



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 5th Sunday of Lent 22nd March 2026

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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 at

St. Augustine's are

live streamed

Stations of the Cross

JOIN US

Every Wednesday
For Lent following
10.15am Mass

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

I Am Going to Wake Him

(John 11:11)

I was once hijacked by a dozen or fifteen women. They were on their way to a wake. I didn't know that at the time. It was a disturbing experience for one so delicately reared. They flagged me down: that is they made me choose between stopping and driving through or over them in the manner of a suicidal terrorist. I might not have been feeling very compliant but I'd sooner defy the dogs of Alcatraz. With a grim determination far beyond the norm in that relaxed and courteous place they piled into the open tray behind me. A young lad loitering nearby told me they were going to a "mourning-party", a wake, about seven miles along the road. There was nothing for it except get into gear and drive on. As soon as I did so, a terrible wailing started and grew more shrill by the mile. Near the house of the dead a fist pounding on the roof of the cab commanded me to stop. Before I could do this properly my passengers alighted, i.e. jumped out of the pick-up, all suddenly silent. But the silence was only an interval to fix wraps and head-dresses. Then a headlong dash, with hair-raising ululation of the mourning variety, brought them the last few yards to where mourners sitting on the ground formed a circle around the bereaved. Silence again before word and gesture conveyed condolence and consolation. The old platitudes of sympathy, but far more than platitudinous, common everywhere were proffered. Well-meant, well-sent and well received.

Later I noticed that this form of communal mourning or solidarity with bereaved, was always accompanied by keening that could be switched on and off as required. This wasn't insincerity but the accepted way of aligning with the pain of the bereaved. Real sympathy.

The *Dublin Penny Journal* of January 1833 deals with the Irish equivalent: "The learned Jezreel Jones declares *the Shilhenses have the same custom as the Arabs, the Jews, the Irish, of lamenting over the dead using various cries of grief, tearing their hair, and asking the deceased why did he leave them.*"

Giraldus Cambriensis, observing the Irish in the 12th c., was more specific "The keeners rehearsed the genealogy, rank, and property of the deceased and a number of interrogations were addressed to the dead: *Why did he die? Was his wife faithful to him? Were his sons dutiful, were they good hunters or warriors?*

If the deceased was female *were her daughters fair and chaste?*

If a young man, *had he been crossed in love or had the blue-eyed maids of Erin treated him with scorn?"*

What about the case of Lazarus? His friend Jesus didn't panic when he heard Lazarus was in trouble; he stayed where he was for two more days. Even when he knew Lazarus was dead he didn't rush to the wake, "I am going to wake him." Martha wasn't impressed when he turned up four days late for the funeral "If you had been here my brother would not have died." This, apparently casual, attitude to life and death may have given his followers a glimpse of the beyond, a hint that ambition might stretch to more than the Old Testament goal of sons and daughters to carry on the name. In the raising of Lazarus the locked door of death became a window to life. What about Lazarus "going forward" as the phrase now is? Nothing. Lazarus rose without trace. Maybe his return to life is best seen as a sign, a message rather than a piece of magic. *Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs which God worked through him...". (Acts).*

Of course Lazarus and many others benefitted, while no one suffered, from the wonder-working that attended Jesus's mission on earth. They were all works of compassion. But the man Jesus, not the miracle, was the message. Miracle-hunters of every hue, take note. "Blessed are they who have not seen and still believe."

J.L.

Thought for the Day

The historical Jesus was guarded in declaring his identity but by the time the Fourth Gospel was written, Christians had arrived at a rich understanding of the mystery of Jesus, the Son of God. John's Gospel puts before the believer a grand assemblage of 7 I am sentences, rooted in the name of God in Exodus 3:14, I am who I am. I am the bread of life. (John 6:35, 48, 51); I am the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5); I am the gate for the sheep (John 10:7, 9); I am the good shepherd (John 10:11, 14); I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25); I am the way, and the truth, and the life (John 14:6); I am the true vine (John 15:1, 5). We are reminded that we believe first of all in a person, not in a philosophy. Any one of these images would take us deeply into our encounter with the Risen Lord, none more so than "I am the resurrection and the life."

Prayer Jesus, present to us always, you wept at the tomb of your friend Lazarus. As we face the mystery of death, our own and that of those we love, help us to place our trust in you, the resurrection and the life. Amen.

Source: [www.tarsus.ie/Sunday reading](http://www.tarsus.ie/Sunday%20reading)



Praying with the Scriptures

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 read, 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, AD c.184-c.254) Source: tarsus.ie

Lectio Divina

Our Lectio Divina continues this Monday following the 4pm Mass at the shrine of Our Mother of Good Counsel. Join us as we meditate on the Scriptures for the coming Sunday of Lent. All are welcome.

Calling All Catholic Mothers in Ireland!

Join Catholic Mothers Ireland – a supportive community where faith and family come together. Connect with like-minded mothers, share experiences, and grow spiritually through prayer, fellowship, and encouragement.

Be part of something uplifting – you are not alone on this journey!

Visit <https://www.catholicmothers.ie> to learn more.

Grow Mental Health - Friendly Community based peer support groups for anyone experiencing mental health issue through 12 Step Program of connection, hope, identity by empowering people to nurture their positive wellbeing by supporting personal growth through education and self-teaching. Contact Celia 086-1526966/www.grow.ie

Charity number: 20203433

 **CELEBRATORY CONCERT**
IN HONOUR OF
St. Catherine of Siena

Wednesday
29th April
7:30pm

Music by Cantoral Singing
Western Plainchant
and
Medieval Polyphony



ST. SAVIOUR'S DOMINICAN CHURCH
LIMERICK, V94 X2AA

Tickets €15- available from Eventbrite or the parish office Mon-Fri 10am-2pm
085 7262262
Under 18's are free

 **FIND US ON EVENTBRITE**
*Baffle entry included in ticket

Fundraiser for St Saviour's Restoration

Desert Day in preparation for Holy Week

March 29th 2026 - 10.30am -4.45pm
Silent Retreat with Eucharistic & Sacrament of Reconciliation

Venue: Limerick Diocesan Centre
Booking: 087 9636893
More details on the Notice Board.