

St. Augustine's Church Limerick 1st March 2026 Second 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

Top to Bottom

(Listen to him. Mt. 17)

The first person to reach the summit of Mount Everest from the Nepalese side in 2014, a year of particularly weather, was Wang Jing. Honours were bestowed to mark her achievement. But mountaineers have exacting standards and soon some were hinting that there was less to her achievement than met the eye; that Wang Jing had taken wing and 'climbed' a lot of the way by helicopter: Ouch! That would be "a serious moral violation", they tut-tutted. One went farther and fumed with a sort of sub-Trumpian invective "Helicopter Jing, you're imbued with the stench of your money-bought certificates and honours ... The holy Everest has been dirtied by you, a cunning and ugly person!"

Conquest of the same mountain was in debate at the turn of our millennium: George Mallory climbed Everest in 1924 and never came back. Edmund Hillary with Sherpa Tensing did so in 1953 and came back acclaimed as "conquerer of Everest," the first ever to get to the top. In 1999 Mallory's body, mummified in the cold, was found near the summit and some signs suggested he'd been on his way back down when he died. Maybe Mallory did get to the top. So, was Hillary's fame and name in danger? Was his singular title, as the first to get there, he'd held for 46 years mistakenly awarded? It wasn't long before journalists asked the old man himself: was he worried? "Not a bit" said Hillary, "getting to the top is not enough, you have to get to the bottom too." A case of what goes up must come down.

The hills of Palestine would be minor pimples on the giant that is Everest, but if you know only one hill, that's your highest mountain. So, we are often told, Jesus "went up the mountain." There he gave his great Sermon, there, in today's gospel, he was seen transfigured and so beguiling that his disciples wanted to stay there in permanent excitement. Peter, made giddy by the sight and the height, proposed an ambitious building plan. He thought the place shovel-ready. He'd build tents. Tents, if you don't mind! For whom? One for the God, one for Moses and one for Elijah. That's for the God who *stretches the very heavens and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in!* (Ps104). The second for the prophet who *travelled to heaven on a whirlwind* of God. (2Kgs). And the third for the Moses we meet first in a basket and last at his buried, by God himself, in an unmarked grave when *he died at the age of 120, eye undimmed and strength unspent.* (Dt 34).

A big project, Peter's. But it all disappeared in a puff of cloud. The plan to fence God in was doomed.

That cloud was giving them the same message as other agents of God gave at the Ascension "Why are you standing here looking into the sky..." In other words back to reality, head for the bottom, that's where the action is for now. It's down at ground level, where people scratch around, that the life of the Christian is lived. It was there Christ met the needy, hungering for many things. There he looked with no fear at the strong and no disdain at the weak. There he met the lepers, the beggars at the gates and the condemned woman, the rich and the poor, the Samaritans and the Pharisees. He, before Hillary, knew getting to the bottom is important too. **J.L.**



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



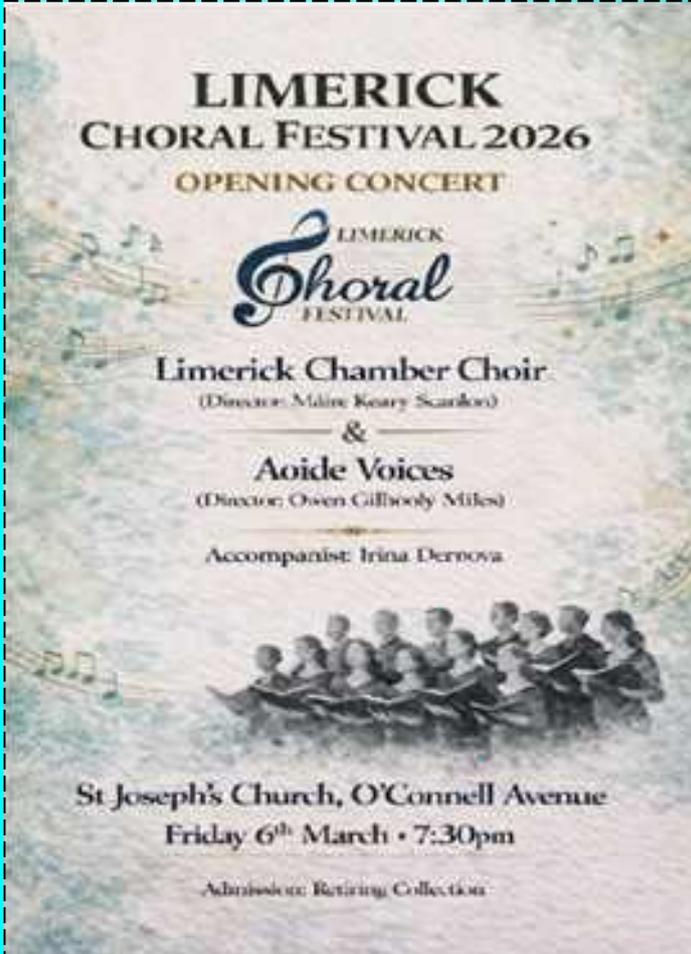
Thought for the Day

Every so often, we catch a glimpse of the "something more" that God has in store for us. These fleeting experiences are to be treasured: the birth of my first child, falling in love, a sense of "being held" by God's presence. Such experiences may help us approach the Transfiguration. Like all transcendent experiences, it is fleeting and yet it etches a memory and leaves a longing. What should we do? Practice listening to him. Be not afraid. We cannot always be "on the mountain" and yet what happens on the heights can help us on the lowlands of the everyday.

Prayer

Lord, listening sounds so easy and yet is such hard work! Guide us as we listen to your Son, whose word is alive, who is himself the way, the truth and the life.

Source: www.tarsus.ie



LIMERICK
CHORAL FESTIVAL 2026
OPENING CONCERT

LIMERICK
Choral
FESTIVAL

Limerick Chamber Choir
(Director: Máire Keary Scanlon)

&

Aoide Voices
(Director: Owen Gilibohy Miles)

Accompanist: Irina Derrnova

St Joseph's Church, O'Connell Avenue
Friday 6th March • 7:30pm

Admission: Retiring Collection

Lectio Divina



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. All are welcome.

Stations of the Cross

We invite you to join us every Wednesday for Lent following the 10.15am Mass for the Stations of the Cross.

'Let Dandelions Bee'

One of the best actions you can take to help pollinators is reduce mowing. This helps local, native wildflowers emerge naturally over time. In March, Dandelions begin blooming. Research shows they are the most important source of nectar and pollen for pollinators on the island of Ireland, so 'Let Dandelions Bee'!

Source: Parish Notes



March Celebrations at Knock

Over the coming weeks, we're delighted to share a programme of inspiring retreats and uplifting music events, offering moments of prayer, reflection, and quiet joy.

Join us at Knock Basilica on Sunday 15th March at 8pm as we celebrate our Patron Saint, St. Patrick in a joyful evening of Irish music and tradition. The programme will showcase the richness of Irish culture through poem, song and dance, choral and liturgical music with traditional hymns to St. Patrick alongside contemporary sacred works by Irish composers. Admission is Free and all are welcome.

Hosanna!

Singing in God's Name
Over 400 voices from schools across the region coming together in faith and song. Thursday March 5th
Booking at www.knockshrine.ie
For more information on retreats go to www.knockshrine.ie

Devotion - a Lunchtime Recital St. Mary's Cathedral

Tuesday 3rd March at 1.15pm

Presented by Triona Walsh (soprano)
and Tatyana Vykhodtseva (piano)
Concert is Free with a retiring collection