



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

16th August 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

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

From Doghouse to Many Mansions

'Housedogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table'. Matt 15.

I doubt that this year's overall winner at Crufts, a kind of a *Rose of Tralee Festival* for dogs, or indeed any of the eighteen thousand six hundred losers, depends on crumbs from anyone's table when the time for dog's dinner comes. The canine aisle in any big supermarket - usually next to the one devoted to cat cuisine— shows how well we now cater for (wo)man's best friend.

It took us a long time to make up our minds about dogs. *Pup, Cur, Hound, Mongrel, Bitch* are all perfectly normal descriptive names for dogs but crassly insulting, inferring treachery and faithlessness, if applied to human beings. And the phrase *dog in the manger* is meant to describe someone deliberately depriving others of something for which he himself has no use. Still, many purveyors of pet-food, who make millions peddling dogs' dinners, tapped into a very different view of the dog and called their product Pal, Chum etc. Indeed it is reliability and loyalty that gave the dog a reputation as "wo/man's best friend," a reputation well-earned. Many a sheep-farmer couldn't do the job without a collie that's agile, obedient and both eager and able to impose the will of the master. In the search for survivors in post-disaster rubble or wreckage dogs are far better equipped than we are. On the gentler side too they contribute to our wellbeing: many a lonely person values greatly their companionship and "would be lost" without it. In recent times it has come to be realised that the debilitating anxiety afflicting some children can be allayed by a companion dog as by no other.

Jesus may have been expressing a tribal bias when he told the woman of today's gospel that the children's food should not be given to the dogs. Many of his contemporaries considered the dog unclean. (Muslims later took the same view when Mohammed consigned that animal, along with the pig, to the, well, I suppose, the doghouse). And in their view the Cannanites had, figuratively, been occupants of that same abode.

Inclusion and exclusion are prominent in public discourse today. Even though resorts, clubs, schools, hotels and others advertise their exclusivity as a boon, churches, schools, clubs, companies and governments are urged to be inclusive. Even public lavatories don't escape examination for the possible misdemeanour of exclusion. Who wouldn't be confused? It's often hard to know what's one and what the other.

Jesus didn't get out of the cradle with a fully developed picture of the kingdom and who might enter there. He grew into awareness of his mission. The meeting with the Gentile woman was a step on that journey. The impression she made on him seems to have had that effect. Not for the first time he was surprised at the faith of a "stranger." He would no more allude to Gentiles as dogs. Instead, he, with the virtue of finding good where it is to be found, gave clear approval of her faith: not something her people were used to hearing from their teachers. JL



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



Thought for the Day

In today's Gospel, Jesus changes his mind! How is that possible? Twice in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus limits his ministry to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt 10:6; 15:24). In today's story, however, a very feisty woman, clearly not a daughter of Abraham, with her urgency and her witty retort, brings Jesus to recognise the needs of those beyond the ethnic confines of the Jewish people. They are ordinary human beings too, just as much in need of the Good News of the Kingdom as anyone else.

Prayer

I know, O God, that you love the human race, without making any distinction of persons or rank. Inspire us to see you in everyone we meet, for all are your children and you are the father of us all.
www.tarsus.ie /Sunday readings



LIMERICK HOSPITAL PATIENTS STILL NEED BLOOD DURING SUMMER



NEXT CLINICS:

Church of JC of Latter Day
Sts **Dooradoyle Rd.**
Tuesday 25th August
Wednesday 26th August
16.20pm -19.40pm

Hotel Greenhills **Ennis Rd.**
Monday 31st August
16.20pm—19.40pm



Your donation can save lives

Phone **1800 222 111** for appointment

FUNDRAISER GALA CONCERT

for St. Saviour's Dominican Church
Restoration Fund



FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER
Doors Open at 7:30pm. Show at 8pm.
RADISSON BLU HOTEL, LIMERICK

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www.stsaviourslimerick.ie

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Joyce Rupp– The Years of
Ripening –Reflections on Aging in
the Later Years.



Limerick Vue Cinema

is showing **David** (PG)

A superb animated film based on 1 Samuel
from Fri. 21st August daily at 12.45pm
Booking online & Box Office

National Heritage Week 15-23 August