



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## 3rd Sunday of Lent

# 12th March 2023

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

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## Well and Good

### 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



Water is life. Some well-known politicians caught the wave and surfed to power on the slogan *No way, We won't pay.*

Mission appeals in Augustinian churches helped dig many wells south of the Sahara.

**When we were young wells were replacing "ploughs and cows" as the best means of social support in communities served by OSA missionaries there.** The ox-drawn ploughs were fine: they tilled the land where up to then hard-pressed people with hand-held hoes achieved less with far more labour in the drought-shortened farming season. But that system had weaknesses. The bullock had to be fed all through the year. For this he was sometimes boarded out with nomadic herders who lived with their cattle all year round. Too often news came back that the boarder had succumbed to illness. There was no sure way of establishing cause of death, or, as sometimes suspected, beneficiary thereof. The ox who stayed at **home between seasons wasn't safe either. Disease was one danger. Hunger too. Theft another.** Or the temptation of a meat dinner for the whole village at Christmas might prove too strong. So, the well of water was the better option for long-term benefit. It was immune to theft and replenished itself. The miracle of more and clean water where there was none before would delight all, none more than the women who had drawn it daily from faraway and unsafe sources.

The well-rig was a simple steel quadruped supporting a windlass, handle at one side and brake-strip at the other. Rig, headman and brake-man along with cement were supplied from outside and the village did the rest. The local chief had to guarantee labour along with broken stone for the concrete lining along with bed and board for the headman and brake-man. **Under control of the two "professionals" a big bucket was lowered and lifted,** in a deepening hole lined with concrete to prevent cave-in, for weeks or even months. Headman and a helper worked the winch and brakeman restrained the descent as bucket went up and down. It carried a succession of villagers with short-handled shovel and pickaxe on the downward flight and a load of clay as it came back up. Men, women and children touched, smelled and sometimes even tasted the clay hoping for a dampness promising water. No gold prospector hitting the richest seam could be happier than that village when the buried treasure began to seep in. A bit deeper and the trickle became a lively flow and the hole became a well.

Our homeland, town and country, is dotted with wells and not long ago the Irish mind and memory were steeped in their meaning. All wells were good and many were deemed holy. We drew spiritual and bodily support from wells named for a hundred saints, **topped by Patrick's Well itself. But the artificial reservoir, the unseen pump, the water-bearing pipe, and pollution of many colours all but ended our love affair with the well.** Not so in other places.

Why this unasked-for lesson in well-digging? The woman **at the well in today's gospel would know what I've been trying to touch in these few words—the importance of water, source and sustenance of life. She meant to impress when she said "Jacob gave us this well and he drank from it, with his children and his cattle." Jesus knew she had played her best card and he claimed to offer something better still, "anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again."**

J.L



## Thought for the day

Today we are greatly helped by the wonderful Gospel of the Woman at the Well. On the third attempt, Jesus finally gets through to her but after that there is no stopping her. As Augustine teaches, she represents us: what do I thirst for? What is the most important thing in my life? Where do I now find God? By relentless challenge and resolute honesty, we too can be led to that encounter with Jesus, which changes everything, "giving life a new horizon and a decisive direction." May we come to believe because we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.

**Prayer** In the midst of the ordinary things, loving God, you call us to the deeper realities: your thirst for us and our thirst for you. Never let us be satisfied, until we come to the springs of living water, welling up for eternal life. Source: [www.tarsus.ie/Sunday\\_readings](http://www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings)



## Celebrating St. Patrick

- On Thursday 16th March at 8.30pm, Knock Shrine will host a special concert celebrating Irish music, heritage and culture at Knock Basilica. Admission is free and all are welcome!
- **March 17th The Festive St. Patrick's Day Mass** at St. Augustine's will be at 11.15am. The Garryowen Comhaltas will be joining us again this year to join in our Liturgy and give a short recital before and after Mass. We will also have our 9am Mass but no 7.30pm evening Mass.
- **A service of Choral Evensong for St. Patrick's tide will take place** in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on Sunday 12th March at 5pm. Admission Free.
- From Texas, USA, Clements High School Choir will perform at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on Monday 13th March at 1.15pm as part of their Ireland Tour. Admission Free.
- Friday 17th March **St. Patrick's Day Parade will start in O'Connell Ave /Roden St Junction** at 12noon and finish in Rutland St.
- Saturday 18th March the **St. Patrick's Festival Street Show** will take place from 12pm-3.00pm in Bedford Row and Thomas St.
- Sunday 19th March at 12 noon the **51st Limerick International Band Championship will start on O'Connell Street /Hartstonge Street Junction and will finish at Arthur's Quay Park** .

Source: [what's on in limerick.ie](http://what's on in limerick.ie)

Congratulations to the winner of the Fairtrade Hamper  
Denis McAuliffe  
from Newcastle West



## Safeguarding Training in St. Augustine's Church 21st March

We will have a Safeguarding training session in St. Augustine's Church on Tuesday **21st March at 7.30pm**. This is an ongoing process and requirement for staff, and all in ministry every 3 years. It will be facilitated by our Augustinian training co-coordinator Ms. Avril Halley. Training will also include our new volunteers in the various ministries in this church.



## Lectio for Lent

Lectio Divina continues online this week for Lent. We reflect each week on the Gospel for the following Sunday. We were happy to welcome new people on screen last week and all are welcome. The wisdom of the Spirit moves in a group. This group meets on Thursday at 8pm on Zoom, so you can reflect on the Word of God from the comfort of your own home. It is possible to install free Zoom on your device. If you would like a Zoom invitation please contact [searchauglim1@gmail.com](mailto:searchauglim1@gmail.com)

### Theology of Tap

March 28th - 7.30pm @ Bobby Byrnes  
With Eamonn Barron

**"And your wound shall be quickly healed"**

Reflections on Faith and Mental Health

Finger Food Provided

### Lenten Bible Study

Lenten Bible Study continues this Wednesday 15th at St. Saviours Parish journeying through the Gospel of Mark.  
From 7.30pm– 8.30pm.

(Enter through the side doors on Dominic Street.)