



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 30th 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



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



The Cross Roads

Let him take up his cross and follow me. (Mt 16:24)

Thank You Jesus, Wow, said Arthur Blessitt on Sunset Strip, L.A. when he got the message to carry the cross of Jesus from coast to coast and beyond. His pilgrimage already featured on this page but since then it has come to an end and so we try to wrap up the saga today. Arthur made a gracious exit last year after saying "These feet that walked so far on roads of dirt and tar will now be walking on the streets of gold, ready to see Jesus again!"

The Guinness Book of Records attests to the heroic feat. Carrying a 12 foot cross with a little wheel - in the role of Joseph of Arimathea - on the end, Arthur started out on Christmas Day 1969 on the world's longest walk. Over 43,340 miles in '324 countries, islands-groups & territories, on all seven continents including Antarctica were walked in the next 55 years. His original cross was adapted to meet airline demands and it travelled 20,000 miles by boat—Arthur didn't walk on water. Other than that he walked around the world. Some facts and figures will illustrate his epic story as well as some interesting intelligence on where you might meet the warm embrace or the cold shoulder

- He carried his cross through 52 countries at war.
- He was arrested or jailed 24 times, mostly in the USA. (N.B. *Not for crimes*, Arthur tells us)
- The cross was refused overnight stay at more than half the churches he tried but never refused at a bar or nightclub.
- The warmest welcome was in Papua New Guinea, coldest in New York and the angriest in Amsterdam.
- The cross was stolen on Christmas Day in Assisi and was lost for a month by Alitalia.
- Someone broke the cross in Nigeria, attacked it with a pistol in Orlando and threatened to burn it in Birdseye, Indiana.
- Arthur says, *I love God and people, I try to keep it simple and Jesus did it, I give Him the glory.*

In recent decades he travelled constantly with his wife Denise, married in 1990. (There was a lot of walking potential in Denise at the time as she was 30 years the younger). But Arthur carried the Cross all the way. He did it *to lead people to salvation*. Fifty-five years from the start, Mr Blessitt was still walking.



Denise and I carried the cross in the ancient city of Babylon in Iraq, he wrote. *The soldiers were wonderful to us and even opened up the original walkway which had been used by Kings Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar and was then excavated. We carried the cross inside the restored ruins and there's a photo of the chamber where the handwriting appeared on the wall to King Belshazzar, Daniel 5:1-30. And finally we carried the cross to Ur of the Chaldeans in southern Iraq, where Abraham was from.*

Most people carry their crosses without public notice and many without private complaint. That's where the real cross-carrying, moved by need and by love, is done. The love of the Crucified, not the crucifying itself, is Paul's boast. Reflecting that love, strongly or weakly, is what promises an inscription in the Book of Life - even if there's small hope of mention in the Guinness Book of records. As for Arthur, Blessitt not Guinness, I'd be surprised if his name is not written in both books.

J.L

Thought for the Day

Jesus had the gift of saying things directly and plainly, with a power to penetrate all our defences and lead us to a new awareness. Today's message puts before us the paradox of the Gospel: we gain life by letting go of it. If I put my happiness, my being loved, at the centre of my life, then I will surely fail, even though to be loved and to be happy are really important. If on the other hand I put the happiness of others first and love them unconditionally, then I too will know unselfish love and deep happiness. This is the very insight and wisdom that Jesus puts before us as the key not just to love but to live and within that, the key to authentic discipleship precisely as a way of life.



Prayer : Teach us, Lord, that nothing is more life-giving than to love and be loved in return.

www.tarsus.ie/SundayReadings

Weekly Witness: Online Contemplative Reflections

We invite you to join with us for The Weekly Witness, a weekly contemplative prayer experience on-line. Each week, you will receive to your e-mail a reflection focused on the Word of God from the upcoming Sunday liturgy. The weekly witness is an opportunity to move into a deeper relationship with God through contemplative prayer, practice and devotion. This programme is free of charge. For more information go to www.knockshrine.ie

DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK:

Sunday 11th October. Tickets on sale from Tuesday 1st Sept in the parish office 10am-2pm Mon-Fri. For more details, please contact the parish office on 085 7262262.

FAITH FORMATION

Registration will be available on Monday 31st August on our website for this semester's opportunities for Faith Formation:

1. Ages 3-12 Catechesis - on Sundays/Tuesdays
2. Ages 11-18 Confirmation Club and Youth Club – every second Sunday
3. Wednesday night Bible Study - every 1st & 2nd Wed. of the month
4. Young Adult Theology - on First Wednesdays
5. Men's & Women's Groups - on 4th Wednesdays

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

**Feast Day Saturday
5th September**

'Not all of us can do great things.
But we can do small things with great love.'

Camino De Santiago - for Searchers and Seniors: UPDATE

Plans for the Camino de Santiago for Searchers and Seniors are going very well. We now have some further details for you.

We will be travelling the Camino Ingles, or Celtic Camino, from Ferrol to Santiago de Compostela. Although we will be walking or travelling by coach each day, from the place where we stopped the night before, the good news is that we will only be required to move hotel once during our stay. We will be spending our first four nights in the beautiful city of A Coruna, a city rich in Irish history and we will have a chance to get to know it. Our last three nights will be spent in the Pilgrim city of St. James, Santiago de Compostela, where you will have the opportunity to attend Mass in the Cathedral and explore the city and visit the Pilgrims Office for English Mass and an opportunity to have a cuppa and a chance to have chat about your Camino experience, should you wish to do that. There are many very inexpensive local restaurants to enjoy and one or two local pubs where we might get some good Celtic music.

Please do not be afraid to join us if you feel you are not able to do the full walk. Some of us will walk the 20k per day and some will do part of the walk. We have our coach with us each day all the way for those who need it. We are all pilgrims, regardless of how we experience our Camino. Please watch this space, as we are hoping to have a meeting shortly to discuss the details. We hope to have a price and an itinerary ready for that meeting. If you would like to have further information, please contact Geraldine on 089 2410066. More details on the notice board at the back of the church.