



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

29th January 2023
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

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

The Springs of Brigid

We have a bank holiday next week, with some ambiguity as to whether it's for St Brigid of Kildare or Brigit, Celtic goddess—the latter a construct amenable to the whatever-you're-having-yourself brand of godliness or spirituality.

The well-known, even fashionable, church of St Bride in Fleet Street, London comfortably invokes the Kildare woman:

Our association with St Bride (St Brigid of Kildare) may date back to the sixth century. Ours is the only church on the east side of England to bear this dedication. (St Bride's Website).

A church of St Bride, seven times built anew, has stood there for nearly 1500 years, named it is thought by a group of Celts to honour St Brigid. The spring that watered them, St Bride's Well, gave name to many institutions down the centuries. But it's not for a drink of water you'd visit the Bridewell in Cork, Dublin, Leeds or London - to help the police with their enquiries, more likely. Why so? Around 1000 years after the first Celt filled a pot at Brigid's spring Henry V111 built Bridewell Palace there. A hospital followed and a prison. This gaol became a model for others, called 'bride-wells'.

Back to Ireland. She is credited with the "church of the oak" or cill dara, and so we have Kildare. Her knack, already seen in London, of giving her own name to places ran wild in Ireland. Her stamp is on wells, rivers, streets and schools; on townlands and parishes — Manorkilbride and Ballybride along with Tubberbride, Templebreedys, Kilbrides and Kilbreedys, maybe in hundreds.

In a stained-glass window over the altar of the Augustinian-run parish church in Meath Street, Dublin, Brigid stands between St Joseph and Laurence O'Toole. In Dublin that's the best of company. A strong woman with a shepherd's crook on her arm and a writing quill in her hand: crosier for her pastoral authority as Abbess and quill for learning. When she died someone saw in what she left behind "a cathedral city and school that became famous all over Europe". Her cross, that symbol evocative of wheel-spokes or swastika, was the first emblem of RTE but didn't survive whatever winds of enlightenment blew there in recent years.

I'm not claiming Brigid dipped that quill to write precisely these words attributed to her;

*I would like the angels of Heaven to be among us, An abundance of peace,
Full vessels of charity, Rich treasures of mercy.*

I would like cheerfulness to preside over all. I would like Jesus to be present.

I would like the three Marys of renown to be with us.

I would like a great lake of beer for the King of Kings.

I would like to be watching Heaven's family drinking it through all eternity.

but they do call up someone of confident faith and generous hospitality. Brigid was that. You'd hear fellows boasting of drinking rakes of pints or rakes of beer. St Brigid is the only one I've seen praying for lakes of it..

J. LYNG



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



Thought for the Day

Who doesn't want to be happy? As St. Augustine writes, "all persons want to be happy; and no persons are happy who do not have what they want." (De beata vita 2.10) Augustine knows that



is not so simple: having what and how do we keep it so that we don't lose it? The question really becomes what do I desire? In the final analysis, there is a hunger of the human heart for God, often recognised only slowly, and a hunger for goodness and virtue, also a slow conversion. In God, we find a source of happiness which nothing can take away; in virtuous living, chiefly seeking the good of others, we come to our true fulfilment and contentment.

Prayer: God our true happiness, help us recognise our need of you that we may be blessed in your kingdom. Amen.

Source: www.tarsus.ie/ Sunday readings

Feast of St. Brigid

Wednesday 1st February is the Feast of St. Brigid. Hand-made Crosses will be available on the day and all proceeds going to support AMURT.org orphanage and school in Haiti.

Prayer to St. Brigid

Saint of Ireland.
Flame of Welcome
Woman of Wisdom.
Generous One.
With your Cross, protect our homes
Convert our hearts, heal our sick.



Herald of Spring, awaken new life.
Warm my spirit.
Nourish Easter hope.
Bountiful Source, multiply God's gifts.
Feed the poor. nurture our hunger.

Bless Ireland.
Re-ignite the fire.
Gather us in faith.
Open our doors. open our hearts.
Turn strangers into friends,
Houses into homes,
Sceptics into believers,
Death into life. Amen.



Augustinians on the Synodal Pathway

Following last Sunday's request to reflect on who we are as Church, what we stand for and how we might give it expression in the future, we are setting up an email address to gather your thoughts reflections and ideas. This is the beginning of a journey for the Augustinian Church in Limerick and the road is easier and lighter with good company, so please join us.



While we reflect, we would also like to let you know about events that are being led and initiated by lay people. The first event is online. We will be meeting with other Christians from both North and South and we will be led in reflection and prayer for the next four Mondays at 11am for 30 minutes, starting on Monday 30th January.

We are looking for people to help us to organise the Service of Blessing for engaged couples. We would encourage you to join us in preparing this special event. Many skills are required to make this event meaningful, some do involve public ministry, but we also need people to work in the background, so please don't be shy. We would love to see some new faces.

Our email address is.....
searchauglim1@gmail.com

Please send your responses to this address, which will be monitored frequently.

COME & JOIN US IN

CELEBRATING ST. BRIGID

*A woman of faith;
friend of the poor*

*Springtime;
a call to renewal*

*God is doing something
new among us now*

Lá Le Bríde



Wednesday, February 1, 2023, 6 pm

Limerick Diocesan Centre, St. Munchin's College



'The Letter'

You are invited to a **screening of the film 'The Letter'** in Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road, Limerick in Lecture Theatre T117 on Wednesday, 1st February at 6.00pm **on to mark St Brigid's Day** and to launch Interfaith Harmony Week.

This superb film is about the letter Pope Francis wrote to every human being about caring for the environment. This film is a must-see and will be followed by a short panel discussion.

