



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 4th Sunday of Lent 15th March 2026

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

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 at
St. Augustine's are
live streamed

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

Seeing and Believing

One president of the USA said of another "With his wife, they have done more good things for more people in more places than any other couple on the face of the Earth." One US president would be unlikely to pay such compliments to anyone other than himself, but another, Bill Clinton did so, speaking of Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter.

Carter was for a time among the most mocked and ridiculed of presidents, partly because he wore his Christian heart on his sleeve. But the same Christian outlook carried him to extraordinary humanitarian achievement when he was no longer in political office. He and Roslyn founded, drove and guided the Carter Center which concentrated on the terrible eye disease, (onchocerciasis) commonly called river-blindness. According to The (American) National Institute of Health, *"Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, through The Carter Center, has been instrumental in combating river blindness (onchocerciasis) since the 1980s by mobilizing efforts to distribute the medication Mectizan. His work has helped nearly eliminate the disease in the Americas and significantly reduce its prevalence in Africa."*

I find that particularly impressive because fifty years ago we had a parish in Buma, a hot-spot for river-blindness, then known as an NTD—Neglected Tropical Disease. People waded and washed, and drank from, the water of the Hawal river. Tragically they also shared it with the blindness-inducing black fly. Much later I read Dr Bradley's succinct summary of some of the disease's consequences there, *People outside (Buma area) avoided it for settlement and farming. Women shunned marriage with men from the area. People there wished to move out. Remoteness facilitates the disease and the disease copper-fastens and prolongs remoteness."*

Last Sunday we celebrated water as source of life. Today the Pool of Siloam is celebrated for restoring sight. The water of the river Hawal at Buma still flows but I hope it doesn't sustain the blinding black fly to the same extent anymore. In 2013 as Mr Carter neared 90 years of age the Carter Center announced that it would no longer work only to control river blindness, but to eliminate it in all 10 countries in Africa and Latin America where the Center fights the neglected disease.

There's no such thing as a dark night in our part of the world anymore.. Even in our remotest countryside you can't escape the midnight light. The glow of a distant town lightens the sky; the beams of car headlights scan the horizon like searchlights. Lights, fancy and plain, shine from houses where only creatures of the night moved Before. Light-pollution is now reality and our world is a fireworks display. We don't know darkness anymore except in a controlled environment ruled by electric switch and heavy curtain.

Today's gospel shows us various forms of darkness and blindness: The poor man born blind; the neighbours too blind to see he had been cured; the disciples thinking the blind man's affliction resulted from the sin of himself or his parents; Pharisees thinking the healing was wrong because it was done on the Sabbath—this odd belief that good should not be done on God's day is real blindness.

The blind man was the one who saw most clearly: maybe his years of blindness led him to see what was within him and made him wise.

J.L.

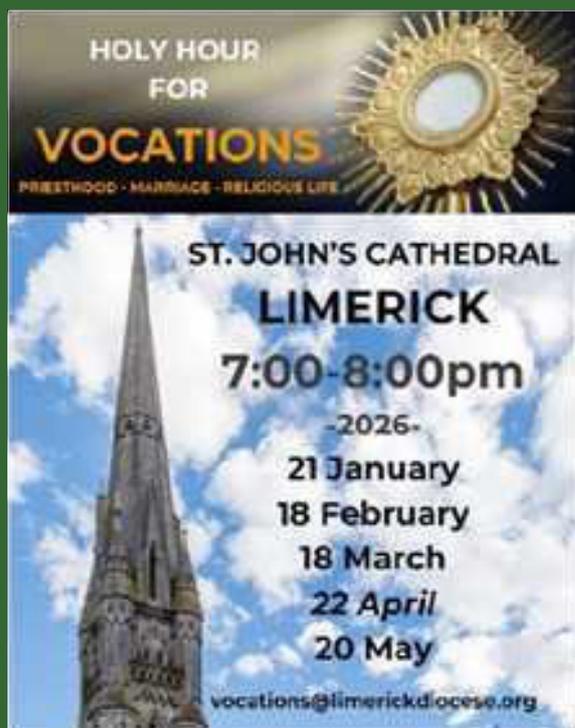


Thought for the Day

How we respond to pressure can vary very much from person to person. In John's Gospel, there are two related stories of people being healed, one in chapter 5 and the other in chapter 9, today's reading. The man at the pool eventually betrays Jesus. The man born blind resists pressure and even grows on the strength of it. Part of his energy comes from his experience— no matter what others may say about Jesus, he himself once was blind and now he sees! His courageous attachment to what he knows from his personal encounter with Jesus leads eventually to a full act of faith.

Prayer : Faithful God, you call us to be faithful even in times of trial. Teach us to embrace the challenge of faith today, that we may have the courage to grow and give courage to others by our witness.

Source: www.tarsus.ie



HOLY HOUR
FOR
VOCATIONS
PRIESTHOOD - MARRIAGE - RELIGIOUS LIFE

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
LIMERICK
7:00-8:00pm
-2026-
21 January
18 February
18 March
22 April
20 May

vocations@limerickdiocese.org



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

SUNDAY,
March, 29th, 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 925G
Book your place by contacting Phyllis at 017-94321893 or email: moynihanphyllis525@gmail.com



**Best Wishes
to all Mother's
on this your
Special Day.**

Happy
Mother's
Day

New Machine

For those who prefer to contribute to this church by means of their bank card we have installed the little machine at the entrance. We are grateful for all manner of support, cash, card or moral.



St. Patrick's Day 
Festive Mass
St. Augustine's Church
Tuesday 17th March
11.15am with guests
Garryowen Comhaltas

Mass also at 9.00am
No evening Mass

St. Patrick's Day Festival 2026

- **Sunday 15th** March— International Band Championship at 12noon- ending with a free concert in Arthur's Quay Park.
- Irish National Clown Orchestra 1.30-3.30pm show at Limerick Milk Market
- **Tuesday 17th** St. Patrick's Day Parade 12noon
- St. Patrick's Fun Day at Limerick Milk Market/ 10am -4pm
- **More details at the back of the church**