

St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LIMERICK

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
29th January 2017

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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

Resumes Thursday
2nd February

Synod: Limerick Diocesan Pastoral Plan

The Diocese of Limerick has celebrated a Diocesan Synod, the first in 80 years. It has been an event of the Holy Spirit, an experience of deep encounter, a time of hope. The image of it that I treasure is one found on our Synod website – the hall in Mary Immaculate College with 400 people, lay, priests, single and married, young and older, gathered together in circles working hard but joyfully at discerning what God was calling us to as a Diocese.

I felt our gathering was a glimpse of the Church that the Holy Spirit wants to be – a community of communities with Jesus among us, serving society at all levels, offering it a soul, wanting to give our spiritual and social contribution that builds up the fabric of society. So I thank God for the Synod. It has given us an experience and an image that provide a benchmark in our hearts and minds for the future.

Pope Francis often invites us today to have what he calls a “contemplative gaze”, that is, we need to look around us in our home and our streets, our villages, our towns and our city and discover God dwelling among us, “fostering solidarity, fraternity, and the desire for goodness, truth and justice”. Perhaps those around us aren't coming to Church but they are searching for meaning in their lives. And even in the negatives and apparent rejections that we find, something of God's work can be uncovered. The Synod was an exercise of trying to look around us with new eyes to see the potential even in the face of difficulties

Our Synod journey concluded during the Year of Mercy. It is no surprise, therefore, that we looked at the six themes of our Synod with eyes of merciful love, hope and tenderness. We made a realistic assessment and voted on many proposals. We acknowledged there are less priests and we need new models of leadership. We heard how young people find it hard to connect with the Church and so we need to find new ways to be with the young church. A major theme was that of families needing support in handing on the faith and in facing difficulties as a family. Liturgy, we saw, needs to link more with life. Above all, as a Church community we recognised our desire to reach out much more beyond the sacristy, beyond the church building or Sunday Mass, beyond the usual structures that we are used to. It is in looking around us with eyes of love that we generate into life the Church of the New Commandment of love .

It seems to me the Synod has called us to a more Mission-shaped Church, relying less on the priest-on-his-own simply providing sacramental services. It was a call to rediscover the vocation and responsibility of *all* the baptised and that we are *all* co-responsible in building up the Church.

(short excerpt taken from the 'Introduction to the Limerick Diocesan Pastoral Plan'.)



St. Augustine's
Taize

Resumes

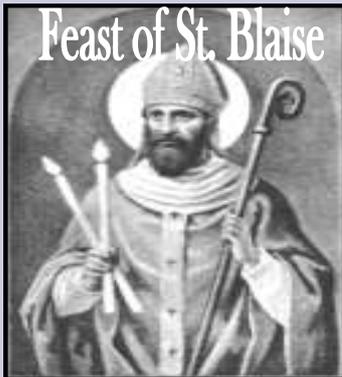
Thursday
2nd February
5.00pm

This Diocesan Pastoral Plan is available at the back of the Church. do take a copy.



Don't Brush off the Butterfly

The man whispered: **“God speak to me”**; and a Meadow Lark sang, but the man did not hear.
 So the man called out: **“God, speak to me;”** and the Thunder Rolled across the sky, but the man did not listen.
 The man looked around and said: **“God, let me see you”**, and a Star shone brightly but the man did not notice.
 So the man cried out in despair: **“Touch me, God, and let me know that you are here.”**
 Whereupon, God reached down and touched him on his arm. But the man brushed off the BUTTERFLY and sadly walked on.



Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged in the way you expect. The whole of God's creation speaks of the glory of the Creator.
 The world invisible hides playfully behind the thin veil of the visible.
 We have only to push the veil aside and gaze in wonder with the eyes of a child at play.

Blessing of the Throats

Next Friday 3rd February is the Feast of St. Blaise linked with the flourishing tradition of the Blessing of Throats. You are invited to have your throats blessed at all Masses 7.30am, 8.30am, 10.15am & 4.00pm.. With crossed candles touching the throat the following blessing prayer is used:
‘Through the intercession of St. Blaise, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other illness.’ Amen.

**Feast of St. Brigid
Wed 1st. February**



Prayer to St. Brigid

Saint of Ireland
 Flame of Welcome
 Woman of Wisdom.
 Generous One.
 With your Cross,
 Protect our homes.
 Convert our hearts
 Heal our sick.

Herald of Spring,
 Awaken new life.
 Warm my spirit.
 Nourish Easter hope.
 Bountiful Source,
 Multiply God's gifts.
 Feed the poor.
 Nurture our hunger.

Bless Ireland.
 Re-ignite the fire.
 Gather us in faith.
 Open our doors.
 Open our hearts.
 Turn strangers into
 friends,
 Houses into homes,
 Sceptics into believers,
 Death into life.
 Amen. L.R.

Thank You

The Augustinian Community would like to thank all those who attended our Christian Unity Service last Wednesday evening. We were delighted to welcome **representatives from St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Michael's Church Pery Square, Christ Church O'Connell St., St. Nicholas Abbey Adare and those from different Christian Fellowships.** We had a wonderful ecumenical gathering and we hope that this might be the start of further initiatives into the future. A word of thanks to the team who organised the event.

Spring Walk

On Monday 1st Feb, Corpus Christi invite you on our 5th Annual first day of Spring Walk from Darkness into Light. Leave the Darkness of your past behind you and look forward to a bright future. Gathering at Corpus Christi Church 6.15 am to depart for Curraghchase Forest Park. Walk 3 km-Cuppa Tea at the high Cross-Return for 9.15 Mass and/or Breakfast. You must register beforehand by calling the parish or at the parish facebook page ([Moyross parish](#)) Under 18's need to be accompanied by an adult.

**Poor Clares Galway
Monastic Experience Day
Sat Feb 4th , 10am-5pm**

Contact: poorclares.ie

