



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## 3rd Sunday of Lent 8th March 2026

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

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### Mass Times

#### Monday -Friday

7.30am, 8.30am,  
10.15am, & 4pm

#### SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am  
3.00pm

(Mass for 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

## WELCOME!



### St. Augustine's Church Child Safeguarding Representatives.

Fr. Flor O'Callaghan OSA  
Fr. John Lyng OSA  
Geraldine van Dam  
Mr. Robert Ryan  
Ms Charlotte Gleeson  
Mr. Tom Walsh.



## Water for Life

*"Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again."*

The Covid pandemic led the dubiously-named *social media* to scatter truth and lies, opinions and prejudices, fast, far and wide. The consumers, locked down in our various lairs, gobbled it all up, and recycled the lot with a leaning towards the more lurid. Conspiracy theory was the dominant ingredient in the whole fog rising from that swamp: how certain people deliberately introduced Covid to wipe out the rest of us; how vaccination was a device to insert microchips into us and bring us under the total control of someone big, bad and unseen. And, so on.

Another pandemic, the Black Death of the mid-fourteenth century, let loose the social media of the day and they too saw conspiracy writ large over the whole disaster: Jews, lepers, foreigners, Muslims, mendicants (and, add whoever else you fancy here) had deliberately caused the plague by poisoning the wells. Water, hitherto recognized as the prime necessity for life of any kind, was now the agent of death, as the conspiracy theory had it. So, the concept of well-poisoning gained wide currency as the worst of crimes. Do it and you were a mass-murderer. Be accused, probably falsely, of doing it and you were as good as dead yourself.

All this is of course testimony to, among other things, how essential was the well to the existence of any community or any life. (Today's scientists, seeking evidence for life on Mars, focus their search on signs of water past or present).

Our own land, town and country, was dotted with countless wells, and not long ago the Irish consciousness was steeped in their significance. The well was more important than the church, the school, the football field or the hospital. The well was the source of life. All wells were good and many were deemed holy. People drew strong support for their spiritual and bodily health from St Patrick's, St Brigid's, St Columba's, St Luke's and wells named for dozens of other saints. Archbishop Healy of Tuam wrote more than a hundred years ago *Indeed a church was never founded except near a well*. People didn't want to move far from this enabler of survival.

Recent enquiry reveals how radically that consciousness has changed: how more young people in Ireland think of the well as the place where Arabs and others get oil than where their grandmother or her mother got water. They're more familiar with why Donald Trump chants *Drill, baby, drill* than with why *Jack and Jill went up the hill*. The artificial reservoir, the unseen pump, the water-bearing pipe and pollution of many colours have all but ended our affair with the well. In other parts of the world the same love affair still goes on, but that's for another day.

The woman at the well in today's gospel would know what I've been trying to touch on in these few words. That well was a holy thing to her: *Jacob gave us this well and he drank from it, with his children and his cattle*. She was greatly impressed by its history and its enduring importance. Jesus knew she had played her best card and he trumped it with the promise of a living future: *anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again.*

J.L.

## Chrism Mass 2026

Bishop Brendan Leahy invites you to attend the Mass of Chrism on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7:30 pm in St. John's Cathedral, Limerick.

This is an important diocesan celebration and a lovely experience especially for those who may not have previously experienced the Mass of Chrism.

During the Mass, Bishop Brendan will bless and consecrate the oils used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and the Sick.

The priests of the diocese will renew their commitment to their priestly ministry.

The Diocesan Choir will sing at the Chrism Mass. You are invited to join choir rehearsals which will take place in Limerick Diocesan Centre, St Munchin's College, Corbally, Limerick V94 925C on the following dates, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm: Monday 9th March & Monday 23rd March.

Please bring the following books with you:

1. IN CAELO
  2. VERITAS HYMNAL
  3. SING THE MASS
- Source: Parish Notes

## Thought for the Day

Today we are greatly helped by the wonderful Gospel of the Woman at the Well. On the third attempt, Jesus finally gets through to her but after that there is no stopping her. As Augustine teaches, she represents us: what do I thirst for? What is the most important thing in my life? Where do I now find God? By relentless challenge and resolute honesty, we too can be led to that encounter with Jesus, which changes everything, "giving life a new horizon and a decisive direction." May we come to believe because we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.



**Prayer:** In the midst of the ordinary things, loving God, you call us to the deeper realities: your thirst for us and our thirst for you. Never let us be satisfied, until we come to the springs of living water, welling up for eternal life.

Source: [www.tarsus.ie](http://www.tarsus.ie)

## Lectio Divina

Monday's for Lent following the 4.00pm Mass at the altar of Our Mother of Good Counsel. All are Welcome.

## CATHOLIC MOTHERS IRELAND RETREAT DAY:

Join us for a day of Spiritual Restoration, St Saviour's Parish Hall, Limerick on **SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2026**. This all day Retreat will run from 10am – 6pm. Email [info@catholicmothers.ie](mailto:info@catholicmothers.ie) for more information or book your place at [www.catholicmothers.ie/retreats](http://www.catholicmothers.ie/retreats).

Source: Parish Notes

## Thank You

**St. Augustine's Church**  
Last Sunday's Collections came to **€1,085**. Thank you for all your support.

## New Arrival at the Abbey Bookshop

**CARLO'S  
SIMPLE WISDOM**  
Words of Hope  
from a Young Saint

Carlo Acutis, Giorgio Maria Carbone

## Maranatha Retreat

Maranatha Healing Retreat this Sunday 8th March 2026 at 2.30 pm at St Michaels Church, Denmark St. Limerick. with Music, Song and Mass 4.30pm. All are Welcome.

**Desert Day**  
in preparation for Holy Week  
**'BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED'**

SUNDAY,  
March, 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
10.30 a.m. – 4.45 p.m.

Silent retreat with Eucharist and Sacrament of Reconciliation

Facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan RSM  
Please bring your own packed lunch  
Tea/Coffee/snacks provided  
Donation €20

Venue: Limerick Diocesan Centre, Corbally, Limerick V94 925C  
Book your place by contacting Phyllis at 067-9634893 or email: [moynihanphyllis5250@gmail.com](mailto:moynihanphyllis5250@gmail.com)