

St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LIMERICK

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord 10th January 2016

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St. Ita of Killeedy

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

No Confessions

Tuesday & Thursday

Launch of the Mass Of St. Ita

Composed to celebrate
Limerick City of Culture
Thursday Jan 28th
St. John's Cathedral
Launch at 7.30pm
Workshop with
Columba Mc Cann OSB
8.00-9.30pm



Feast of St. Ita

Friday January 15th
Mass in Ashford
Church Co. Limerick
11.00am
Raheenagh Church
7.30pm

St Ita, the patron saint of Killeedy, was born before 484AD in County Waterford, in the Tramore area. Her father was Cennfoelad or Confhaola and her mother was Necta. Cennfoelad was descended from Felim the lawgiver.

Ita's name was originally Dorothea or Deirdre. She was a member of the Déisi tribe. Ita refused her father's wish that she should marry a local chieftain, as she believed that she had a calling from God and wanted to become a nun.

To convince her father to change his mind, she fasted for three days and three nights. On the third night, God gave out to her father in his sleep. The next morning, Cennfoelad agreed that Ita could do as she wished. At the age of sixteen, Ita set off on her journey.

Bishop (St.) Declan of Ardmore conferred the veil on her. Legend has it that Ita was lead to Killeedy by three heavenly lights. The first was at the top of the Galtee mountains, the second on the Mullaghareirk mountains and the third at Cluain Creadhail, which is nowadays Killeedy. Her sister Fiona also went to Killeedy with her and became a member of the community. Ita was welcomed to Killeedy by the local chieftain of the Ui Conaill Gabhra tribe. The chieftain wanted to give Ita a large tract of land but she only wanted a few acres as a garden for her community.

Ita and her community spent their time praying, teaching the young and caring for the sick, the poor and the elderly. The community also had a dairy farm at Boolaveeda near Mountcollins, which was run by St Ita. The many stories about St Ita show her great kindness.

One of the stories told claims that St Ita allowed an insect to suck her blood, as people believed that the insect was feeding on human flesh in the graveyard. The insect grew to the size of a suckling pig. It is claimed that Ita brought her brother in law back to life after he was killed in battle. It is also written that St Ita cured a blind man.

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Prayer to St. Ita

Ever living God,
We rejoice in the life of
Saint Ita of Killeedy.

We give you thanks for her
powerful intercession and
we implore her
continual protection.
Inspire us by her example to
live with joy our calling in
life, give us perseverance to
serve you all our days;
we make this prayer
through Jesus Christ
our Lord,
who with you and the Holy
Spirit lives and reigns,
one God,
world without end.
Amen

Prayer

Most wonderful God,

foolish and flawed
though we are,
we too delight in your
beloved Son.
As in his name we
gather in the house of
many praises
may the heavens be
opened for us,
that we may catch a
glimpse of that Light
and Love
that transforms our
common days
with a beauty not of our
making.
Through Christ Jesus
our Lord. Amen

Sacred Heart Church
O'Connell St
Limerick

You are invited to
attend the 7pm Mass
on January 12th when
the visiting Australian
Choir 'Prima Luce' will
join in the Liturgy
and will be followed
with a Concert of
Sacred Music at
8.00pm.

'The Brigid of Munster'

St Ita is sometimes called "the white sun of the women of Munster" or the "Brigid of Munster". She was also known as the "Foster Mother of the Saints of Ireland". Ita was a mother figure to some of Ireland's early saints. St Brendan was in Killeedy for five years under the care of St Ita in the monastery at Killeedy from the time when he was a year old. Only two names of the abbots of the monastery are recorded. They were Cathasach, who died around 810 or 815, and Finnachta, who died in 833.

There is a shrine within the ruins of the church, which is believed to mark the site of Ita's grave. The tradition is that visitors to Ita's grave cover it with flowers. St Carthage's Church in Lismore in her native county pays tribute to Ita in the form of a stained glass window. Colgan recorded her life. She died in 569 (Begley states it is 570) on January 15th which is her feast day. On this date, her life and work is remembered in Killeedy. Devotion to St Ita has continued to the present day and the saint has made Killeedy a place of worship down through the years.

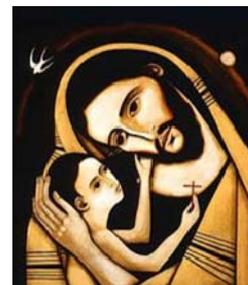
The Baptism of the Lord

There's something supremely beautiful about how a small child loves you, isn't there. Knowing that that pure honest love is offered to you can brighten even the most cynical soul! We all need to know we are loved, to experience pure love - it nourishes the soul.

After Jesus was baptised in the Jordan by John, the Father spoke - *This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him.* What a beautiful affirmation of Jesus as he began his public ministry. Imagine what the world would be like if everyone truly believed that they are loved and worth loving. Imagine what our parish would look like if everyone truly believed that they are welcome and a valued member of the community.

As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, let's honour Jesus by actions as well as words: In our prayers and in our welcome for all the baptised; In how we live our lives as his followers.

May the love between Father and Son encourage us to love unconditionally, to encourage and to bless all we meet with kindness, mercy and love. For God is love, and we are Beloved. (Diocesan Newsletter)



Distant Learning with the Dominicans

Come and See—Come and Taste...

Would you like to learn more but are unable to travel weekly to a course, or are nervous of the expectations?

Now you can 'come and see' what long distance education is all about! Learn about a course that you can complete from your own home! With the experience of presenting the Bible as a life-giving source the Dominicans in Limerick offer a 'taster' of what is on offer by the Priory Institute, Tallaght, in the Introduction to Scripture module for the spring semester 2016.

Taster Moments: Saturdays from 10.00 - 12.30
January 16—Adult Education and Course Content
February 13—Distant Learning - your questions answered.
February 27—Sharing the experience of distant learning.
The taster is free and without any obligation to sign up for the Priory Institute 'Introduction to Scripture' spring module.

Enquiries: 061 412333.

