



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 are
Live Streamed at
St. Augustine's



St. Augustine's Church Limerick Child Safeguarding Representatives.

Fr. Flor O'Callaghan OSA
Fr. John Lyng OSA
Ms Geraldine van Dam
Mr. Robert Ryan
Ms Charlotte Gleeson
Mr. Tom Walsh

St. Augustine's Church Limerick

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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20th September 2026

Paymaster God

In a Donegal documentary of 50 years ago a woman told of the hiring-fairs of her childhood. She recalled her mother rising early on Easter morning to go to the other side of the mountain with a clean shirt and an egg for her 7½ y.o. son. He had been hired out to a farmer to help pay the family's rent.

The poem of our schooldays **An Spailpín Fánach:**

*Im spailpín fánach atáim le fada
ag seasamh ar mo shláinte,
ag siúl an drúchta go moch ar maidin
's ag bailiú galair ráithe*

*Go deo deo arís ní raghad go Caiseal
ag díol ná ag reic mo shláinte
ná ar mhargadh na saoire im shuí cois balla,
im scaoinse ar leataoibh sráide*

speaks, with *beagánín searphas*, about the lot of a hired worker before union protection, collective bargaining, minimum wage or labour courts were heard of. You'd see something very like it in another place we knew far from here. A roundabout at the outskirts of the city would be circled by men, and a few women, as the sun came up. The instrument or utensil each displayed told of their trade and what work they could be expected to do. A shovel announced that a man would dig, hard and long, or mix mortar, all day. A metal head-pan told that he or she—this was an equal-opportunity department—would carry clay, rubble or wet cement anywhere, even to the top of a rudimentary ladder, until told to stop. A labourer slightly better-offered himself for inspection with his own wheelbarrow. So it went on, up to the saw and measuring tape which said skilled carpenter for hire and the trowel and spirit level advertising a technician who could put one block on another on top of another and ensure that they stayed there. The whole thing was a step up from the auction-block of the slavers, even if not a very big step.

Similar fairs could be seen in the villages. Here the hoe for the yam, cassava or groundnut; machete for the sugar-cane and maize; the sickle for the rice and the threshing-flail for all grain, were the tools on view. Those less able or less inclined for hard labour carried the calabash for gleaning or winnowing in the wind. (All of them, note, less dependent on the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz than the roaring Cannonball runners of the Dock Road last week or the monster Tractors of Scraggan Plough-fest).

I suppose it was at some such hiring-fair that the landowner of today's gospel got his workers. His way of paying them seems, in the language of the Mary McAleese/GAA spat, equal but inequitable. Surely he might have given more to the poor fellows who laboured from dawn to dusk than to those who had an idle morning and an untroubled siesta before turning out to start when the sun was already slipping down behind the hills. So, what do we make of it? A good starting point might be in the first reading "My thoughts are not your thoughts". The story Jesus made up is not about how to set fair rates of pay. It is rather a glimpse of a generous God overlooking nobody and giving value to the small and unlucky—"because no one has hired us". The poor fellows who had sat all day with fading hope now had their hope fulfilled. It's never too late to start, never a time for anybody to be written off. That's God for you. J.L.

Thought for the Day

The forty-two parables in the Gospels are designed to take us up short and make us think again. Today's parable is a good example. The actions of the employer and the treatment of the workers simply would not work today as a labour relations strategy and would also not have worked in the time of Jesus. And what is the point? Really that it doesn't matter when we come to the Gospel, early, middle or late, by routes direct or circuitous, in full stride or falteringly: all that matters is that we come to the Gospel. Achievement counts for nothing; grace is everything, thanks be to God!

Prayer

The door of faith is always open and you welcome us, O God, whenever our hearts are open. We are grateful for your loving patience and generosity.

Source: www.tarsus.ie Sunday readings



Reflection

Season of Creation

God of muted rainbows and billowing clouds, spiderweb silk and droplets of dew, may we be inspired by your softness, your compassion and forgiveness. Even when the scale of environmental destruction and climate change might overwhelm us, remind us of your grace ever there, of the power of a helping hand and a kind word, of unsung heroes working in quiet ways to build up community and care for our earth.

Source: resources from catholicbishops.ie /season-of-creation-2026/

**Bewley's Big
Coffee
Morning
Milford Hospice
St. Augustine's Church
Thurs 24th Sept**

Holy Hour for Vocations

'Wednesday, 16 September, 7pm-8pm:

Vocations Holy Hour at the Cathedral -

Please join us to pray for vocations in our diocese to the priesthood, consecrated life, and sacramental marriage.

This month's holy hour will include music ministry by

Sr. Krista Marie Hall, OP

and a testimony by Canon Derek Leonard.

If you are unable to attend in person, please join us to pray online via the cathedral website'

Augustinian Safeguarding Sunday

Next Sunday 27th is designated as Safeguarding Sunday in all our Augustinian houses throughout the country. A local representative from our Safeguarding Group will speak at all Masses on the day. We thank you for your valuable support and love as together we strive to make the Kingdom of God an ever stronger reality in our lives today.

'Jubilee in Scripture'

Adult Bible Study at St. Saviour's Dominican Church

Join us at St Saviours Dominican Church for Bible Study, beginning this Wednesday, 23rd September, on the theme of 'Jubilee in Scripture'. Bible Study will take place every Wednesday at 7:30pm for 10 weeks.

See stsaviourslimerick.ie for registration.