



## 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  
Mr. Tom Walsh



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## 18th January 2026 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

website: [www.augustinianslimerick.com](http://www.augustinianslimerick.com)

email: [info@augustinianslimerick.com](mailto:info@augustinianslimerick.com)

## Graceful Handover

He's doing his best to put lipstick on a pig" said a spokesman for *Democracy for America*. The "he" in question was a political leader with no reason to like the one who would take his place. Sroka was discussing handover of power. The incumbent, respectful of the constitution, was doing his best to make the transition smooth. Many will make a guess at the identity of the one he was marking for cosmetic enhancement. Such handovers or successions are seldom easy and often difficult indeed, even in places bound by constitutional law. Many are they who came into power to liberate their people, solemnly promising one term or some such limited stay. Not a few of the same are dragged out of power decades later, handcuffed or even shot, having impoverished most, incarcerated and tortured many and killed thousands of the beneficiaries of their liberating zeal. We once lived in a place where the President announced that the promptings of God and the pleadings of all sections of the community were so overwhelming that he had no choice but to "succeed himself". Constitutional prohibition notwithstanding, he succeeded. Succeeded in succeeding himself, that is. In succeeding years his success in succeeding himself led to the predictably bad getting successively worse. It's hard to let go.

Even in our own place a recent president, elected when promising not to seek a second term, bowed to the imperative of the people's love and ran again. The Irish Times reported "*Higgins's pledge to serve just one term is dismissed by TDs*. "Politicians do U-turns all the time," said a long-serving Government TD. A minister pointed to what he said when asked if he would run for a second term "One can never predict the love of the people."

Internationally if a team picked from leaders who proclaimed themselves motivated by the love their people shower on them were to take the field you'd have a fearsome outfit. Even the All Blacks after a particularly fervent Haka would hesitate to take them on.

We have grown used to the cult of personality; "celebrity" as it is called. Many things are built around a person, or an image of a person that has been impressed upon us. The message is often lost in the glorification or vilification of the messenger. And the same messengers refuse to walk away from microphone, or camera, long after the applause has petered out.

If anyone ever resisted temptation to cash in on the cult of personality, John the Baptist did. He handed in his resignation with unmistakable clarity when the time came. No talk of "another term" or "four more years" or "a lot done more to do" or "my constituents insist that I run again." Many of those baptised by him came to believe he was the Messiah but he put an abrupt end to that in today's gospel "Look, there is the Lamb of God.....a man is coming after me who ranks before me." We all have our place and John knew his.

J.L.



# Christian Unity Week

## 18th -25th January 2026

For this year, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic, and Evangelical Churches.

These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide. The theme this year:

There is one body and one Spirit,

Just as you were called to the one hope of your calling' Ephesians (4:4)

This summarizes the teachings of Paul about unity, emphasizing, here too, that the followers of Christ represent "one body and one Spirit," united in a single hope.

Source: oikoumene.org/resources world council of churches

## Mother & Tots Group

Join us for a time of social and an opportunity for Adoration in a child friendly environment. The Mother & Tots Group takes place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, from 10am-12pm, at St Saviour's Parish Church & Hall, Limerick. Entrance through glass doors on Glentworth Street. For more details please contact St Saviours Parish Office on 085 726 2262.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, by the action of the Holy Spirit in the one baptism, you have bestowed wonderful graces and multiple gifts upon us for the sake of building up your Body, the Church.

Grant us now the willingness to fully appreciate the richness of their diversity and use them fully to further the spread of the Gospel.

In your name we pray. Amen.

## Feast of St. Agnes

Wednesday 21st Jan is the feast of St. Agnes. She was born in Rome, a beautiful young girl from a wealthy family who was martyred for her virginity in the last persecutions in Rome, in the early fourth century. She is the patron of betrothed couples, gardeners and young girls.

*St. Agnes pray for us.*

## Discernment Day

Interested in finding out more about the call to be a religious sister, or know someone who might be? Join the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia for a day of discernment on Saturday, 24th January, 2026 from 10am-8pm, with times of prayer, fellowship, and insights. For more details please contact [limerick@op-tn.org](mailto:limerick@op-tn.org)

## Blood Donor Clinic

St. Munchins College Corbally

Wednesday 21st Jan—16.50pm—20.10pm

Castletroy Park Hotel

Monday 26th Jan 16.20pm -19.40pm

Tuesday 27th Jan 16.20pm-19.40pm

Clinic by appointment only

Phone 1800 222111



## Anam Cara Online Bereavement Evening

Anam Cara, which supports parents after bereavement, is hosting an **Online Bereavement Information Evening on Thursday 22nd January at 7pm.**

Dr. Róisín Finnegan will be our guest speaker this month. Dr. Finnegan is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist currently working in Cancer Care West with individuals affected by cancer and loss.

This talk will focus on understanding grief after the death of a child, the many ways it can show up over time, and how parents can be supported in living alongside their loss. It will also touch on the impact of loss within the family, including siblings, and offers gentle ways of coping when emotions feel overwhelming. Contact details to register on the notice board at the back of the church.