



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 22nd February 2026 First Sunday of Lent

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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



Taunts and Temptations.

This story is probably apocryphal - a tall tale, in other words - which is a pity.

Pastor Jonathan decided he would strengthen the faith of his flock by demonstrating the strength of his own. A man immersed in the Bible, he believed walking on water would be the best way to do it. He gave prior notice of the inspirational feat: on the following Sunday he would wade into the local river until out of his depth before rising and walking on the water the rest of the way across. God wouldn't let him down or drown.

True to his word he turned up at the appointed time and place. Buoyed, forgive the pun, by a chorus of prayer and praise from the assembled faithful he fearlessly began his demonstration. The watchers couldn't remember if he had gone more than halfway when he rose out of the water. Some said yes and some, no. But they could all remember that when he did rise he was in the jaws of a crocodile and that he was "completely devoured in a couple of minutes". A deacon spoke for the church: "The pastor taught us about faith on Sunday last week....He promised he would demonstrate his faith to us today, but he unfortunately ended up drowning and getting eaten by three large crocodiles in front of us. ...We still don't understand how this happened because he fasted and prayed the whole week."

Today's gospel tells of a similar feat being proposed to Jesus, "throw yourself down....He will put his angels in charge". We humans, with no wing or fin, do best with solid ground under our feet. If we walk on eggshells we do so in fear of cracking them. The skater on thin ice risks a cold bath and worse, even if crocs don't lurk in that sort of water. The tight-rope walker, unlike the rest of us, can't afford a fall. He who walks on air is feeling a euphoria that is bound to go flat, and soon.

Turning stones into bread is not impossible. We've seen it done. We know a roadside where dozens of women would sit for hours at a time, baby on back and hammer in hand, breaking stones for sale by the basinful to the road-menders or pothole-fillers. Hard labour if ever there was, softened only by the chat of companions and the prospect of bread bought to sate a child's hunger.

It's not so long since a man, reputed to be the richest in his country and among the ten richest in the world, with tens of billions to call his own, was said to worship the process of accumulating money. Maybe he did. That seemed to be all he contemplated until, by some sort of reverse magic, soon he had nothing to contemplate except the prospect of thirty years in prison for some infractions of the highway code on his road to riches.

Getting bread by the magic wand rather than by honest means represents the shortcuts, varied and dubious, we are tempted and taunted to take as we pass through here.

And trusting in the word of the devil rather than a good parachute when jumping from a height leads not to a consummation devoutly to be wished but an unwanted conclusion. Drive carefully.

J.L.

Thought for the Day

The temptations of Jesus are not at all temptations to this or that sin but rather fundamental options which matter for the direction of his life. Jesus was tempted in the course of his ministry to choose other ways of being God's prophet, the Messiah or anointed one. In a less obvious way, we too can be attracted by choices which can shape the way our life unfolds. We ask ourselves, what do I live on? What's my true goal? Where is my nourishment? The human, no less than the Kingdom, is more than food and drink. Only the Word of God truly nourishes and illuminates.

Prayer Lord, in you we live and move and have our being and we thank you. Help us to place you and your Word at the heart of all we do and, even more, at the core of who we are.

Source www.tarsus.ie/SundayReadings



Stations of the Cross

We invite you to join us every Wednesday following the 10.15am Mass for the Stations of the Cross beginning this Wednesday 25th.

Lectio Divina at St. Augustine's

'Come Lord and dwell among us'.

Join us this Monday following the 4.00pm Mass at the shrine of Our Mother of Good Counsel, as we gather to hear God speak to us, and reflect and meditate on the coming Sunday Gospels for Lent, through Lectio Divina. This study should take no longer than 30min so why not join us!

Irish Synodal Pathway

Baptised and Sent in Lent

Online Reflection Programme for Lent 2026 ie

This Lent, people across Ireland are invited to journey together through *Baptised and Sent in Lent*, a series of weekly prayer and reflection resources inspired by *Baptised and Sent*.

Whether you are part of a parish group, school community, ministry team, or simply joining individually, you are warmly invited to take part in our live streamed online sessions.

Each week explores themes such as belonging, healing, renewal and mission, placing baptism at the heart of renewal in the Church in Ireland.

Thursday, 26 February at 7.30pm (via Zoom)
Archbishop Eamon Martin (Primate of All Ireland)
assisted by Janet Forbes

Zoom Registration Link and more information
go to www.catholicbishops.ie/lenten-prayerfull-resources

ICMA
MUSIC WORKSHOP
LIMERICK
Diocesan Pastoral Centre,
Limerick, V94 925C
10:30am-1:30pm
Led by Ian Callanan and
Therese Gaughan
€15 per person
Booking: 087 762 4390
pm@icmamusic.ie

'The Best is yet to come because?'

Exploring together how we can be missionaries of God to ourselves and to those who touch our lives.

Each Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 8.30

during Lent, six sessions of exploration of our Catholic faith will be led by Fr. Joe Hayes S.J. in the **Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall**. The sessions will begin on Tuesday February 24th. and end on Tuesday March 31st.

Lent at the Abbey Bookshop

Resources available in the Abbey Bookshop to help enrich and guide us on your Lenten Journey. Communion & Confirmation accessories are now available.

Epilepsy Awareness Day

"In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, please visit www.epilepsy.ie. Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday **26th March.**"