



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## World Communications Day 17th May 2026

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### Mass Times

#### Monday-Friday

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

#### SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am  
Mass for the Sick  
3.00pm

#### 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 Church.



### 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



## Remote Control

*As we draw near to the stars, we should draw nearer to our neighbour.*" This pious thought came from the unlikely preacher Lyndon Baines Johnson. So you did say, LBJ, but there are signs that the opposite happens. For a start we *draw near to the stars* by phone, camera, computer, satellite or other mechanical marvel. In the matter of drawing near to the neighbour twittering and tweeting may help, or they may not. And in a restaurant, if you're the kind who likes a chat with the waiter, you may be disappointed to find your boiled egg served up to you by a robot. Not so long ago, if we wanted someone to talk to, we talked to the neighbour face to face. Now we pick up the phone and the neighbour only hears our voice when we're shouting at someone in Australia, or our child traipsing around Thailand. Or we seek to Talk to such as Joe or other remote confessor/entertainer. And when you turn to answer someone you hear calling to you on the street you may find it was someone at the tip of South America they were addressing. Eye-to-eye contact? Forget about it. Even when walking a city street so many eyes are focussed on so many screens that there's a case for issuing a white stick or a guide dog with each new smart phone.

The desire to talk once made us go to door, garden, fence, balcony, street or farm gate to meet someone living or passing nearby. Now, to assuage loneliness, many resort to social media, only to find there belittlers, begrudgers and bullies indulging their taste from safe anonymity. For some, social media have transpired to be one of the most anti-social amenities ever devised. Pope Leo seems to have a deep and critical interest in those devices and what they may do for us to us. Artificial Intelligence is a special concern of his. The general trend toward remoteness troubles him. Without, I hope, doing too much violence to his message for *World Day of Communication 2026* I extract the following:

*Our faces and voices are unique, distinctive features of every person; they reveal a person's own unrepeatability and are the defining elements of every encounter with others. Faces and voices are sacred. Preserving human faces and voices, therefore, means preserving this indelible reflection of God's love. By simulating human voices and faces, wisdom and knowledge, empathy and friendship, the systems known as **artificial intelligence** encroach upon the deepest level of communication. Safeguarding faces and voices ultimately means safeguarding ourselves. By grouping people into bubbles of easy consensus and easy outrage, these algorithms reduce our ability to listen and think critically, and increase social polarization. Without embracing others, there can be no relationships or friendships. The task laid before us is not to stop digital innovation, but rather to guide it and to be aware of its ambivalent nature.*

If stuck for a cup of sugar or a bottle of milk for the baby we used to go next-door. Now we *apply for assistance*. This reduces hardship, and is good. But a price is paid. 'Tis a cold thing not to know or be known by the people who live on the other side of a thin brick wall. In many places, that's how it is. Being confined to one area, as we used to be, kept our feet on the ground and made us friends close to home. Technology today tempts us to shed that intimacy and substitute the safety and the danger of distance.

We recall what the two angels said when Jesus returned to the Father:  
"Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky?"

J.L.

# Waiting for the Spirit

People don't like waiting. We are told that after the Ascension of Jesus into heaven the apostles "went back to Jerusalem and they joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." Acts 1:14

They **waited** for the Spirit.....whatever that might mean, for they had no idea: but they waited. They waited, these first Christians, men and women, together in prayer, expectantly, with a certainty that "something" was about to happen to them'. And what a **surprise that something would turn out to be on Pentecost Day.**

**Join with us as we wait- to celebrate Pentecost next Sunday at the 11.15am Mass.** Come and pray for a new outpouring of the Spirit on this church so that we may re-discover the creative gifts of the first Pentecost and make a new beginning for a new time in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Vocations Holy Hour 20th May

**St. John's Cathedral, Limerick:  
7:00-8:00pm**

Please join us for this month's Vocations Holy Hour at the Cathedral. This will be our final Vocations Holy Hour of the year and we look forward to having music ministry by Brother Raphael, CFR and a short testimony by Father Tim Collins about his first year as a priest. We are also excited that at this final holy hour of the year will feature the Vocations Monstrance recently blessed *by Pope Leo XIV for Ireland.*

Please join us to pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and sacramental marriage!

## Desert Day : Feast of Pentecost Silent Retreat

**Saturday May 23rd - 10.30am**

**Venue:** Diocesan Centre St. Munchins  
Corbally Limerick.

Booking details on the Notice Board at the back of the church or ring 0879636893



## Feast of St. Rita of Cascia St. Augustine's Church

Mass and Novena Prayers  
Friday 22nd May  
10.15am & 4.00pm  
With the Blessing of Roses

## Prayer to St. Rita for the Sick

St. Rita, Saint of the Impossible, Love was your strength and the great impulse of your life.

Touch my life with healing and peace.

Enter into the pain of my life.

Be with me in sickness and depression.

Bring serenity to my mind and my memory.

Heal those whose spirit has been broken.

Reconcile families who are deeply divided.

Give us trusting hearts.

Hold us open to God's plan of Love, to his way and His time of responding to my prayer.

St. Rita help of the sick pray for us.

## Our Lady of Limerick Triduum.

22nd - 24th May, join us at St. Saviour's Dominican Church as we celebrate and honour Our Lady of Limerick. There will be daily 1pm Mass and Adoration, with opportunities for confession, along with the Anointing of the sick on Friday, a Eucharistic procession on Saturday and our Family festival and Bake sale after the Sunday 1pm Mass. Fr. Blazej Bialek, O.P., will be the main celebrant for the Triduum. All welcome

## Choral Concert Redemptorist Church

**Voices of Limerick** and the German ladies' choir Frauenchor Hochdahl 1942, will perform a Choral Concert on **Thursday 21 May at 7:45pm.** There is free entry to this Friendship Concert which promises to showcase the beautiful choral traditions of Germany and Ireland.

## Killaloe Music Festival

The SCS Killaloe Music Festival 2026 will take place across venues in Killaloe and Ballina from Wednesday 27 May to Monday 1 June. Enjoy an exciting programme of music and culture, including stunning evening and late night concerts in St. Flannan's Cathedral, featuring acclaimed national and international artists. Ticket information and the full programme of headline concerts, family friendly events, school performances, community choral concert and daytime activities are available at [killaloemusicfestival.com/programme-2026](http://killaloemusicfestival.com/programme-2026).