



## 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 Lyng O.S.A.

Ms Geraldine van Dam

Mr. Robert Ryan

Ms Charlotte Gleeson

Mr. John Doyle



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick 4th December 2022

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## 2nd Sunday of Advent

### A Rough Way

John the Baptist wore the camel-hair coat but never became an icon of the catwalk. Instead of following his lead the fashion establishment demanded and got his head on a plate. They **didn't even bother** *casting lots for his robe*. Just held their noses and buried it with him. It was, no doubt, a garment without frills; mottled, rough, neither furry nor fragrant **But fashion wouldn't be fashion if it didn't change and change again.** A few years back Ralph Lauren put camel-hair coats on sale, price \$4,900 each, and what do you think happened? **Ralph's army of acolytes couldn't skin or shave camels fast enough to meet the demand.** The sold-out signs went up in Milan, New York, Paris.

Judging by today's gospel, John, the great voice of Advent, would have less in common with designers of *haute couture* than with desert nomads. We know a place where their lifestyle might differ little from John's. Likewise the dangers listed elsewhere by Isaiah are to them present dangers. Locusts, if too many, are as a biblical plague; billions of them swarming, blotting out the sun and stripping the land of all that is good. If manageably few, these locusts make a good meal. Wild honey is a treat, obtained with the help of smoke from wren-like nests suspended in the dry vegetation. Cobras and vipers are there and as soon as seen are dealt summary justice by a **people reared on the wisdom "strike before you're struck."** Lions aren't there any more but strong-jawed and stronger-smelling hyenas are good substitutes. They howl by night, lost souls sending out some message we don't get as they advance towards their next meal. To fend them off the sheep and goats are corralled behind stockades of thorn cactus and desert scrub guarded by machete-wielding men who could not be called squeamish. Wolves too are rare now but their work among lambs is carried on with no less enthusiasm by a variety of wild dogs.

With John, what we call celebrity went the same way as fashion. Many things are built around a person, or an image of a person that has been impressed upon us. A message is attached and the messenger is glorified. And the same messengers are reluctant to walk away from microphone or camera long after the applause has petered out. If anyone ever resisted temptation to cash in on the cult of personality, John the Baptist did. He handed in his resignation with unmistakable clarity when the time came. *The one who follows me is more powerful than I am. And I am not fit to carry his sandals.* We all have our place and John knew his.

When dealing with the men of influence John didn't soften his robust style of diplomacy; *Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming.* He was still roaring repentance as the nest of snakes slithered from the burning grass.

At all times in all places there have been a glimpses of Isaiah's Ideal land with innocence in charge and erstwhile enemies living, eating and resting together. But, it's a big but, another vision looms over us. Our world is pockmarked by irruptions of war, famine, narcissistic power and cruelty.

Smaller concerns irk the lives of many who are blessedly distant from the theatres of greater horror. Meanwhile many things prevent our own church giving the comfort it once might do. We're well ready for Advent.  
J.L.



## Christmas Family Mass

We are happy this year to see the return of our Family Mass at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, a convenient time for children and families. This will be a child friendly celebration which includes the creation of a Nativity Scene with full participation of the children in the various parts of the Christmas Story. Children are invited to come at 4pm for a short rehearsal beforehand. All are welcome.



**Saturday 24th December at 5pm**  
**St. Augustine's Church**

### Time Apart with God'

Advent Retreat in the Redemptorists. Saturday 3rd December, 10am to lunch time. Join in person at the Redemptorist's Church, or on the webcam, for a few hours to enter into the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas. The retreat starts with Mass at 10.00am and concludes at lunch time. The retreat will be facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan RSM & Anne McCarthy RSM. The webcam address is: <http://www.novena.ie/web-cam>

## St. Augustine's Church Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday 8th December

**Holy Day  
Masses:**

**7.30am, 8.30am,  
10.15am**

**1.00pm & 4.00pm**



## The Twelve Cribs of Christmas

On the notice board at the back of the church are posters of a booklet produced for families who may wish to use the days of Christmas to view some of the cribs of Limerick (ones open throughout the week, please check online for opening times). Each stop has a focal point and a specific prayer. You can take pictures of the posters and put them on your phone and enjoy a nice family day out over Christmas and New Year!

## Concert in Abbeyfeale

The very popular group *Celtic Brothers*, formally known as the *Willoughby Brothers* will give a Christmas Concert in Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Abbeyfeale on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. The concert will begin at 7.30pm. All funds raised at this concert will go towards St Ita's Hall, Abbeyfeale Parish Resource Centre.

Tickets for the show can be booked by ringing 089 – 4314765. For Video Clips of Celtic Brothers and more information on the show log on to [www.abbeyfealeparish.ie](http://www.abbeyfealeparish.ie)

## Season of Advent Desert Day Time Apart with God



Saturday 10th December 2022  
10.30am – 5pm



Venue: Limerick Diocesan Centre, St. Munchin's, Corbally, V94 9250  
Donation: €20



Step aside from the ordinary into the lovely surroundings of Limerick Diocesan Centre for a one-day Advent Retreat. The day takes place in an atmosphere of silence with reflections, guided meditations, prayer and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day will conclude with the celebration of the Eucharist.

Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea/Coffee/ Snacks provided. The retreat will be facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan RSM and Sharon Callagy. Booking is essential as places are limited. Contact Phyllis at 087 963 6893 or email: [moynihanphyllis525@gmail.com](mailto:moynihanphyllis525@gmail.com)

THEOLOGY ON TAP  
7.30PM @ BOBBY BYRNES  
FR. RAPHAEL OKANUMEH  
Daring To Be Different  
FINGER FOOD PROVIDED  
Contact [Vocations@limerickdiocese.org](mailto:Vocations@limerickdiocese.org)  
for more information

## TAIZE at Advent

Join us again this Thursday as we come into a candlelit environment with music from Taize, helping us to meditate and dwell deeply on God's presence around and within us. Beginning at 4.35pm in St. Augustine's Church.