



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12th February 2023

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com
email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

Finishing Post

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

Coming here from Dublin you pass by *The Race of The Black Pig* after Naas. You **didn't know? Take note of it the next time. It's an art installation** two furlongs long, created by Dan George.

Roadside art flourishes in Ireland and contemplating it to your right and left when your eye should be on the road ahead can be tricky. You drive past images of bulls, cows, sheep, deer, birds, horses, hounds and rabbits; all more or less recognisable as what it says on the tin. Ask your young child **what's that and there's a good chance she'll get it** right. Even the sculpture presiding over the Croom by-pass doesn't hide all its secrets. But many other installations will leave you scratching your head. The *Black Pig* remains in something of a poke as far as the ordinary passerby is concerned.

Many versions of *giant standing stones*, natural or made, watch over wayfarers. In artist **Dan's hands they become a few dozen aluminium posts with fritters of St Brigid's** crosses on top. He says *It is for each viewer to discover my intentions or to discover images from their imagination and visual associations.*

In this quest, visual association brings some of us back to vaguely similar constructs on a hillside above the ring road of a city we lived in years ago. A line of big hardwood railway sleepers stood there. Vertical. On many a Saturday that natural amphitheatre was crowded and artistic appetite is not what drew them. When the fans, their behaviour showed them to be so, had assembled screaming sirens announced the arrival of police and prison lorries. Excitement rose. Men were led out and tied to the stakes. A priest went along the line to hear last requests and if possible promise to honour them. Then all was ready and firing squads did their job with varying despatch but ultimate efficiency. It would be no surprise if some of the executed were less guilty than others - **I'm not competent to go into that. What's intriguing, troubling, is the multitude's appetite** to see others so horribly punished, an appetite not confined to that time or place. A prominent Irishman recently said "there's a great desire for heads on plates, blood on walls and guts on the floor." Always other people's heads, blood and guts; never of me or mine. If we are minded to look we will see news of loosely legal execution and **mutilation any day. As for what we hear of that side of the internet, we'll let it stay in the dark.**

What are we to make of Jesus' talk today "cut it off" and "pluck it out."? We never see him telling a person to do this. Nor do we see him permitting anyone to do it to someone else. And wasn't it he who said "let him who has no sin throw the first stone." By hyperbolic language, extravagant and obvious exaggeration, as I might say my feet are killing me, he's conveying the importance of choosing between good and bad; updating the advice of the first reading "He has set before you fire and water, life and death: put out your hand to whichever you prefer."
J.L.



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 Today

It is clear already in the Old Testament that it is not our misdeeds which accuse us before God, but our hearts, fractured and divided as they are. Consistent with Israelite teaching, Jesus insists that we go deeper than our external deeds. The important question is what is going on in our hearts, the source of inner thoughts and motivations? The teaching is presented using various examples, presented sometimes with great simplicity, other times with irony and wit.



Prayer: O God, you read our hearts and you know us even better than we know ourselves. Let us trust your knowledge of us and your call to true conversion of heart, for you desire only our good that we may be both whole and holy.

Source: www.tarsus.ie /Sunday readings

SUPPORT FAIRTRADE

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT takes place 27 Feb – 12 Mar 2023. Farmers in the developing world are experiencing the effects of climate change ie drought or floods. This can mean low yields or none. They are doing their best to work with these changing conditions but it is a struggle.

What can you do? LOOK for the Fairtrade logo. When you buy tea, coffee, cocoa, chocolate etc. With this logo you provide a farming family in the developing world with a fair price for their product so they can live with dignity. There will be a display stand at the back of the church with more information from Monday Feb 27th, so do drop by and enter the draw for the Fairtrade Hamper. <https://www.fairtrade.ie/climate-change>



A big thank you to all those, on the Feast of St. Brigid who supported the stand at the back of the church with hand made Crosses. The amount donated was €1,204.85 all of which will go to AMURT.org supporting their work in Haiti.

Synodal Pathway

Last week, from 5 to 12 February, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, along with thirteen other delegates from across Ireland, attended the first ever European Assembly of a Synod within the Catholic Church, in Prague, Czechia. This is one of seven continental assemblies convening across five continents in a new stage of the universal Synodal Process. The address delivered by Julieann Moran and Father Éamonn Fitzgibbon on behalf of the Irish delegation, can be found at this link.....

<https://youtu.be/P4yw0dBmYsU?list=PLUVStqVxXXVIDgvOhz18LIPRJ-w7EDE5E>

Source: excerpt taken from www.catholicnews.ie / more information at www.catholicbishops.ie /

Please Talk to Us!!

You will remember that we invited you to engage with us on these topics: 'What is Church', 'What can I do for the Church?' 'What can the Church do for me?'

We would like to draw your attention to the notice at the back of the church. Please take special note of our new email address searchauglim1@gmail.com

This address is for YOU! We would love to hear your ideas. We would love to meet you. We understand that many people find it difficult to present themselves face to face, so if you think you would like to be involved, or have any skills you can offer, please write to us. One of the purposes of the email address is to allow people who would otherwise find it difficult to come forward, to just contact us through email. You may be unsure if you want to get involved, but are thinking about it. That is perfectly understandable. Note that *search* is the first word in the new address, so please don't be shy.

Geraldine and Leo (hoping that there will be more names signing our notes in the future.)

ST. VALENTINES DAY CELEBRATION.

We will shortly be announcing a time and date for our Service of Blessing for couples preparing for marriage. Please tell anyone you know in this lovely stage of their journey about this event. We hope to make it a joyful celebration of love and romance and also of commitment. Tea and coffee will be served after the service and there be a chance for couples to talk to each other. If you would like to be involved in helping with the organisation of this event, or if you are preparing for marriage and would like to share ideas please email searchauglim1@gmail.com We will be delighted to hear from you.