



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick 8th January 2023

website: [www.augustinianslimerick.com](http://www.augustinianslimerick.com)  
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## 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



## The Baptism of the Lord

A beautiful painting by the Italian 15<sup>th</sup> century artist Piero della Francesca is the Baptism of Christ. It is a marvel of harmony, balance and composition. Many of the great medieval artists were theologians in art – della Francesca, in his Baptism painting, is exploring the central mystery of Christian faith – the total fusion of the human and divine. The painting is a theological triumph. It has caught, in art expression, the moment the Holy Spirit bursts through the humanity of Jesus in visible form. John is baptising Jesus in the river Jordan and there is an incredible shimmering, translucent whiteness enveloping the body of Jesus; the same whiteness catches other figures in the painting and nearby tree. Directly above Jesus we see the Dove descending and we can almost hear the voice of the Father: "This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". The mystery of Bethlehem, the Infant who somehow is God, at last begins to show itself. The very first effect of the Baptism in Jesus is that the Spirit drives Jesus into the desert – where He spends 40 days; 40 days in which Jesus takes upon Himself His Divinity - He owns his divinity, reflects on it, becomes more and more at one with the Father in his human nature. The process is all-consuming, takes a long time (40 days) in which he barely eats and when the process is completed he is exhausted in his humanity and ideal subject for the temptations that now encompass him.



At the core of the Baptism of Jesus is activity of Divine Spirit. John the Baptist had declared to questioners that he was not the Christ: his baptism was of water but **Christ's baptism would be of water and the Spirit** –of a different order altogether. The wonder: each of us has within us those same divine stirrings that lay hidden in Jesus for 30 years : the Spirit. There is a human restlessness within us. The greatest calamity of our times is the smothering, blocking out, total ignorance of the divine within us. Surely after Christmas festivities we can readily acknowledge that all the earthly substitutes and enticements dangled persistently in front of us cannot ever satisfy our much greater human longings for satisfaction of our inner personalities, our minds, our souls, our hearts. We are afraid to believe that more is possible. The 19th century French writer Anais Nin wrote: " And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight inside the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom". **May our day dawn for us.**

# WINTER GOD

God of Hope

In the darkness of these Winter days  
keep the promise of Spring  
alive in my heart.

In the wilderness, hold me open  
to the hope of new life.

Give me an awareness of bulbs  
awakening from their Winter sleep,  
life stirring in the darkness of the earth.

In the dark places of my own spirit  
help me to notice the seeds of  
'resurrection'.

Give me time and space to reach down  
into the soil of my own existence.

Show me how to nurture  
the roots of faith and love  
in the desert places of my life.

Amen L.R



Stand outside this evening. Look at the stars.  
Know that you are special and loved  
by the One who created them.

**Introduction to Philosophy & Meditation**  
Philosophy can give us a greater sense of perspective on life. It can simplify, clarify and enrich our lives. Join our in-person classes in Philosophy and Meditation for our 10 week course starting Monday 16th Jan beginning 7.30pm at the Redemptorist Community SCR, Limerick. **Reduced fee of €49. All are welcome. Also available online via Zoom (shorter course).** Book on line at..... [PRACTICALPHILOSOPHY.IE](http://PRACTICALPHILOSOPHY.IE) . More details on the notice board at the back of the church.

Join us for this action packed historical talk  
at St Saviour's Dominican parish hall

*Cats, Kings and Mongolian Adventures- Preachers stories from Medieval Limerick*

Fr Conor McDonough, O.P.

Wednesday 11th Jan at 7.30pm

Retiring collection for St Saviour's roof repairs

## SPIRIT AND SOUL HOLIDAY

A unique 4 night Holiday at Knock House Hotel, exploring heritage, faith and culture. Arrive Sunday, depart Thursday, Bed & Breakfast, Dinner and full itinerary included. Holiday leader is James Kilbane. 5-9 March, 18-22 June, 22-26 October. €335 pp. Contact booking 094 9388088. More details on the notice board at the back of the church. No single supplement available.

## Blood Donor Clinic



Sunday 8th Jan 11.15am—3.00pm

Monday 9th Jan 4.15pm -7.30pm

Greenhills Hotel, Caherdavin

Clinic by appointment only

Phone 1800 222111



## 'Yellow Ribbon Remembrance Mass'

Limerick Thomond Rotary Club  
will hold their special  
'Yellow Ribbon' Remembrance Mass  
on Thursday 12th January  
at 4.00pm in St. Augustine's Church.  
All are welcome!

## Let your Light Shine

