



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## 18th December 2022

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# 4th Sunday of Advent



As we will have no newsletter next Sunday Christmas Day we would like to take this opportunity to

Thank you for all your support and prayers throughout the year.

We wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a safe & blessed New Year.

The Augustinian  
Community  
Limerick



**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



## Candle in the Window

At sunrise next Wednesday, 21st December—weather permitting—a shaft of light will penetrate the burial chamber at Newgrange, Co. Meath. This has been happening for thousands of years on the shortest day of the year, the Winter solstice. A privileged few will witness this awesome event within the passage itself. It will be relayed to the world through a multiplicity of media images. In deepest darkest Winter our ancestors celebrated the return of the light in our Northern Hemisphere. Hope dawned into the inner recesses of a tomb foreshadowing Resurrection.

Thousands of years before Christ a people who walked in darkness saw a great light from Newgrange to the twilight days of the Old Testament, from the Irish Candle in the window to the gathering light of the Advent candles. All of human history has been illuminated by that Event which took place in a stable over 2,000 years ago.



The lighting of a Christmas Candle in your home puts you in touch with the heart of the Festive Season and all its layers of spirituality and religion.

## Journey Inward

The journey inward which Augustine invites us to make is a kind of homecoming. For Augustine, the heart is not the place of emotions but the place of richest, deepest thought and peace. It is the centre of our being, where we are totally ourselves, our deepest selves. In allowing ourselves to wander outside, we loose touch with ourselves.

'Why do you want to drift so far away from yourself?' he asks.  
'Turn back from your idle wandering. Return to your Lord. He is waiting. You have become a stranger to yourself. You do not recognise yourself. And you seek for Him who created you!' If we are a long way from ourselves, he is saying, how can we come near to God?

To return is to find our true home, to find our paradise on earth.

**This is a bold promise. But Augustine's reason for making it is that when we journey inward it is not just our true self that we find. We find God who has made his home within us.**



Benignus O'Rourke O.S.A.

## Prayer at the Crib



The Word Was Made Flesh'  
(Gospel of John)

As I come before this crib  
Draw me into this circle of adoration  
Help me to take on the wonder of the shepherds

**Lead me to 'the wonder child' within me**

Bless my heart with memories of childhood cribs  
Hold me open to the miracle  
of divinity in the straw.

Take me into the surrender in Faith  
Give me eyes to see Immanuel, the God  
Who is with us in swaddling clothes.

Nurture me with the love of Mary and Joseph  
Minister to my pain and my doubt through  
the humility of the shepherds.

Help me to hear the song of peace in my heart.  
Bring me to a place of healing,  
into a still centre, into a prayer  
that is deeper than words.

Amen



## Christmas at St. Augustine's Christmas Eve Saturday December 24th

Masses: 8.30am & 10.15am  
Family Mass 5.00pm  
Vigil Mass 8.00pm

## Christmas Day Sunday December 25th

Masses: 9.00am, & 11.15am  
No evening Mass

## St. Stephen's Day Monday December 26th

Masses 10.15am & 4.00pm

## Confessions

Monday 19th Dec & Tuesday 20th Dec  
10.45am –12.00 Noon /3.00pm –4.00pm

Wednesday 21st –Saturday 24th  
10.00am –4.00pm



## Mass Times after Christmas

Tuesday 27th Dec  
Masses: 10.15 & 4.00pm

Wednesday 28th Dec 10.15am & 4.00pm

Thursday 29th Dec: 10.15am & 4.00pm

Friday 30th December:  
10.15am & 4.00pm

### Saturday 31st Dec / New Year's Eve

Masses 10.15am &  
3.00pm Mass of the Sick

### Sunday 1st January /New Year's Day

Masses: 9.00am & 11.15am  
No evening Mass

Monday 2nd January 2023  
Masses: 10.15am & 4.00pm

Confessions Resume  
Monday 9th Jan



Parade of Lanterns: Join Lumen Street Theatre for an evening of festive fun on a twilight lantern parade on Limerick's merry medieval streets on Sunday 18th December from 5pm—7pm starting at the Potato Market, Merchant's Quay Limerick. Source: what's on in Limerick.ie



Christmas Carol Service : The Christmas Civic Carol Service will take place this Sunday evening **18th December at St. Mary's Cathedral** at 7 pm. A traditional candlelit service led by the Dean of the Cathedral with readers representing the rich and varied life of Limerick City. Admission Free. Source: What's on in Limerick.ie



## Carols by Candlelight

Knock Basilica

Sunday 18th Dec 8.00pm

'watch' section of the Knock shrine website/also facebook page