

## Sunday of the Word of God



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## 22nd January 2023

### 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

## Go Tell Tales Tall and True

They were fishermen –Today's Gospel

John Bitter, a fisherman, said his kind tell so many tall tales that, with re-telling, they often come to believe the story themselves. "They all lie, except maybe you and me, and I have my doubts about you," he said.

The belief that truth for the fisherman is elastic is based on the *tall tale*. One such may relate the gigantic size of a fish that got away and another tell the wonderful thriving of one caught and eaten—gaining pounds every time its capture is retold.

I met a fisherman with a tale stranger still, not of one that got away but of himself being taken away. He fished in Lake Tchad, a mass of water partitioned into the ownership of four countries - near neighbours and not always neighbourly. Patrolling armies try to ensure that invisible borders are not crossed. Sometimes bullets fly across the waves while peaceful fish glide through their ancient home below, blissfully careless of borders hard or soft. After one day's fishing in his own country's segment my informant decided not to row back to the shore but beached instead on one of the lake's many islands. He roasted a couple of sprats for his supper and lay down in peace to sleep the sleep of the exhausted just, lake water lapping his lullaby under unclouded stars. He woke up to hullabaloo and hostile hullabaloo at that. Looking up he saw three soldiers of a foreign power. Foreign and, the rifles trained on him suggested, not friendly. A brave man but not a fool, he opted for diplomacy. With warm insincerity he told the visitors they were welcome and enquired after the health of their noble selves and their families. In a way, it worked; they didn't shoot him. When they let him stand up he was soon convinced, by reference to landmarks ashore, that he was in their country and not his own. The poor man was bewildered by this news of unconscious night-shift and it took him some time to understand. His treacherous island, without even a referendum of its sole inhabitant, had executed its own version of Brexit during the night and withdrawn from Nigeria. Just pushed off to Cameroon carrying my man and towing his little boat. Such floating islands are common there. A matted mass of reeds collects some of the millions of tons of dry-season dust blown south from the Sahara along with seeds that sail on the same wind. Irrigation below and sun above bring lush vegetation. The seasonal cycle repeats the process and a substantial island is accumulated. A current or a wind or God knows what unknown force can send it on its way at any time.

The lifestyle of fishing folk is far from stable. They depend on that free grace of God called fish. And, like Peter, they're mindful of the danger of going down. Maybe that's why Jesus took on so many of them as his agents. All that along with the most obvious reason of all: He knew they would be able to tell well a tale tall and true. That was the job he had for them: spread the word.



### 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



J. LYNG

# Sunday of The Word of God

St. Luke tells us that, just before his Ascension, the Risen Lord appeared to the apostles, and broke bread with them. **'He then opened their minds to understand the Scriptures'(24:45). This is how Pope Francis begins his apostolic letter, *Aperuit illis*, issued 30th Sept 2019, the feast of St. Jerome, instituting the Sunday of the Word of God.**

The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim:

**'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ'. At the end of the Year of Mercy Pope Francis had proposed setting aside` a Sunday given entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people. The third Sunday in ordinary time ( this year 22nd Jan 2023) is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.**

Source: Excerpt from the Liturgical Calendar 2023 Pg50



## DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE 2023

RDS DUBLIN  
SATURDAY 18TH FEB.  
Fr. Chris Alar & Fr. Jim Blount

Bus Leaves: Temple Gate (Ennis) 07.00am,  
Finnegan's- Castletroy (Limerick) 07.40am,  
Kickham Street (Nenagh) 08.10am.  
Bus returns 8.00pm

**Cost €80 for Bus and day ticket  
€40 deposit towards the €80 to secure seat.**

Contact and booking details on the Notice Board  
at the back of the church

## Reflection on Today's Readings

Read: God takes away the anguish and darkness from amidst the people of Israel. Paul begs of Corinthians to get rid of their rivalries in the name of Christ. Jesus invites people to conversion of heart. He calls apostles to share in his ministry.

Reflect: Anguish, divisions, rivalries, darkness, and shadow of death are realities of human life. We cannot get over them by our own singular efforts. **It is God's grace that heals us of our brokenness and effects conversion of hearts.** Having received such grace, we are called upon to collaborate with God to bring His grace into the lives of others.

Pray: Lord make me a channel of your grace.

Act: Share your Christ-experience with someone who seems to be in darkness.

Source: Bible Diary 2017 Lectio Divina Fr. P. Veliyannoor.



## R.I.P.

Sadly last Sunday we lost a very dear friend of St. Augustine's **Benny Barrett RIP. Benny was a familiar face at 9am Sunday Mass distributing the newsletters for many years.**

He was always busy with jobs that needed attention in the church and Priory and extended that to maintaining these same areas outside too! A kind, humble man with a big smile and caring nature will be greatly missed because he made a difference and brought the light of Christ into the lives of all whom he met. R.I.P.

## Glenstal Retreats

Opening to the Divine Light  
Exploring the Transfiguration  
with the Monks of Glenstal  
10am -5pm

Saturday 11th February 2023

**Suggested donation €70**

Lunch & refreshments provided  
[events@glenstal.com](mailto:events@glenstal.com) /061621005

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS  
FROM GALILEE TO JERUSALEM

Take the TRIP of a LIFETIME  
to the HOLY LAND,  
29th August-8th Sept. 2023.

Group Leader, Mícheál de Barra and Spiritual  
Director, Fr. John Newman (Scripture Scholar). In  
association with Premier Travel, Contact Mícheál at  
086-8337681 or email [info@carpediemtours.ie](mailto:info@carpediemtours.ie)  
(See also our website: [www.carpediemtours.ie](http://www.carpediemtours.ie))

**St.Valentine's Celebration**  
Come and celebrate your love and romance in  
the Augustinian Church .  
Receive a blessing for your journey.  
Talk about not only your wedding,  
but your marriage plans.  
Meet other engaged couples on the journey  
with you over a cuppa.  
Have your engagement ring blessed  
Children of couples are also  
welcome. Date to be  
announced shortly.  
Watch the  
Space !

