

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8th November 2026

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com
email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

The Oil Crisis

Give us some of your oil, our lamps are going out. Matt 25:8.

It's no surprise that God himself was wise to the tricks of the oilmen:

*Tell them to bring you **clear** oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning. Exodus 27:20.*

Clear oil, that's the thing. Many a day and night we suffered for lack of it. It was often the motorbike or car spluttering, backfiring and at last expiring from the muck of polluted petrol choking its carburettor and internal organs. Worse, in a place where we spent some time, was damage done by the kerosene for the fridge. (Likewise for the Tilley lamp there, and of a slightly earlier time here at home). They'd always tell you the oil was pure, unadulterated. The spot of solder craftily hiding the pinprick in the bottom of the shiny four-gallon tin would tell you too late of the tampering. By then you had undergone the agonies associated with adulteration. The lamp smoked, blackened its mantle and cracked its glass globe before fizzling out in protest at the dirt it was asked to digest. You got heat of which there was already far too much and no light of which you now had none. The fridge which depended on a pure blue and smokeless flame for any effective combustion failed because its wick, sucking dirty oil, could do no better than a yellow flame and unwanted smoke. You lay on your belly sweating as you tugged at the tank and trimmed the abused wick over and over again in vain quest for the critical colour. Alas, while your frustration might turn the air blue you failed with the flame. Soon, like Shelley's skylark, higher still and higher soared the smell of spoiling meat and milk and the temperature of the beer bottle. All not conducive to a happy home; in a small world this added up to a big disaster. Feeling sorry for oneself is said to be bad for you. Maybe it is. But it's not the only thing.

Be that as it was, we'd better get back to today's gospel. In a reversal of what seems to be the accepted culture in this part of the world, there it was the groom who was disgracefully late. So late that the bridesmaids fell asleep – no mention that they were at the punch while waiting! It was of course before the Golden Age *of Drill, Baby Drill* but the lamps still needed oil of some sort and the wicks needed trimming. Some of the ladies found that they were sucking non-existent diesel and what they were burning were the drying wicks themselves. They found themselves in an oil crisis and got no help from their oil-bunkering sisters.

Maybe the parable is not about lamps at all or oil or weddings or sleeping bridesmaids. Still less is it a counsel against sharing what we have. It's probably more on the lines of the Scouts *Be Ready* motto. The biblical bridegroom is coming, early or late, with a pretty strong searchlight, and would expect from our little beacons some sort of answering glimmer, however faint. And leaving it to someone else doesn't seem the answer either.

J.L.

Thought for the Day

To engage with today's readings, it might be helpful to go back in your own mind to someone in your life whom you regard as really wise. When did you become aware of it? Have you benefitted from it? If someone were to ask how would you recognise wisdom and what are its marks, what would you say? Have you learned from your encounters with wise people? Do you desire wisdom for yourself ? Perhaps as parent or friend or family member or colleague. Do you nourish your hunger (!) for the qualities and attitudes which we associate with people who have learned from life?

PRAYER All-wise and loving God, the desire for you lies deep within us. Awaken us to the quest for true wisdom that by being true to ourselves we may come home to you, the source of all wisdom. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Source: www.tarsus.ie /Sunday Readings

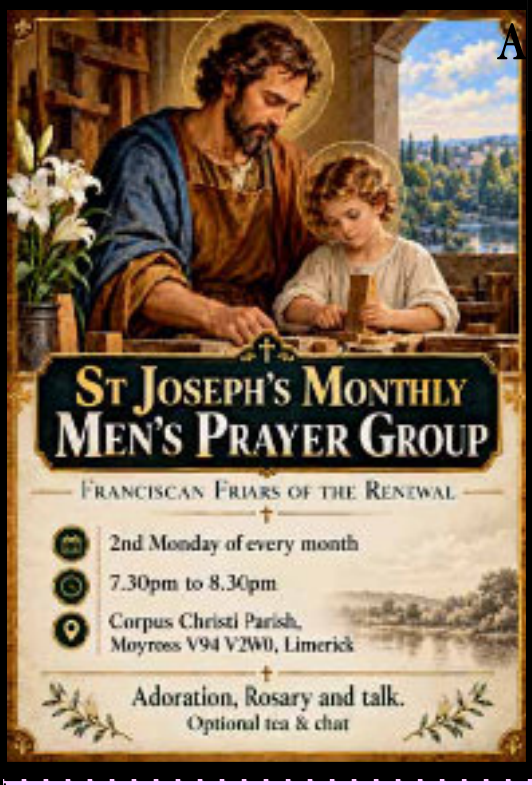
Remembering

During the month of November people love to light candles of hope and **remembrance** for their loved ones. A flame keeps vigil for them and for their grief. A light shines into dark lonely places in the heart. It carries the **promise** of Resurrection and re-union. Those who have no words for the pain might like to use the following "**candle prayer**" of remembrance.

"I light this candle for my loved ones,
to renew my memories of them
to give me the strength to cope with grief
and the pain of loss.
Take—(name)-into the embrace of your love and peace.
Amen

You are invited to write the name (s) of your deceased loved ones on the cards provided at the back of the church and place them on the remembrance board there.









Remembrance Mass

Voices of Limerick will sing at the 11.30am Mass in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Ennis Road on Sunday 15th November, in memory of our deceased members, families and loved ones. All are welcome.

Shoebox Reminder



You still have time to return your shoeboxes so hurry and drop them into the Abbey Bookshop or the Pastoral Office. **Thank You**