



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## 4th Sunday of Lent

### 19th March 2023

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

email: [info@augustinianslimerick.com](mailto: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



#### 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



## Tread Softly for you Tread on our Symbols

**I'm in a foreign country and I burn their flag, a cheap piece of cloth. It doesn't go down well.** That cloth became something else when it was adopted as national flag, carrying layers of memory and emotion no other piece of cloth carries. The identity of a people and their self-esteem are tied up in it. To honour it is to honour a population and to do other is seriously to insult them.

Twenty-five years ago we saw three symbols dishonoured in the city of Maiduguri, centre a diocese started and for long run by Irish Augustinians, not a few of them from Limerick. The symbols were three statues, of a horse, a fish and St Patrick.

The horse was a big statue above a roundabout. It evoked memory of proud **Kanuri horsemen great in battle or pageant: They'd repelled the fearsome jihadist Dan Fodio** two centuries earlier and outshone all others in glorious Durbar for Elizabeth 11 in 1956. That rampant stallion pleased the people and brightened the place.

The monumental fish Giwan Ruwa—elephant of the water—presided at another junction. This to declare that dry and dusty Maiduguri was still a great fish market whence catch of lakes Alau and Chad went out in loads to feed people 1000 miles away.

St Patrick was a more modest creation, installed by the first bishop, Cotter from Abbeyfeale. One hand on crook and the other raised in blessing, he stared steadily east from the porch of his cathedral into the rising sun.

All three were more than statues, symbols bearing a wealth of memory and meaning, well loved in that easy-going place. But fashion changes and the saint was first to fall. One Friday, fired by religious rant, a mob came to the cathedral not to pray. Before they were repelled, not by turning the other cheek it must be admitted, the Patron had lost mitred head and blessing hand.

The iconoclastic arm of Koranic interpretation gained ground and the city government took fright. So, horse and fish followed Patrick into the dust and Maiduguri was clean of graven images again.

All fairly small stuff but what it presaged was far from small. Soon human lives by the thousand, Christian and Muslim, went the same way. What was rehearsed on the head of St Patrick was soon enacted on the living around that diocese. In one instance of sadistic savagery many hundreds were slaughtered on the shore of lake Chad. All **because someone in the shadows said they differ from us, they're infidels. Uncounted** others drowned in the lake in terrified and unprovided flight. Churches, schools and clinics built with the help of Irish Augustinian congregations were destroyed. Villages were burnt and nobody was able to count the dead. The Guardian and Times of London showed more interest in reporting this than any Irish news selector.

A new view of progress here gave frequent voice to many who in effect would keep the fish and horse but insist Patrick must go. Arbiters of what is correct denounce religious symbols in schools and Christmas cribs in hospitals. Those symbols may have been the inspiration for the institutions and for service .

J.L.

## Thought for the day



How we respond to pressure can vary very much from person to person. In John's Gospel, there are two related stories of people being healed, one in chapter 5 and the other in chapter 9, today's reading. The man at the pool eventually betrays Jesus. The man born blind resists pressure and even grows on the strength of it. Part of his energy comes from his experience—no matter what others may say about Jesus, he himself once was blind and now he sees! His courageous attachment to what he knows from his personal encounter with Jesus leads eventually to a full act of faith.

**Prayer:** Faithful God, you call us to be faithful even in times of trial. Teach us to embrace the challenge of faith today, that we may have the courage to grow and give courage to others by our witness.  
Source: [www.tarsus.ie/Sunday\\_readings](http://www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings)

## MOTHER'S DAY REFLECTION

God touching a mother in the miracle  
of her new-born baby,  
in her child's love-hearts on a card  
for **"the best Mummy in the world"**

Burnt toast in bed from a seven year old.  
**Candles of thanksgiving for a child's recovery.**  
First Communion faces full of grace.  
Tearful mothers in our Peace Garden.  
Pleading eyes raised to Padre Pio.

Care-worn mothers outside courts and  
prisons,  
ever faithful to prodigal sons and  
daughters.  
Swords of sorrow piercing hearts.  
Mothers alone, deserted, separated.  
Good Friday and Easter Sunday  
on their faces.



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## Lectio for Lent

Lectio Divina continues online this week for Lent. We reflect each week on the Gospel for the following Sunday. 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)

## Upcoming Events

Grandview High School will perform at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick on Sunday 19th March at 4.30pm. Free. Donations welcome.

Knock Shrine : Lenten Reflections and guided talks : March 21st John Connell—Living more simply in a complex world from 8.15pm – 9.15pm  
**St. John's Welcome Centre Knock**

Lenten Bible Study

Lenten Bible Study continues this Wednesday 22nd at St. Saviours Parish journeying through the Gospel of Mark. From 7.30pm– 8.30pm.

## Lent at the Abbey 2023

Talks every Sunday for Lent at 4.30pm  
Sunday 19th March : Turn towards the Light (John 9)  
Columba McCann OSB  
Sunday 26th March: Lent in a Golden calf culture  
Simon Sleeman OSB  
Sunday 2nd April: Waving Palms and Singing  
Colman Ó Clabaigh OSB  
Refreshments will follow each talk with Vespers celebrated in the **Abbey Church at 6pm. Suggested donation each Sunday €15.**  
Live streamed on the webcam under the 'Talks' tab  
[events@glenstal.com](mailto:events@glenstal.com)

**World Youth Day 2023**

**SPACE IS LIMITED!**

31 July - 8 August, 2023

- 8 nights/9 days
- Lisbon, Portugal
- Ages 18 - 35
- Includes flights, lodging, and all expenses

**What is WYD?**  
World Youth Day is a world-wide gathering of young people, focused on Christ. Millions of youth will come to meet with each other and Pope Francis in a life-changing pilgrimage!

**€690**

Contact: James at 061-350000, 086-6071021, or [james.connery@limerickdiocese.org](mailto:james.connery@limerickdiocese.org)

diocese of limerick

## Child Safeguarding Training **St. Augustine's Church**

Tuesday 21st March at 7.30pm  
For staff, new volunteers and those who need refresher training and have been contacted!

## Desert Day *Time apart with God...*

*in preparation for Holy Week*

Saturday 1st April  
10.30am - 5pm

Limerick Diocesan Centre  
Corbally Limerick  
**Donation €20**

Poster at the back of the church

Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful  
And enkindle in us the fire of your love  
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

