



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 19th February 2023

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

# Ashes

What about ashes? Depends on whom you ask. After a defeat by Australia nearly 150 years ago an "obituary" stated that English cricket had died and "the body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia". The English captain, Ivo Bligh, vowed, no weaker word would do, "to regain those ashes." Good man Ivo! So, to the sporting fraternity the Ashes is a trophy for winning at cricket. To the fire brigade it's what's left after a disaster they were unable to arrest in time. To millennia of house-keepers or nomadic campers it will mean dry abrasive stuff, uncomfortable residue of a comforting fire. To Frank McCourt readers it will mean Angela and misery, misfortune and poor-mouthing to the edge of incredibility.

We move now to the spiritual plane. Recent years saw extensive publicity for a pastor and his Ash-in-a-Flash initiative, a drive-by service to launch Lent. You rolled down a window of your car and were signed with the ashes of repentance without even pulling the handbrake. Wasting time would, you see, be a bad way to start the season of spiritual discipline. There's an appetite for ashes. We ply it every year.

People line up to be exhorted to repent and have their foreheads marked accordingly. Some churches provide a takeaway service, ashes in sachets. Seeing those sachets some get a burst of energy and mimic the hawkish swoop of the seasoned shopper going for the very last of the for-half-nothing fur coats in the January Sales. (Deliveroo haven't yet tapped the ash market). The Ceann Comhairle of our Dail sported a fine smudge of ashes recently, an echo of the days when Bertie Ahern flaunted same like a red rag in the face of the bull of newly enlightened Ireland

Psalm 102 uses "the bread I eat is ashes" to convey disappointment, failure, unhappiness and chronic lack of enjoyment. Dreams turned to ashes seem the death of hope itself. In their time sackcloth and ashes spoke of self-abasement, mourning, repentance. Anyone wanting to show their sorry heart could wear sackcloth, sit in ashes and put more of the stuff on top of their heads. Not comfortable. And sackcloth made from the hair of the rough black goat was I believe more like sandpaper than the soft garments provided by his oh-so-distant Kashmiri or Angoran cousins, different capers altogether. Jacob, Job and David are among many who decked out like this to show their desolation.

Back to Now: Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, the yearly day when ashes is a cross on our foreheads. Something "we get" or is "given to us" fairly quickly. It would be better to think of it as a little note to ourselves as we emerge from the prayer of this first day of Lent, saying: *There's discomfort in the world and when I have to meet it I will with God's help meet it la bit like Jesus whose will to do the right thing prevailed even at the highest cost. I wear the ashes, like people of old, a sign of this intention. An acknowledgement too, conscious or not, that even if our hearts are in heaven and our heads in the clouds our feet are still stuck to the ground. And to remind myself that - forgive the return to cricket-speak - no matter how long my innings I'll end as ashes.*

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



## LECTIO DIVINA - REFLECTING ON THE WORD OF GOD DURING LENT

Some of you may know that a group of people started gathering online during Covid to read the Gospel for the following Sunday and reflect on it together. We use the method of Lectio Divina, which allows for readings of the piece, silences and sharing if anyone wishes. There is no pressure to speak. The group is led by the Holy Spirit and facilitated by one person, who will guide the group through the process, so there is no need to worry about knowing what to do.

We are beginning 'Lectio for Lent' this Thursday night 23rd February, at 8pm. The sessions will be held online and last no longer than 40 minutes. You can reflect on Scripture, with a group, from the comfort of your own home. People find it has enriched their celebration of Sunday Eucharist.

If you would like to join this group on some, on all of these weeks, please send your email address to — [searchauglim1@gmail.com](mailto:searchauglim1@gmail.com) This email address is GDPR compliant, so if you do not want us to share your email address with other participants, please let us know and we will arrange to 'bcc' it. We will otherwise assume that it can be shared, but only for that purpose.

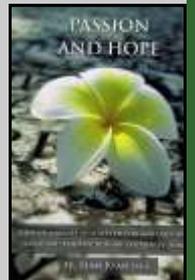


## Ash Wednesday 22nd February

Life is full of reminders of our mortality, the fragility of our hopes and dreams, our feet of clay. The Ashes of Ash Wednesday roots us to the earth and clay out of which we were formed by God and returns us to the dust of our own dying. We must not forget that there is fire in the ashes, a fire that melts, moulds and shapes us, the fire of the holy Spirit bringing us the touch of God. How do I cope with the ashes of failure, defeat and broken dreams? Prayer: Lord, mould us into your image and plan. Speak to us through the cracks of our brokenness. Source: The Pilgrim Way pg 10 by Fr. Liam Ryan available at the back of the church, also Passion and Hope another beautiful book by Fr. Liam - *A Lenten journey to places of pain and hope where Cross and Resurrection are experienced today*. Both books are lovely meditations for Lent.

**Masses times at St. Augustine's Ash Wednesday:** 7.30am, 8.30am, 10.15am, 1.00pm & 4.00pm. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses. Please note there will be an extra Mass at 1.00pm.

We invite you to join us every Wednesday following the 10.15am Mass for the Stations of the Cross beginning March 1st.



## Season of Lent

*Season of Lent Desert Day—Time apart with God. Step aside from the ordinary for a one-day Lenten Retreat. The day takes place in an atmosphere of silence with reflections, guided meditations, prayer and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation or a Blessing. The day will conclude with the celebration of the Eucharist. Saturday*

*25th February, at the Limerick Diocesan Centre, St. Munchin's Corbally. Donation €20. Booking essential all details on the notice board at the back of the church.*

*Lenten Talks: How can we help celebrate and renew our Catholic Faith? Fr. Joe Hayes S.J. will give a series of Lenten talks to help us reflect on 'How we can help celebrate and renew our Catholic Faith?' The talks will take place on the Tuesday evenings beginning 28th February from 7.30pm-9.00pm at the Holy Rosary Parish Hall. All are welcome. Poster at the back of the church.*

*Jesus Social Revolutionary? : Come bring your lunch and join us on 22nd February to the Tara Forum, Mary Immaculate College. Dr. Teresa O'Donnell, classical Irish Harpist will give a recital from 12.40-100pm followed by Peter McVerry, SJ who will speak on 'Jesus social revolutionary? From 1pm-2pm. Poster at the back of the church*

*Temperance Sunday (19th) Mass on RTÉ TV & Radio at 11am will include prayers for all who are in treatment for addiction, for their families and for those who are in recovery. The Pioneer website [www.pioneers.ie](http://www.pioneers.ie) carries information for parishioners who wish to take the Lenten pledge.*

*Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage : Travel with other young people from the Diocese of Limerick for this life-changing pilgrimage to France.! 5 nights / 6 days from 22-27 June 2023. More details on the notice board at the back of the church.*