



# St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LIMERICK

## 5th Sunday of Easter 24th April 2016

### Mass Times

Monday –Friday  
7.30 am, 8.30am,  
10.15am & 4.00pm

Saturday  
8.30am, 10.15am  
3.00pm  
(Mass for the Sick)

Sunday  
9.00am, 11.15am,  
Evening Mass  
7.30pm

### Confession

Monday, Wednesday  
&Friday  
10.45 am–12.00  
3.00pm– 4.00pm  
Saturday  
10.45 am –12.00  
2.30pm – 4.00pm

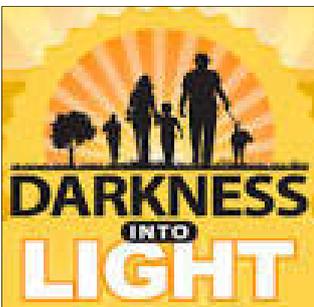
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website: [www.augustinianslimerick.com](http://www.augustinianslimerick.com)  
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## *'Celebrating the Legacy' of Scoil Carmel*

Scoil Carmel began life as a 'secondary top' run by the Sisters of Mercy. These Sisters understood the importance of education for girls in Limerick and Scoil Carmel was recognised by the state as a secondary school in 1952. Since then, Scoil Carmel has become an important part of the educational fabric of Limerick city. The school has seen lots of changes over the intervening decades, growing from a small group of students in 1952 to a school which, at one stage, educated over 700 students.

Scoil Carmel has embraced new developments in education and curriculum initiatives offering Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Applied as well as the traditional Leaving Certificate. Many students will fondly recall school trips, both at home and abroad, school musicals, fashion shows, Arts week, Awards nights and many other exciting non-curricular activities. Their students have excelled academically and have succeeded in a wide variety of careers. The up-coming closure of the school has led to nostalgia and sharing of fond memories.

There will be a Mass on **April 24th at 2pm in St. Joseph's Church** to mark this closure and teachers, pupils, parents and everyone associated with the school over the last sixty years are invited to join in Celebrating the Legacy of "sharing the light" of Scoil Carmel.



5km Walk/Run Saturday  
May 7th at 4.15am  
Thomond Park.

### Burren Outdoor Retreat

Let the silence and beauty of this unique landscape unfold its mysteries and renew you in body and soul.  
Weekend inclusive from Friday 6th May –8th May

#### Contact

Noirin 087 9459151  
Mary 087 9701130  
Bookings Des Tully  
085 1614951

## Scripture Reflection

### May we love as you love

In today's Sundays Gospel we hear Jesus call us to a new commandment - love one another as I have loved you. At one level a simple call to love, at another a challenge to truly 'be Christ' in this world - to love as Jesus loves, lives as Jesus lives, to be the face and heart of Christ to a wounded world.

Who can say 'yes I will do that' with ease? Surely all of us are in awe of the call to be the love of Christ in our family, community, world? The great joy is in realising that we are not called to do this alone - but to recognise that we are part of the Body of Christ, and that bound together in Eucharist, we can take our place in Gods plan for us and for our world.

Now we are not alone, and together we can support one another as we pray '**May we love as you love Jesus**'. Amen. (Diocesan newsletter April 20th 2016)

# Augustinian-Lay Forum

Brothers and Sisters in Christ

We are writing to you from the Augustinian-Lay Forum, which is a group made up of lay people and professed Augustinians, trying to plan for the future of our church in Ireland. As we are all aware this will not be a church similar to the one we have been used to .

In our own context, the number of Augustinians in Ireland is decreasing rapidly and there is only one student in training to replace those who are retiring or dying. This year, the decision was taken to close four of the Augustinian communities, a painful decision for both friars and lay people but, nonetheless, unavoidable due to issues such as personnel numbers, ageing, illness etc.

It is realistically, not a question of 'if', but rather 'when'. The time has come for the Augustinian friars to withdraw from many of their ministries in Ireland. This is a sad reality that will affect all of our communities and locations in some way and will, unfortunately, mean the ending of the professed Augustinians in more than a few locations throughout the country-none of our communities/locations can feel itself excluded.

We are writing today to all of you-lay ministers, parishioners, people who visit our churches , people who work closely with us and people who only interact with us occasionally, all those with whom and among whom we work. As we face a future in which the only certainty is that it will be very different, we ask you to reflect, individually, as groups, as communities-together with or separate from the friars-on the following questions:

1. When there are no longer any friars to minister in your particular place, would you want the Augustinian spirit to remain alive in your community?
2. If the answer to this question is 'Yes,' how do you think this can be achieved?
3. What part, concretely, would you be prepared to play in this?

Please, give these questions serious consideration, whether on your own or with others. The answers to them are vital to our process of discernment about how best to use the resources available to us as we face the future together.

It would be very helpful to our discernment and planning if you could respond by Friday, 29th April. You can do this by passing your responses on to Fr. Noel Hession (Prior) of your local community, to any one of the friars, or by sending them directly to us at this address:

**Augustinian-Lay Forum, Saint Augustine's, Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16.**

At this time we are faced with great challenges. Let us be still, listen with great care to what we are being called to do at this point in our faith journey together and respond with generosity to the promptings of the Spirit.

Let us heed the advice which Saint Augustine gave just over 1600 years ago to Proba, who came to him for guidance:

'If poverty pinches if grief saddens, If bodily pain disturbs, If exile discourages,  
If any other disaster torments: Provided there are present good human beings who know  
not only how to rejoice with those in joy But also to weep with those who weep  
And can speak and converse in a helpful way: Those rough spots are smoothed,  
the heavy burdens are lightened and adversity overcome.'

We are grateful to you for your time and for your willingness to help us in this endeavour.

On behalf of the Augustinian-Lay Forum.

Fr. John Hennebry OSA  
Prior Provincial



Ms. Rita Fernandez  
Augustinian-Lay Forum