



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



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



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2nd August 2026

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

Bread: A Good Thing even Before the Sliced Pan

Those who ate numbered about five thousand...(Mt 14:31)

They were probably barley loaves Jesus used to feed those crowds; wheaten bread, I read, was for the upper classes. There was hardly much room for choice. But, go to the bread counter in a supermarket now and you'll see a variety of seeds you'd scarcely find in The National Seed Bank at the Botanic Gardens, visible outside the bread, inside the bread and presumably all over the flour. The history of bread is dynamic.

According to the Federation of Bakers' *History of Bread in the Industrial Age*, the question of how to slice bread was more or less settled early in the 19th century: "For ladies and children the bread should be sliced thinly and the crusts removed. For workers, thick slices with crusts are more appropriate." By such great insights does civilization advance. Then came another leap forward, thanks to the jeweller Otto Rohwedder. Otto invented the mechanised bread-slicer. You set the machine for ladies, children or workers and couldn't go wrong. Otto was dicing, so to speak, with a commodity of high importance, wide consumption and long history. Thousands of years ago an Egyptian lady, stubbed her toe and spilled the contents of her gourd of grain-and-water gruel onto a very hot stone. Quicker than you could say sizzle, she had the first pizza. Baking had taken off.

The primitive grinding stone was the surest sign of civilization you'd find anywhere. In a place we knew, you'd find them in abandoned villages, emptied by disease or drought, fire or famine. Centuries of women had knelt holding smaller rocks between their two hands to grind their hard-grown grain between smaller and the bigger stones. So the latter was worn hollow maybe by an inch in a lifetime. That's only one of the hard labours that went into the making of their kind of bread. They knew the drudgery meant by the phrase *nose to the grindstone* far better than whoever coined it. Bread was always hard got and in many places still is. One meagre harvest had to be eked out towards the uncertain coming of the next. Seed corn had to be put out of reach of thief, pest and hunger. Fervent prayer had to be made for enlivening rain, enough and in time. Then you prepared, planted and nursed your crop to ripeness. Harvest was a glad time, ground for hope that family would be fed for another year. All well, but still no bread. That's where the grinding stones came in.

The connexion between God, bread, human life and labour has had the attention of people since before recorded history. Explicit mentions of bread in the Bible are as many as there are days in the year. It is the "staff of life", the crutch that enables us to stay standing. In today's reading Isaiah has no doubt as to its paramount importance: *Why spend money on what is not bread?*

Jesus himself, born in Bethlehem (House of Bread), feeds the five thousand in today's gospel. He made bread the special place of his residence among us in the Eucharist. His risen self was recognised only at "the breaking of the bread."

J.L.

Reflection

The overabundance of God's unconditional love and God's desire to satisfy our deepest hunger are the threads running through today's readings. The crowds seek Jesus out hungry for healing, both physical and spiritual. Jesus recognises their yearning and is filled with compassion, and sets about providing for them the type of abundant divine hospitality that we heard about in Isaiah.

Excerpt Daily reflection from God's Word 2026

Physical hunger is unmistakable and urgent. The deeper hungers of the heart are also urgent but can take a while to recognise. Deep down, for what do I really hunger and thirst? **Prayer:** You alone can satisfy the hungry heart, Lord God, and may we make ours the words of the Gospel, "Sir, give us this bread always." Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: www.tarsus.ie

Great News



We have a very joyful occasion happening in our church next Saturday 8th August at 4.30pm. Bro Mark O'Brien OSA a native of Limerick city will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Brendan Leahy. If you would like to come and join us for this special ceremony you will be very welcome.

We wish Mark every blessing on this special day and in his future ministry.

Thou hast made us for yourself O Lord, and our hearts
are restless until they rest in you. (St. Augustine)

Mass Times:
10.15am & 4.00pm

Public Holiday
Monday August 3rd

No
Confessions

Novena to Our Lady of Knock

The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock will take place from the 13th—21st August with ceremonies taking place each day at 3pm and 8pm in Knock Basilica. The theme for the novena this year is 'Sheltered in God's love' and marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of Knock Basilica continuing its role as a place of faith hope and community for all who visit this sacred place.

There will be daily workshops at 12.45pm in the prayer centre with guest speakers. Each evening there will be a candlelight procession following the 8pm ceremony (weather permitting) and Sunday August 16th we will have the Family Day from 11am –3pm in the Shrine Gardens. Everyone is welcome.

More information details /source: www.knockshrine.ie/national-novena-2026



National
Heritage
Week
15-23 August

Each year national and local communities participate in Heritage Week by organising events throughout the country. This year National Heritage Week takes place from the 15th –23rd August with the theme 'Heritage at Risk'. This Heritage Week brings together volunteers, community groups and heritage enthusiasts to share their experience, knowledge culture and practices. Some of the Limerick events taking place include Dancing the Walls of Limerick Festival, On the Footsteps of Limerick Lace Makers Tour, A Road to the Past: the Archaeology of the Adare Bypass, Tours of Castlegarde Castle Cappamore, a Journey through time with St. John's Cathedral Organ, & Nature around the Clock supporting Pollinators by Day and Night to name but a few.. For lots more events go to : www.heritage-week.ie