

# St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LIMERICK

## Second Sunday after Christmas 3rd January 2016

Pastoral Office: 061 415374, 061 415126  
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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

**No Confessions**  
Tuesday & Thursday

### Feast of the Epiphany

Wednesday 6th January  
Masses  
7.30pm, 8.30pm,  
10.15am, 1.00pm  
& 4.00pm  
**Please note an extra  
Mass at 1.00pm**

### R.I.P.

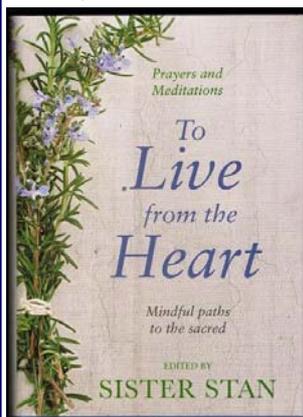
The death occurred recently of Mr. Michael Duff Clareview Limerick on the 19/12/2015. Michael attended the 10.15am Mass every morning and sat in his usual seat at the top left side of the church. He will be greatly missed by all. May he R.I.P.

## BELOW THE SURFACE

January can be a bleak month. When the lights and colours of Christmas come down our towns and cities appear drab and dreary. When stripped of the festive decorations our homes look dismal and cheerless. In the countryside barren landscapes can create desolation in the soul. Emotionally and spiritually many people find themselves in a wilderness of disappointed expectations, anti-climax. Sometimes guilt invades the human spirit, the hangover from eating, drinking and spending too much. Into all those sombre thoughts and feelings we invite Sr. Stan who lifts our spirits with her meditation on the life that stirs in the depths of the garden.

### *A Winter Garden*

In January and February the garden grows in silence, the growth hidden from the gardener's view. There is hardly any colour, other than the browns and greys of soil and stone; there are no scents or sounds, no signs of life. But the gardener knows that there is plenty of invisible activity in the garden. Down under the soil, where the earth is warm, even when frosts harden the ground, the roots are already preparing for spring, life is stirring in the depths. The gardener knows that in spite of the barren aspect of the garden, the spring bulbs are preparing to make their adventure to the world of light. For the gardener, this is a time for planning and looking forward, for dreaming of possibilities and planning the summer garden. The gardener paces the garden in silence and in solitude, seeing what is not yet grown, dreaming of how the garden will look in the coming months, deciding what to put where, thinking about the seeds and the bulbs and their underground activity. This is a time for patience and for taking stock. January and February call us to get in touch with the stillness of our own inner garden, to be patient with ourselves, to appreciate our inner strength and to embrace the seeds of beauty within us. In these months we learn to recognise the busyness of our daily life, where silence may be a stranger.



*To live from the Heart: mindful paths to the sacred Sr. Stan's latest book she reveals how prayer can play an important part in all our lives, lifting our spirits and offering us hope and support in good times and bad. This comforting treasury of mindful meditations, prayers, proverbs and essays has helped to sustain Sister Stan through the years. In sharing them with us, she hopes they will nourish our souls, bring us peace on our journey through life and inspire us to live from the heart.*  
**Available in the Abbey Bookshop €17.95**

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL  
EVANGELII GAUDIUM



## 'Joy of the Gospel' Six Week Course

Beginning Wednesday  
20th January for 6  
Wednesdays  
Limerick Pastoral Centre  
Denmark St,  
Limerick.  
From 7.30pm – 9.00pm  
€10 per evening.  
Book before January 11th  
087 9027217



### GUIDING STAR.

Lost and confused,  
be our guiding star.  
Open our eyes to daily  
epiphanies.  
Reveal your presence to  
us in labyrinthine ways.  
May we find you in  
surprising places,  
with oriental Kings  
bringing gifts.  
Home by another road  
the search goes on.  
L.R.

### Synod Booklet

Our Synod Journey  
resumes on Tuesday 5th  
January at 4.40pm at  
the back of the church  
as we continue to study  
our new booklet on the  
'Acts of the Apostles'

## The Small Beatitudes



Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves;  
they will have no end of fun.  
Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill;  
they will be saved a lot of bother.  
Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses;  
they are on the way to becoming wise.  
Blessed are those who think before acting  
and pray before thinking;  
they will avoid many blunders.  
Above all blessed are you who recognise the Lord in all whom you meet;  
the light of truth shines in your life for you have found true wisdom.

Joseph Folliet

## Augustinian Reflection on entering a New Year

On New Year's Eve some have the "time of their lives". Still, whether we are young or old, the eve of a new year is a good time to think about the times of our lives. The first thing to be said is that our time moves in a straight line. What is past is past and cannot be repeated or changed. What is future is ahead of us and for the most part is hidden from us. We know exactly what happened to us last year (bad and good) and cannot change it. It is part of our history, part of the story of our lives. We do not know what will happen to us in the coming year exactly and we do not have complete control over it. Jesus came into time so that we might not be alone in living out the times of our lives ... past, present, future. He came into our time so that we might live knowing that our past can be forgiven, that he is with us in our present, and that he holds our future in his loving hands.



Donald Burt OSA

## 10 Week Course on the Bible

Join us for a 10 week course and see the bible brought to life:  
Uncover the hidden treasures of the bible  
Can ancient writings like the Old Testament help us in everyday life?  
Become aware of God's love for you and get to know him.

Mass - is Jesus really present? Who is the Holy Spirit?  
Can Mass be meaningful?  
Why do we have readings from the Old Testament,  
New Testament and Psalms? Are the sacraments in the  
bible?

For answers to these questions and more,  
come to our bible course...

Venue: Limerick Pastoral Centre, Denmark Street, Limerick  
Time :7.30pm to 9.00pm

Date: Commencing Monday 18 January, for 10 consecutive Mondays  
For further details, contact Sharon Clohessy 087 9027217  
or Eilish Carter 087 8170420 (after 6pm)

Booking Deadline : Monday 11 January 2016 – Limited places.

Fee: €10 per night.

*"I came so that you could have life and have it to the full"- John 10:10*

