

# St. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH LIMERICK

## 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time 31st July 2016

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## Reek Sunday

### 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

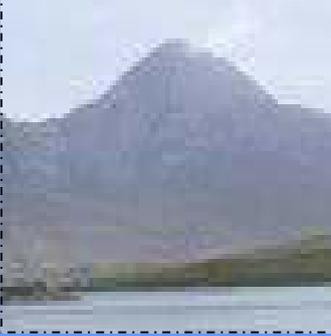
### Confession

Monday, Wednesday  
& Friday

10.45 am – 12.00  
3.00pm – 4.00pm

Saturday  
10.45 am – 12.00  
2.30pm – 4.00pm

## Sacred Mountain



Today thousands of pilgrims will climb Croagh Patrick at a time of declining faith and practice.

What is it about that holy mountain? It continues to attract all age groups out of their comfort zones to take on a demanding penitential exercise. On this "Reek" Sunday, we reflect on this movement against the tide.

The annual Reek Sunday pilgrimage takes place on this the last Sunday in July on Ireland's holy mountain **Croagh Patrick** in the Archdiocese of Tuam.

The pilgrimage will be led by Most Reverend Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam and Most Reverend Charles J. Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland who will deliver the homily for this year's pilgrimage.

This pilgrimage has been carried out uninterrupted for over 1500 years. Croagh Patrick has over 100,000 visitors annually with up to 20,000 making the pilgrimage on Reek Sunday weekend each year. This year's pilgrimage on Sunday 31 July is taking place in the context of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Parishioners from all over Ireland are invited to participate in the pilgrimage.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on the summit from 7.30am and will conclude at 2.00pm. The first Mass on the summit will be celebrated at 8.00am and every half hour after that until the final Mass of the day at 2.00pm

In the Bible, mountains were places of a privileged encounter with a divine presence, places which hosted key moments in the story of God's love for his people. High points like Sinai, Carmel, Horeb, Tabor and Calvary carry spiritual resonances for us. The thousands who toil to the top of Croagh Patrick today have experienced these mountains in the joys and sorrows of their lives. The



view from the top gathers the broken fragments of our lives into a bigger picture. On a clear day you can see forever, away beyond Clew Bay and its multitude of Western Islands. **The journey upwards can become the journey inwards.** Hope is nurtured when you climb for a sick child or to say thanks for a mother's recovery from cancer. For some climbers it is just a challenge, an adventure or another hill walk. They too can find companionship in bare feet, aching limbs and Eucharist at the summit. The experience can continue when you close your fist around a pebble brought home from the sacred mountain. The climbing cudgel can support you on your personal Way of the Cross years later.

## Remembering Nice

The Honorary Consul of France Ms Marie Hackett will be present to receive the Book of Condolence on behalf of the people of Nice at the 4pm Mass next Thursday 4th August. This Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Noel Hession (Prior) and you are all very welcome to attend.



## Wonderful Colour

Well done to the City & County Council for the flower boxes on the railings along the River Shannon, the hanging baskets on the bridges, the flower beds on traffic islands, roundabouts, and the tiered arrangements on O'Connell St. Thank you for all the colour on a grey Summer.



# Pilgrims on the Journey

Reclaimed from a pagan god.  
Patrick wrestling with demons.  
Jim battling with the drink.  
Inflated price of a pilgrim staff.  
Shedding excess baggage.  
Letting go of guilt and recrimination.  
Bleeding feet and mountain rescue.  
By these wounds Margaret is healed.  
The presence of God in the cloud.  
Eucharist celebrated in the mist.  
Place of wider vision.  
Energy for other mountains.  
No longer an island.  
The expanse of Clew Bay.  
The infinity of God's love.

L. Ryan OSA

## Pilgrim Prayer

Lord, remind us that we are a pilgrim people, searchers and seekers, companions on a journey, wounded healers and faith-friends, walking with Jesus to places made holy by his presence. Amen.



## Sunday Reflection

If any lesson were to be learned from the recession, surely it would resemble today's Gospel. Riches are precarious; material security is unstable; dreams of untroubled longevity are soon dispelled by "events." Paradoxically, our experience of life as fickle can take us in quite opposite directions. We might be tempted to plunge ourselves into more enjoyment of the present moment, as St Paul caustically observes: "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." (1Corinthians 15:32 NET) The road less travelled is to become "rich towards God." It still means enjoying and living the present moment, but in a completely different, deeper and ultimately more lasting way.

Prayer :

God of wisdom, help us to see through all that is false yet enticing; be our guide on the path of life.

[www.tarsus.ie](http://www.tarsus.ie)

### Readers this Sunday:

Ms Geraldine Van Dam, Mr. Milo Hurley, Psalm Mr. David Blake

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Ms Geraldine Fitzgerald, Mr. G Williams Ms Anne Williams.