



### 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



## Snowdrop

Fragile Beauty,  
Tear Shaped Petals,  
Delicate Hope  
germinating in frozen  
dark earth.  
Defying depression  
and desolation.  
Pushing through the cold  
dark places of the heart.  
Warming us with the  
promise of Spring.  
The courage to surface  
and stand vulnerable  
and beautiful.  
Breaking through  
out of grief and despair,  
Coming home from pain  
to the half smile on the  
face of my Winter God.  
The Human Heart  
resilient, recovering,  
healing.  
Redeemed by a snowdrop  
in the wilderness.  
Liam Ryan

# St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LIMERICK

## First Sunday of Lent 14th February 2016

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## Lenten Reflection

The theme of the desert recurs throughout the Scriptures and the development of Christian spirituality throughout the ages. Aloneness with God is understood as an essential element in spiritual growth.

The desert is a powerful place, it is a place where one lives on the edge. It is a place where there is little protection. It is a place where, without the trappings which go with everyday life, one is faced with great and ultimate realities. It is not surprising that in the story of God's will is made clear. It was in the years of wandering after the departure from Egypt that God formed the former slaves into a people. It was in the desert experiences of defeat and exile that God recalled and reformed the people who wandered far from the purity of the relationship into which they had been called. Hosea, who likened Israel to his faithless wife, speaking in the name of God, said that the loving God would allow Israel to experience the desert of desolation so that he could heal and restore:

*That is why I am going to lure her and lead her out into  
the wilderness and speak to her heart...  
Then she will respond to me as she did when she was  
young,  
As she did when she came out of the land of Egypt  
(Ho.2:16-17)*



Augustine knew the need for the desert and he also knew the need to share the desert time with others. He loved to share the prayer, the search, the discussion and reflection with his friends. He constantly gathered round him friends to share the deepest longings of the heart.

Augustine Spirituality 17

### PRAYER

Lord our God, you alone do we worship only your word gives life. Sustain your Church on its Lenten journey. When we walk through the desert of temptation, strengthen us to renounce the power of evil. When our faith is tested by doubt, illumine our hearts with Easter's bright promise. We ask this through Christ our deliverance and hope. Amen

tarsus.ie prayer

# Lenten Scripture Reflection

With Patricia Cahill  
 Augustinian Basement  
 Pastoral Centre  
 Every Thursday  
 11.00am

Join us for a cuppa  
 before we start  
 and meet new friends!

## Opening a Door on the Bible



Dominican Hall  
 Next Workshop  
**February 20th**  
 Saturday 10 am -12.30

**Theme**  
**The Spirit Leads the Church into Something New (Acts)**

## From Ashes to Resurrection

During the weeks of Lent take time to stop by and reflect at our Lenten journey display at the back of the Peace Garden & pick up a copy of Fr. Liam's Prayer in the Wilderness.

## Thank You

The total of the church gate collections for Dochas last Jan 16th & 17th amounted to €6785.10. They would like to thank all who supported them!

## Milford Hospice

**Augustinian Church Gate Collection this Sunday 14th February**

# Limerick's 'Mercy Envoy'

Moyross Parish Priest Fr. Tony O'Riordan SJ is among a group of priests from around the world chosen by Pope Francis to play a special role in the Holy Year of Mercy which began on December 8th last year. Fr. O'Riordan has been invited to come to Rome on Feb 8th to receive the special mandate in person during an Ash Wednesday ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica on February 10th. During the ceremony he will be mandated as a Missionary of Mercy and receive a special mission from Pope Francis to preach and teach about God's mercy.



Fr. O'Riordan says as PP of Moyross in Limerick, his selection is a symbolic affirmation by Pope Francis of the need of the church to be with and serve the people on the outskirts and the margins.

Pope Francis had said he would designate 'Missionaries of Mercy' to be unique signs of God's mercy. They have been selected for their ability to preach and practice mercy and to be good confessors.

Pope Francis is giving them special authority to pardon sins that carry penalties that only the Holy See can lift. Fr. O'Riordan is the only priest in Limerick named as a papal missionary.

Follow the story at [www.catholicireland.net/news](http://www.catholicireland.net/news)

# A Valentine Prayer

Dearest Heavenly Father,

I want to thank you for the precious gift of love you have given to the world and to me. Thank you for blessing me every day with this love and the power and strength that I get from you every single day. Without your love for me I can't be....I can't function....I can't even breathe...because I NEED your love to sustain me. It's like food and medicine for my soul Lord.



Please continue to let me feel your comforting love in my life and Lord I give myself over to you to perfect in me this gift of love...that I may be able to express it and share it with others.

Lord...I have not always been good at this...forgive me. Lord...some people are harder to love than others...but I want to be like your Son Jesus...so please continue the work you are doing in my heart so my heart will be like yours.

In Jesus name I pray.

Father I love you so much! [catholic.org/prayers](http://catholic.org/prayers)

## Abbey Bookshop: Resources for Lent

