

Sunday of the Word of God



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 25th January 2026 Sunday of the Word of God

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Going Fishing

Although their ancestors had come into a land promised to "flow with milk and honey" they weren't goat-milkers or beekeepers Jesus first selected to be his companions in ministry and his messengers to the world.

If today's gospel stood alone you might think the baptismal font bore the sign "only fishermen need apply". Peter, Andrew, James and John were all trawlermen driven by the need to feed families. The gospels tell of them continuing to catch fish and even has Jesus roasting them for their breakfast—no mention of them snaring rabbits or shooting duck. There's something special about fish; a creature of God that takes nothing from us, even our space, and sustains the lives of many. We share the earth and its food with animals and even the birds have to land and take their share. Fish have the sea to themselves.

When Noah, ready to go, had them all lined up in front of him; two camels and two cats, giraffes and goats, monkeys and mice and so on, there was not a fish in the company. Exempt. Fish were a great blessing: God's free gift living in water - no need to be herded or housed, foddered or fed, or herded to high ground in time of flood.. It wouldn't matter to them if Noah's Ark turned out to be the Titanic And the early Christians too had fish on their minds. When 'twas dangerous to mention their faith they indicated same among themselves by drawing a fish on a wall of their poor homes They'd noticed the letters of the Greek word for fish, ἰχθῦς, were the initial letters of Jesus Christ God's Son (our) Saviour - their creed and their identity.

The fish-on-Friday culture probably damaged the image of fish among us. But we're recovering. People booking tables in the restaurants of Kinsale don't have fasting but feasting on their minds. We lived in a place where a great luxury was the magnificent fish *dan Sarki* (Child of the King) or *giwan ruwa* (elephant of the water). But they were luxuries. When the rivers dried, and hungry times came, people were glad of the lowly mudfish whose bones are beyond counting. This creature had burrowed deep into the damp soil under the dry riverbed, there to wait until dug out by a fisher man or woman whose "rod" was a farm hoe. A lucky mudfish would be refloated by the next rains. But it was a fish, food, even if to the uneducated palate the dominant taste was of the mud wherein it had its seasonal home.

Sure, everybody and anybody could apply, and did. But Peter, Andrew, James and John, fishermen, were especially well-placed to begin the networking, appreciating God's largesse and letting Jesus take that appreciation to new heights and new depths. Even early on, it was plain that God too was fond of fish: back to Noah—when people's waywardness led the Creator to reduce every thing on feet to two of a kind, what else did He do? He filled the world with water. For footless fish.

The life, and income, of a fisherman or fisherwoman is not steady and stable. They're aware of depending on that unearned grace of God called fish. And always, like Peter, mindful of the danger of going down. Maybe that's why Jesus commissioned so many of them for the job in hand. All that along with the most obvious reason of all: he knew they would be able to tell well a tale tall even if true. That was the job he had for them: preach the good news.—*to the Jews an obstacle thy cannot get over and to the pagans madness.* (1Cor 1:23)

J.L.



Sunday of the Word of God

St. Luke tells us that, just before his Ascension, the Risen Lord appeared to the apostles, and broke bread with them. 'He then opened their minds to understand the Scriptures'(24:45). This is how Pope Francis begins his apostolic letter, *Aperuit illis*, issued 30th Sept 2019, the feast of St. Jerome, instituting the Sunday of the Word of God.

The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: 'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ'.

The third Sunday in ordinary time (this year 25th Jan 2026) is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

Source: Excerpt from the Liturgical Calendar 2026



You pierced
my heart with your Word
and I fell in love with You.

St. Augustine

REFLECTION

"Let us leave a little room for reflection, room too for silence. Let us look within ourselves to see whether there is some delightful place inside where we can be free of noise and argument. Let us hear the Word of God in stillness and perhaps we may come to understand it".

St. Augustine 52, 22



Thought for the Day

One of the encouraging signs in today's church is the growing popularity of *Lectio Divina*, praying the Scriptures. This is best done with other people because it is so enriching as we benefit from the observations and questions of fellow pilgrims. It comes alive when I can say "today, this scripture has been fulfilled in *my* hearing".

Prayer Lord, inspire me to read your Scriptures and to meditate upon them day and night. I beg you to give me real understanding of what I need, that I in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet, I know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So I ask that the words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into my heart. Amen. (*Origen*, 184-253 ad)

Source: www.tarsus.ie



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