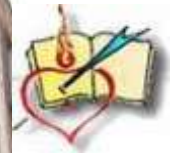


St. Augustine's Church Limerick

2nd Sunday of Advent 10th December 2017

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com



Mass times:

Monday—Friday

7.30am—8.30am—

10.15am— & 4.00pm

Saturday --

8.30am—10.15am—3.00pm

(Mass for the Sick)

Sunday—

9.00am, 11.15 am & 7.30pm

Confession:

Monday & Friday

10.45am—12.00 / 3.00pm-4pm

Saturday —

10.45am—12.00 / 2.30pm-4pm

TAI ZE

Next Prayer Service

Thurs December 14th



Who is this Woman? By Fr. Robert Pelton

*I know that she has brought God into my life, that she loves me
and that I love her*

There was a moment when all of creation held its breath and waited for a young Jewish girl to speak. It was a moment within time, a definite minute on a definite day in a definite year, as the earth spun around the sun and the sun wheeled in its orbit, as kings prepared for war and villagers went about their chores. It was also a moment embracing all time, from the *Word* that called forth the very first morning to the last syllable that will wholly transfigure both heaven and earth.

As Gabriel, the minister of God's light waited in amazement to hear what the girl would say, for an instant all the angels ceased their praises, were still, and waited with him. The world felt itself hanging on her word. All across the world every human ear strained to hear the beating of a single heart, a young Jewish girl's heart. God himself waited for her to speak. Who is she? I know her name. I know what word she breathed into that silence, the world's and God's, and I know what *Word* God breathed into her silence. But who is she?

She was not a conscious part of my childhood. I cannot remember what cold December she first became for me part of the Christmas story. In the churches I went to there were no pictures of her, no statues, probably not even a crèche at Christmas. Her name was never mentioned, not even, I think, the time we were told in Sunday school that the Catholics who worshiped in the church across the street from ours prayed to idols.

Yet we loved Christmas too, we listened to the great Gospel of Christmas: "Now in that day there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. . . ." Even now I can hear her name falling softly through the candle-lit night into my heart. Who did I think she was? I only knew that she was the mother who "gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn."

Much later, I bought my first rosary. It was a difficult time for me, a time when I was struggling to find both God and my own adult self. I didn't know this woman whose beads I was buying, but I felt, I think, that I was arranging a secret meeting with her that I would have to keep. I asked the silent woman whose name I scarcely knew to pray that I might come safely through the darkness inside me to the place where her Son wanted me. She did, and I did. On the night of Easter light three months later as I prepared to come home to the fullness of her Son's Church, I knew that she had led me to him. . I had begun to know that she was my Mother as well as Christ's.



Continued next page.....

World Meeting of Families Icon of the Holy Family

Will visit Limerick.

St. John's Cathedral

11th –13th December

St's Peter & Paul Church

Kilmallock.

14th –16th Dec.

Church of the

Immaculate Conception

Newcastle West

17th –19th Dec

Continued.....

After that great Easter of my rebirth, I have a thousand memories of her. Images of her crowd my heart—pictures, statues, ideas, experiences, moments of silent communion beyond either language or imagination. I was a member now of a family that belonged to her, and she was never far away. Her feasts gave me joy. Her presence beside me at each station of the cross consoled me. The scenes of her rosary shaped my faith deeply.

I was ordained priest on the day that later became the Feast of her Visitation, but it is only now, years later, that I begin to realize how truly she had visited me that day to make it another kind of Christmas for me.

Short excerpt /

full story www.madonnahouse.org

OSA-Lay Forum

Last Sunday at all Masses we read out a letter about the Augustinian –Lay Forum. Which is a group made up of lay people and professed Augustinians trying to plan for the future of our Augustinian churches in Ireland.

Back in 2016 we asked that as we face a future in which the only certainty is that it will be very different, that you would reflect, individually, as groups, as communities-together with or separate from the friars-on and discuss the way forward.

We received a lot of feedback on this and now we want to continue and expand.

This Advent we are offering a series of reflective questions based on the four guiding principles of the Forum. The Advent booklets at the back of the church contain the principals and the suggested reflective questions. We would then hope to form a group from the congregation to meet and discuss this together.

If you are interested in moving forward with us and engaging in this crucial discernment please give your name to any of the community or Charlotte in the Pastoral Office. Thank you for your kind co-operation in this matter!



DOMINICAN TALKS REFORMATION

The Last in the Series
Tuesday December 12th
Theme

The Church—always
in need of Reform

Guest Speaker

Eugene Duffy

Terence Albert Hall

At 7.30pm

Exploring the Advent Readings

With Fr. David Kelly OSA

AUGUSTINIAN PRIORY

(Blue Door Outside)

Monday Dec 11th

At 7.30pm

Come and Join us!

Advent Morning Prayer

Following the recent introduction of the Divine Office (the community prayer of the church) in Caherdavin, Fr. Rob Coffey has now followed up with another new booklet on the Advent prayers.

Join Fr. Rob Monday morning at 9.40am in Christ the King parish Caherdavin.

All are welcome!

St. Augustine's Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

Sunday, 24th December,
9.00am, & 11.15am

Family Mass at 5.00pm

Vigil Mass at 8.00pm.

Christmas Day

Monday, 25th December
Masses at 9.00am, 11.15am.

No evening Mass

St. Stephen's Day

Tuesday 26th December
Mass at 10.15am



Confessions for Christmas
Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd
10.00am – 4.00pm