



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick 9th October 2022

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## 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Harvest Happiness

## Mass Times

Monday-Friday

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

SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am  
Mass for the Sick

3.00pm

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



### St. Augustine's Church

Child Safeguarding  
Representatives.

Fr. Flor O'Callaghan O.S.A.

Fr. John Ling O.S.A.

Ms Geraldine van Dam

Mr. Robert Ryan

Ms Charlotte Gleeson

Mr. John Doyle



The gospel counsel not to let your right hand know what your left is doing is suspended for Harvest Mass in places we know far from here. Likewise any Biblical exhortation to demure behaviour and well-bred restraint. **It's rather the case that the left hand is told to make sure the right hand knows what you're doing and, if possible, provoke it to do better and give more. It's all about thanks. Why**

should gratitude be hidden like a guilty secret?

A bit of competition is good for the coffers.

The offertory procession seems no quicker than a queen's funeral. What it might lack in militaristic precision it makes up by high spirits. The place throbs with music. People of every race and station dance to the altar to offer gifts galore for sprinkling with holy water now and for auction later. Women, in mood as bright as their attire and high as their helicopter headgear, waltz their goods up the long aisle. Professional propriety doesn't allow me de-

scribe how they dance as they do so. Rams, goats and trussed hens are presented at the sanctuary-steps, their loud protests lost in the din of choirs and bands. A bull, led by the nose for'ard and goaded from behind by many handlers gets special attention as he advances reluctantly. A strong man shoulders a big sack of beans and a small child, no less proud, nurses a guinea-fowl's egg. Corn, new wine and oil are there along with the flocks and the herds. No fruit of the earth is alien to this procession saluting the Giver of every good gift.

Nor is the work of (wo)man's hands left out. The bicycle mechanic comes forward twirling a new tyre like a cowboy's lasso over his head. The seamstress brandishes her creation of many colours. Spare-parts dealers proffer car accessories or even essentials, wheel or a battery. New buckets and a toilet bowl are held aloft like Sam Maguire, or should I say Limerick's Liam McCarthy, on the steps of the Hogan Stand. Croke-park-type roars of approval wash over the neighbourhood. The big givers are plainly proud of their generosity and the more numerous purveyors of widow's mites are equally unashamed of their poverty. All are reminded loudly and often of the Pauline assertion that God loves a cheerful giver. In truth such uniform good cheer is seldom seen elsewhere.

A hundred other items go the same way to be sold in afternoon auction to the relatively rich. These loudly and proudly demonstrate their wealth and their support for the church. They vie with each other not for bargains but for extravagant spending. A bottle of beer, a cooked chicken and unrestrained flattery is the reward. They also get assurance, of doubtful value, from a raucous MC, that "your name is written in the Book of Life". The day is the crown on months of work by women, men and committees—a lot of work and some tears. But today is the day of the Church Exuberant. The day of knowing that to be thankful is to be happy. Tomorrow and Tuesday will be time enough to be sober and watchful and to hide from the right hand the good deeds of the left.

**It's all part of the life of the church there. Harvest is a glad time, ground for hope of feeding the family for another year. Is it happy chance or cool calculation that sits Harvest Thanksgiving just beside our season of Creation here and now? No matter, it's a comfortable fit.** J.L.

*They go out full of tears carrying seed for the sowing; They come back full of song carrying their sheaves. Ps .126*

The Men Who Stayed Away



# Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving

At the 11.15am Mass this Sunday we will be thanking God for his overflowing bounty again this year. Our altar will show forth the work of God's hands in the fruits of the earth which our congregations from Brazil, Philippines, Africa, and India, Mexico & South Africa will bring to the altar at our offertory procession. Lets resolve to play our part in care for the earth and together let's celebrate this Harvest Thanksgiving.



## NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS

*Forms and envelopes for the 'November Dead Lists' are now available at the back of the church inside the main doors. You are invited to fill out your list of deceased family members and friends and drop them into the box provided. Special Remembrance Masses will be offered for loved ones at 7.30 am Mass -Monday -Friday and 10.15am Saturday and 9.00 am on Sundays during the month of November.*



# Pointers for Prayer

The cure of the lepers is not just a physical cure, it also brought the people healed back from exclusion into the community. Perhaps you have experienced the movement from exclusion to inclusion. What was it like for you to be accepted once again when you had been excluded?



2. Some people work hard at breaking down barriers in society, seeking inclusion for those who find themselves labelled as lepers by society or by a section of society. Where have you seen this happening? Who has been doing this kind of work? Where is the good news in such action?

3. When we do good for another we may not do it for the thanks we hope to get, but it can hurt when no gratitude is shown. How have you experienced the positive effects of thanks given and received?

### PRAYER

O God, our life, our health, our salvation, look with mercy on your people. Stir up in us a saving faith, that believing, we may be healed, and being healed, we may worthily give you thanks. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Source: [www.tarsus.ie/Sundayreadings/pointers for prayer](http://www.tarsus.ie/Sundayreadings/pointers%20for%20prayer)

# St. Teresa of Avila

We celebrate the Feast of St. Teresa of Avila on Saturday 15th October. Teresa was born in Spain in 1515 and established the Carmelite convents under a reformed rule, and wrote much on prayer and the spiritual life. Patron of lace makers and headache sufferers.



# Let Nothing Disturb You

Let nothing disturb you,  
let nothing frighten you,  
all things will pass away.  
God never changes;  
patience obtains all things,  
whoever has God lacks nothing.  
God alone suffices. Amen.

St. Teresa of Avila

Meet at Cratloe Gate

Creation Reflection Day

Join the Augustinian Group  
Sunday 23rd Oct at 2pm

For a Walk at Cratloe Forest

PUBLIC LECTURE:  
Credible Christian  
Communication Today

Followed by the launch of *Lights for the Path*  
by John Sullivan (Veritas, 2022)

The book will be launched by  
BISHOP BRENDAN LEAHY



Wednesday, 12 October 2022 at 7.30 p.m.  
G10, Foundation Building, Mary Immaculate College,  
South Circular Road, Limerick V94 VN26

All welcome. To register please email [ian.hickey@mic.ul.ie](mailto:ian.hickey@mic.ul.ie)

✦ VERITAS