



Mass Times

Monday -Friday

7.30am, 8.30am,
10.15am, & 4pm

SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am
3.00pm

(Mass for the Sick)

SUNDAY

9.00am, 11.15am
& 7.30pm

CONFESSIONS

MONDAY & FRIDAY

10.45am-12 Noon
3.00pm-4.00pm

SATURDAY

10.45am-12noon
2.30pm-4pm

National Tree Week

This year's theme is about encouraging 'Planting for our Planet'. By doing something as simple as planting a tree everyone can help combat climate change.



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 5th Sunday of Lent

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

7th April 2019

'Gods make their own importance.....'

From the Blog of Fr. Noel Hession in Panama

It becomes pretty clear here, quite quickly, that many of the people here have only a vague idea of where Ireland might be, geographically. Those who can identify it on the map generally think it is part of the United Kingdom. And most people seem to think that Northern Ireland is a completely separate island to the rest of Ireland. Many people ask what type of government we have and, even when I tell them that we are a republic, they presume, because Ireland is so closely linked to Britain in their minds, that we have a Queen, or some sort of royal family. The idea that Ireland has two official languages is entirely surprising to them, and quite a few of them are under the impression that there is an armed conflict going on between the army of the Republic of Ireland and the army of Great Britain.



It's not hard to understand how some of this confusion arises. European news is not reported very much here, and what they "know" about Ireland has been pieced together from snippets they have picked up from different places, with no particular order, and no organising principle.

Mind you, it has also been my experience that most Irish people know very little about Panama. Those who do know something about it know about the Canal and the Panama Hat - but the Panama Hat is actually Ecuadorian.

I think that it is fair to say that most Europeans have only a passing familiarity with Central and South American geography and that current events in the countries of this region are largely unknown among most people in Ireland and other European countries. That Nicaragua is in a state of near collapse; that Venezuela is currently going through an undeclared civil war; and that huge numbers are fleeing hunger and poverty in Cuba are just some of the things that might surprise Europeans who begin to look at this region.

It is therefore surprising that Brexit has become such a familiar word for people here. While it is true to say that most of them have no clear idea of what it is about or about why there is so much fuss about it, it is also true that most Europeans also have a lot of difficulty understanding it. Recent votes in Westminster have made it clear that one clear vision for Brexit just does not exist; the future for Britain's relationship with Europe remains unclear; and what a border in Ireland, whether hard or soft, might come to mean, is anyone's guess.

In an age of instant global communication it is very striking that world-changing events in different parts of the world remain local issues. I am reminded of Patrick Kavanagh's wonderful poem, written 90 years ago, *Epic* - continued next page

Epic by Patrick Kavanagh 1938

I have lived in important places, times
When great events were decided : who owned
That half a rood of rock, a no-man's land
Surrounded by our pitchfork-armed claims.

I heard the Duffys shouting "Damn your soul"
And old McCabe stripped to the waist, seen
Step the plot defying blue cast-steel -
"Here is the march along these iron stones."

That was the year of the Munich bother. Which
Was most important ? I inclined
To lose my faith in Ballyrush and Gortin
Till Homer's ghost came whispering to my mind.
He said : I made the Iliad from such
A local row. Gods make their own importance.

Thought for the Day

The rush to judgment—so evident in our public discourse—is matched only by the resistance to forgiveness. Endlessly, we investigate, accuse, judge. As we all know, what is needed eventually is forgiveness—but where do we find it? In the Christian vision we do not have to carry the burden of our guilt forever precisely —because God in his forbearance had passed over the sins previously committed." (Rom 3:25 NET) In the current idiom, —wædo forgiveness" and so we should!

Prayer God, whose name is mercy, we thank you for your gracious compassion to all. We ask that, as we have received, so we may give and forgive. Amen. www.tarsus.ie

Desert Day in Preparation for Holy Week

A Desert Day will take place in Westbourne, Ashbourne Avenue on Saturday, April 13th from 10.30 to 5.00. The day will give you an opportunity to pause, reflect and pray as we move into Holy Week. The day will take place in the peaceful surroundings of Westbourne Convent. There will be time for quiet prayer, reflection, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and will conclude with the Eucharist.

Booking is essential as places are limited.

For information contact: Sr. Phyllis Moynihan at 087-9636893/ Email: phymoy@yahoo.co.uk

Chrism Mass

Bishop Brendan warmly invites parishioners from across the diocese to join him for the annual Chrism Mass that will take place in St. John's Cathedral on Wednesday of Holy Week (April 17th) at 7.30 pm.



The Chrism Mass is the great annual gathering of the Diocese – lay faithful, religious, priests and Bishop, all gathered in the one Eucharist. Everyone renews their baptismal promises and the priests renew the promises made at Ordination. The sacred oils are blessed. It is always a joyful, moving ceremony of the People of God united with one another around the Bishop.

St. Ambrose commented that every Catholic should try and attend the Chrism Mass at least once in their life. Many attend each year. It is always a beautiful ceremony, celebrating our Diocesan identity, encouraging one another as well as thanking God for the gifts of the sacraments and the gift of priestly ministry.

Cork Autism Conference 2019

Cork Autism Conference 2019 - Autism: No Limits, Just Possibilities, Sunday September 22nd, Silversprings Hotel, Tivoli, Cork. The conference provides a unique forum for Parents, Families, Caregivers, Autistic Adults, Employers, Educators, Professionals, Agencies, Advocates and anyone with an interest in autism. All are welcome. More info here: www.bookwhen.com/autismcork or call 089 239 8900