



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

1st January 2023

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Mass Times

Regular Mass times
resume Tues 3rd Jan

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

Resume Jan 9th 2023

MONDAY & FRIDAY

10.45am-12 Noon
3.00pm-4.00pm

SATURDAY

10.45am-12noon
2.30pm-4pm

World Day of Peace

Pope Francis has released his message for the World Day of Peace to be celebrated on the 1st January 2023 and recalls that all crisis are interconnected and that we must not forget any of them, but work for the good of humanity.

'No one can be saved alone'. Combating Covid19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'. With this as its title Pope Francis has presented his message for the 56th World Day of Peace held annually on the 1st January.

The Holy Father's message opens with a quotation from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-2

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Thus the Pope recalls that the apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonian community **to remain steadfast. 'Likewise he says, when tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives we are called to keep our hearts open and to trust in God who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness and above all guides our path'.**

There is light even in our darkest hour, says Pope Francis before going on to use Covid 19 pandemic as an example.

This experience has made us all the more aware of the need for everyone, including **peoples and nations, to restore the word "together" to a central place in our lexicon.** Only the peace that comes from a fraternal and disinterested love can help us overcome personal, societal and global crises.

Brief excerpt taken from www.vaticannews.va by Francesca Merlo



We are not Alone

From our first beginnings our great desire is never to be left alone. In the beginning we are encased in the nourishing womb of a mother who loves us but then suddenly we are cast out into a world of robed strangers. Perhaps the reason we are born crying is that we sense that we have lost our nurturing companion. In the **bright light of the delivery room we sense that "we are on our own" and our tears do not cease until we are embraced again in the warm arms of those who care about us.**



They hand us over to our mother and though we now perceive **that we are "outside" her we begin to understand that she still wishes to nourish us and be with us during the new frightening experience of facing the world.** The revelation that the coming of Jesus Christ brought to this world is simply this: **We are not Alone! We are not "on our own" as we struggle through the ups and downs of our lives.**

D. Burt OSA

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



Reflection on Today's Reading

Read: God teaches Moses and Aaron the formula for blessing in God's Name. In and through Mary, the blessing takes flesh and lives among people. Shepherds receive and witness to the blessing incarnate.

Reflection: The year begins with the message of blessing. God's blessing comes to us through the mediation of people around-us like the instrumentality of Moses, Aaron, and Mary. We are, in turn, called to be carriers of this blessing into the lives of others-like the shepherds did. Am I ready to be a conduit of God's blessing?

Pray: Baby Jesus, bless me and make my life a blessing for the people around me.

Act: On this first day of a new year, bless the members of your family /community using the formula of blessing given by the Lord .

Source: Bible Diary 2017 Jan 1st /Fr. P. Veliyannoor Lectio Divina



May the Lord bless you and keep you!
May the Lord let his face shine on you
and be gracious to you!
May the Lord look kindly on you ,
And give you his peace !

In that way shall they put my name on
the people of Israel and I will bless them.

Letting Go

The transition from one year into another is a form of pilgrimage, a time of reflection and review, the highlights and lowlights of the previous twelve months, letting go of the past and embracing the uncertainty of the future. When we bring a dimension of faith to all these feelings the personal journey is different. Belief brings us to a place that is deeper than darkness and pain. Trust and hope in God provide courage as we face into a new year. A wise philosopher once said "The past is history, the future is mystery and the present is gift. That is why we call it the present".



The Augustinian Community wish you a happy, peaceful and safe New Year.

Thank You

We would to thank all those who prepared the church for Christmas. The Advent Wreath, the Crib, the volunteers who decorated the Christmas Tree and prepared the Family Mass. To all our musicians, singers and choir members who participated at the Masses over Christmas. To our florist, our Sacristan, our Readers and Eucharistic Ministers and our wonderful staff at the Abbey Bookshop. To all these and the many more who help behind the scenes and support us in ministry throughout the year thank you. Finally to all our loyal friends and congregations here and across the globe thank you for your generous support throughout the year.



Prayer

Lord, the light I choose to let into my life today is based on my hope in you.
It is a small flame,
but I believe that it can dispel a bit more darkness today.
For it is through us
that Christ's light will shine
in the midst of the struggles
and cares of the world.

Let your Light Shine

