

St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LIMERICK

3rd Sunday of Advent 11th December 2016

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A Heart for the Homeless

At this time of the year we think a lot about those who are physically homeless and we share our generosity with them. We may tend to forget those who have a roof over their heads but **emotionally and spiritually** they may not have a home i.e. those who suffer the pain of broken relationships or the loss of a partner, the prodigal sons and daughters who have gone to "**a far country**" away from church and faith, those who have lost the wonder and the childhood memories around the Christmas crib, homesick refugees, migrant workers and asylum seekers. A separated father on his own for Christmas shares his dread of the festive season.

Here in the Augustinian Church we are working towards making this place homely and welcoming for those who feel homeless in the heart, those who wish to come home to forgiveness, to healing, to new beginnings in faith. Try to create a little space for the CHRIST-CHILD in the manger of your own spirit and you will feel more at home with yourself, with the broken ones and with God.

Homecoming Prayer



"Make your Home in Me As I make Mine in You"

St. John

God of welcome and acceptance,
Call me home from the four winds of distraction
Call me home to my own heart.
Welcome me into your peace.
Call me home from a far country
Call me home from darkness and sin
Welcome me into your forgiveness.
Call me home from my place of exile.
Call me home from the Christmas rush
Help me to see divinity in a stable.

With Jesus and with Mary:

Give me a heart for the homeless, for the refugee.
Give me a prayer of healing for homes where there is violence,
grief or separation.
Give me a heart of love for those who are afraid to come home.
Help us all to turn our houses into homes,
into places of welcome and acceptance for God and one another.

Amen.

L. Ryan OSA



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

Taize Every
Thursday at 5pm

Gaudete Sunday!

This is Gaudete Sunday
'Gaudete means
'rejoice' in Latin. The
spirit of joy that begins
this week comes from
the words of St. Paul.
'The Lord is near'.

This joyful spirit is
marked by the lighting
of the third candle of
our Advent wreath,
which is rose coloured.

Let us rejoice in the
Lord.

Advent Scripture Study

With Fr. Sean & Patricia
Augustinian Priory
(Blue Door)
Tuesday 13th December
At 7.30pm.
All are welcome!



Cuppa afterwards.

MARANATHA Prayer Ministry

You are invited to a
Christmas healing
retreat with
Bishop Brendan Leahy
& Janice & Moss
Carrigg, Limk.

With Mass, Confession,
and Worship
Sunday 11th Nov
at 2.30pm
**in St. Paul's Church
Dooradoyle**



St. Augustine's Christmas Services

**Christmas Eve
Masses**
Saturday 24th Dec
8.30am, & 10.15am
Family Mass 5.00pm
Vigil Mass 8.00pm

**Christmas Day
Sunday 25th Dec
Masses**
9.00am, & 11.15am
No evening Mass

**St. Stephen's Day
Monday 26th Dec
Mass at 10.15am**

Confessions
Mon 19th Dec– Sat 24th
10.00am-4.00pm



The Advent Wreath Explained



This is a very brief explanation of the circle and of each of the candles, for those of you who made the enquiry.

The circle of evergreen represents eternity - life with God.

1st candle (purple) represents the Prophets - and their message was one of Hope.

2nd candle (purple) represents Bethlehem - and what took place there was Love.

3rd candle (pink) represents the Shepherds - who rejoiced (Gaudete Sunday), filled with Joy.

4th candle (purple) represents the Angels - their message was one of Peace to all those of good will.

White candle in the middle of the circle represents Light - the Light and Life of Christ.



Synod Moves On...

As we approach the end of 2016 we also come to the conclusion of the Synod process as the work of the Synod now moves into a new phase – the implementation of the decisions taken in April which becomes part of the mainstream activity of the Diocese.

Arising from the Synod we now have a Pastoral Plan for the Diocese to bring us to 2026. This documents of the Synod, incorporating this Plan, will be formally launched at Evening Mass in **St John's Cathedral at 7p.m. on December 11th**. All welcome.

Advent Talk in The Dominicans



The next series of Advent talks hosted by the Dominicans will take place on Tuesday 13th December at 7.30pm in the Blessed Terence Albert Hall. The theme is Pope Francis and Laudato Si– pointing to a brighter future for humanity and given by Teresa Devine. All are welcome. A donation would be appreciated.

Upcoming Events

- There will be a chance to visit the 'Live Crib' on Sunday 18th Dec from 2-5pm in Adare Village.
- There will be a very special Advent Carol Service in Raheen church this evening Sunday 11th December at 6.30pm.
- This Sunday afternoon 11th Dec there will be an Advent Talk on 'The Pivot Point' with St. Matthew in the Monastery Library in **Glenstal Abbey at 4.30pm.**
- **Christmas Market and Winter Wonderland** Sat 10th and Sunday 11th Dec at the Croom Civic Centre, Main Street, Croom, Co. Limerick from 3pm – 7pm.
- The Redemptorist Centre of Music will host its Christmas Concert this Sunday afternoon at 3pm in the Redemptorist Church S Cr Rd. Adults €3 Children Free. Come and celebrate Christmas with us as we showcase all our centre ensembles.
- A Festival of Christmas Music and Readings with Mary Immaculate College choir will be held on Tuesday December 13th at 8.00pm in St. Joseph's church. The MIC Choral Society and MIC Community Choir, accompanied by the Baroque Players, will perform a selection of seasonal choruses from Handel's Messiah and many favourite carols. Guest soloist is Ms Sarah Dolan our own Limerick soprano. Admission is free and all are welcome.