.augustinianslimerick.com)**  
**E-mail: [info@augustinianslimerick.com](mailto:info@augustinianslimerick.com)**

## 'Praying for a Minute, Maybe!'

Not long ago there was a famous Church of England leader called Archbishop Ramsey. You may remember photographs of him visiting the Pope at the Vatican. Among other gifts of his was that he was renowned as a man of prayer.

He wrote books on prayer, preached retreats on prayer and gave many lectures on prayer. After one of these lectures one of the audience asked him a question: **"Archbishop, how long do you pray for each day". He became quite silent for a while, looked quite serious, then smiled with a broad grin and said – "well, one minute, maybe"! The questioner immediately came back to him, rather at a loss, and said: "but your Archbishop, you have written so powerfully on the subject of prayer, preached and lectured all around the world on the importance of daily prayer and what do you mean by saying you only pray for one minute yourself?"** Well, it generally takes me one hour to reach that one minute! What did he mean? Something we all experience when we pray. Distractions.

As sure as anything, as soon as we begin to pray our mind becomes cluttered with distractions. We try again and again and it so difficult to keep ourselves from wandering. Thoughts of God, of Jesus, of mysteries, of Presence, of heaven, of grace etc.etc. allude us. And no matter how often we drag ourselves back to prayer the distraction persists. Do we ever reach that one minute of sheer Presence of God? Maybe. But it is rare for it to be otherwise with us. Most people fall **back to 'saying prayers' or reading prayers.** It is the best they can do. This is a pity. Good prayer demands we persevere in the quietness, seemingly wasting time. Keep it simple:

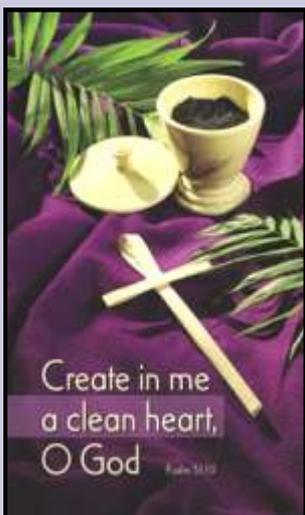


God is here, right now with me, within my being and He is above all Loving me. He knows everything about me, the total inadequacy of my efforts to pray – but that matters nothing. What does matter above all is that God loves me devotedly, uniquely, just as I am and incomparable more than I could ever love Him. Come back to this wonderful basic truth no matter how often you wander. Let this fill your soul, your being and never leave you. You will soon see that this is the way to find God.

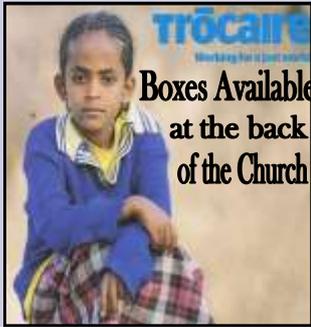
M. Loughran OSA

### St. Augustine's Church Stations of the Cross

You are invited to join us after the 10.15am Mass on **Wednesday's & Friday's for the Stations of the Cross.**



Create in me  
a clean heart,  
O God



## Limerick Choral Festival



## Milford Hospice

We would like to thank the Augustinian Congregation for supporting our Church Gate Collection on Sunday 12th February. The amount raised was **€546.77**. Thanking you again for your continued support.

## Lenten Scripture Session

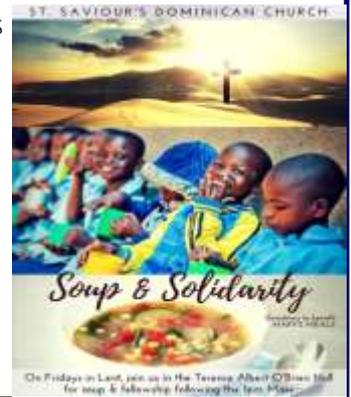
**When?**  
First one is Tues, 28th Feb at 7.30pm (Tuesdays in Lent)  
**Where?**  
Augustinian Priory (Blue Front Door)  
**Why?**  
To explore the Sunday Readings & Gospels throughout Lent.  
**How?**  
With offerings by Fr. Sean & Patricia Cahill

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

## Lent with the Dominican Sisters

The Dominican Sisters are offering talks on various topics about the faith for all who would like to know more about why we do what we do as Catholics. You are invited to join them on Thursday March 16th at St. Saviour's Dominican Church at 7.00pm for a talk and discussion the **second in the series on 'My last Confession'**.

Every Friday during Lent, you are also welcome to join us for a soup lunch after the 1.00pm Mass which will benefit Mary's Meals.



## Augustinian Vocation Weekend

Order of St. Augustine



Ever thought of a White Collar Job?

Contact Fr Colm OSA for more info:  
Tel: 0868845747  
augustinianvocations@hotmail.com



The Augustinian Community will be having a Vocation Weekend in Drogheda from Friday 31st March – Sunday 2nd April. At present there is one student in formation there and it is hoped he will travel to Racine in August to begin his Noviciate. As he will be leaving us we now feel its time to see if there are any other men out there interested in following his steps and discerning a vocation with us.

There are a few weeks to go so if your interested we are open to all whether it be a member of the Polish, Filipino or African Community and of course our own Irish. There is no age limit but we do ask that persons be at least 18 years and we would also like to meet those **interested beforehand.** Contact: **Fr. Colm O'Mahony 086 8845747 / augustinianvocations@hotmail.com**

## Praying in the Wilderness

Praying In The Wilderness  
**"I am opening up a way in the wilderness" (Isaiah 43—19)**

Standing before this wilderness of sand, dust and ashes, earthen vessels and broken pots, bare trees, old reeds, desert plants and desolation I pray: -

- For strength in my own wilderness
- For direction in the desert
- For fire in the ashes
- For anchors in the shifting sands
- For resilience when I bite the dust
- For the hungry who live in desert and drought
- For when I experience depression
- For dignity when I am stripped bare
- For wisdom in times of desolation and temptation
- For faithfulness with Jesus in difficult moments
- For fidelity to others in the bleak times



Keep the promise of resurrection alive in me through green moss, the fountain of living water, spring flowers and green shoots of hope, in a stone rolled back from the tomb. In the shadow of the cross, help me make sense of my life, my pain and my suffering. By your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

Liam Ryan O.S.A.