

Happy New Year



Mass Times

Monday-Friday

7.30am, 8.30am,

10.15am, & 4pm

SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am

3pm Mass of the Sick

SUNDAY

9.00am, 11.15am

& 7.30pm

CONFessions

MONDAY & FRIDAY

10.45am-12 Noon

3.00pm-4.00pm

SATURDAY

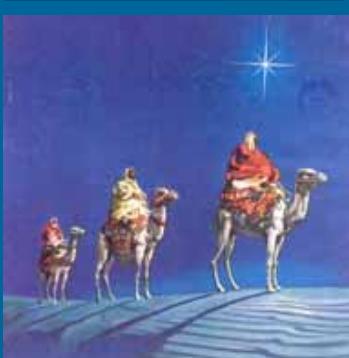
10.45am-12noon

2.30pm-4pm

All Masses are

'live streamed

at St. Augustine's



St. Augustine's Church Child Safeguarding Representatives.

Fr. Flor O'Callaghan O.S.A.

Fr. John Lyng O.S.A.

Ms Geraldine van Dam

Mr. Robert Ryan

Ms Charlotte Gleeson



St. Augustine's Church

Limerick

4th January 2026

Second Sunday of Christmas

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

Time Ticking Away

Not long ago I saw the Jens Olsen World Clock. A wonderful contraption altogether, with

15,448 parts and displays including lunar and solar eclipses, positions of the stellar bodies, and a perpetual calendar, in addition to the time. The fastest gear completes one revolution every ten seconds and the slowest every 25,753 years. It must be wound once a week.

I hope clock-winders are available 25,000 years from now to enable the big gear to complete its first lap. Could anything go wrong?



Early in my pastoral life I had dealings with some people who had less mechanical ways of telling the time. What I had heard praised as punctuality elsewhere was not highly prized there. But the sun did come up and did go down and the period between these two events was agreed to be a day. A precise time for an engagement was fixed by a finger pointing to the sky accompanied by the words "sun like that". The finger indicated the expected location of the sun as the agreed time on the day in

question. I set about learning the names of the days. These each came from whichever place, within walking distance of our centre, where a regular open market was held between sunrise and sunset. So, if the market was in Cratloe or Annacotty then that day was known as, and only as, Cratloeday or Annacottyd. Simple enough until I heard there were nine such markets in nine places and consequently nine differently named days. So my idea of a week had to undergo refinement. "This day next week" meant nine days from now, or nothing. And if the week was dead the fortnight was buried. The month, but not as we knew it, was rescued by the moon which was the centre of God's calendar. Age was counted not in years but in harvests. Even that stability was jeopardised when we became aware of places which enjoyed two harvests in the time it took us to have one. All very unsettling for someone from a culture which thinks it has tamed time and handcuffed it to its wrist or has it in its pocket.

So to our own New Year. To be celebrated if taken as mirror of the cyclical renewal of so many things on earth. Or if taken as metaphor for the renewal of spirit that God's Word promises: the "fresh start" syndrome that runs through the gospel, God doing a "new thing".

Before we invented satnavs and other devices that see what we don't see, mile-stones were good for the traveller. They told us how far we had left to go. The ever-diminishing number on the stones was encouraging and therapeutic. We were making progress towards the goal of zero

Now for the bad news. The years we count off, another of which starts now, are not like those other milestones at all. They're mile-stones turned backwards. They tell us how far we've come but nothing of how much road there's left. The great conclusive sinkhole in the road may be just around the next bend. The light at the end of the tunnel may be a fast train coming at us. We may be making progress in harnessing the Tide but nobody has got a hold on Time.

I note that the upcoming year is celebrated by Chinese as Year of the Horse as they leave behind the Year of the Snake. We pray for a horse of a year for all, without any of the better-known qualities of the snake. Happy New Year.

J.L.

Sunday Mass Creates and Celebrates Communion

Sunday Mass is a vital encounter with the risen Lord, the One who gives our lives ultimate meaning and purpose. Through our baptism we bear the name 'Christian'. This identity shapes who we are and calls us to follow Jesus, who is 'the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6). Through the celebration of Sunday Mass, we experience a life-giving encounter and **communion** with Christ. Just as the two disciples encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus and recognised Him in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:35), so too we meet Him in the Eucharist. Our identity as Christians is not solitary but shared. On Sundays, we gather not only as individuals but as the Church; the Body of Christ. In the celebration of the Eucharist, we affirm our communion with one another and with Christ. Pope Saint John Paul II emphasised that 'none is as vital or as community-forming as the Sunday celebration of the Lord's day and His Eucharist.' This gathering creates a bond of unity, solidarity, and love, as we come together to worship as one body, with one voice, in praise of God.



Source: brief excerpt from resources: www.catholicbishops.ie 'Why Sunday Matters'

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Tuesday 6th January

Holy Day

Mass Times

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



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 darkness and pain. 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".

Remembrance Mass

**Limerick Thomond Rotary will hold their special
'Yellow Ribbon' Remembrance Mass
on Friday 9th January at 4.00pm in St. Augustine's Church.
All are welcome!**



Twelve Cribs of Christmas



For those of you who may wish to use the days over the New Year to visit some of the Cribs of Limerick you will find the programme and prayers for each stop on the notice board at the back of the church. Taking a picture on your phone of the programme might be of help. Before you start out please check online as to opening times of visiting churches.

Emmanuel God-with-us, come to each one of us, and stay with us always.....

And let us be Emmanuel, God-with-us, to one another over these days and into the New Year. Amen