

#### Mass Times

<u>Monday-Friday</u> 7.30am, 8.30am, 10.15am,& 4pm <u>SATURDAY</u> 8.30am, 10.15am Mass for the Sick 3.00pm <u>SUNDAY</u> 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



## St. Augustine's Church Limerick Second Sunday of Easter 16th April 2023

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

# **Tales of Thomas**

You could find a story about Thomas the Apostle anywhere. An account of <u>Marco</u> <u>Polo</u> from the 13th century says Thomas met his death outside his hermitage in **Chennai when a fowler's arrow aimed at a peacock, hit him. There's no mention of** how the apostle was dressed at the time. A good defence lawyer would point out **that many a churchmen's attire might be mistaken for that of the flashy bird.** 

Where was Thomas when Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection? We don't know. Maybe after the terrible day, Good Friday, he went home to talk to his twin (brother?). So many deeds and travels were attributed to Thomas that the same self-effacing sibling may have been giving a hand, standing in for him in one place while he laboured in another. We're familiar with the reaction "There must be two of him."

There's is a tradition that Thomas sailed to India in AD 52 preach Christ and landed in modern day <u>Kerala</u> state where there was a Jewish community. Several threads of the Christian church claim him as first patron. The <u>St Thomas Christian</u> tradition says he set up <u>Seven</u> and half churches in Kerala. But <u>Eusebius</u> of <u>Caesarea</u> reports <u>Origen</u> as saying that Thomas was the apostle to the <u>Parthians</u> in northern Iran. That's a stretch. The poet Ephrem the Syrian wrote a hymn in which Thomas's ability to be anyplace at any time, and to do a man-marking job on Old Nick, drove the Devil to tears:

Into what land shall I fly from the just? The Apostle I slew in India overtook me in Edessa; Here and there he is all himself. There went I, and there was he: Here and there to my grief I find him.

If Thomas lost any kudos by saying "unless I see the holes in his hands..." his later devotees tried a neat little inversion claiming that he was the only witness to Mary's Assumption and the other apostles wouldn't believe it until they saw her empty tomb! They invoked Joseph of Arimathea to support the claim.



Peacocks aside, many sources say Thomas was martyred, that he was—like Jesus—pierced with a lance. One version says local priests stoned and speared him. Since at least the 16th century the national shrine, <u>St.</u> <u>Thomas Mount</u>, in Tamil Nadu, has been a site revered by Hindus, Muslims and Christians. Records from early in that century tell that the tomb was then maintained by a Muslim who kept a lamp burning there. Whatever the precise truth it would be poor reward if Thomas was remembered only tied to the word DOUBTING. He was much more than that. And his half-twin? God knows. J.L

### Thought for Today

How did any of us make the journey towards faith in Christ? No doubt a great part of it is simply what we received—usually from family. At some point, did I make a conscious choice? Perhaps at other times, I felt like walking away from the faith project? What kept me going? Did a more personal ownership of faith result? Perhaps I felt the intuition of John O'Donohue, "Faith is helpless attraction to the divine." In spite of everything, in spite of myself, somehow it is part of who I am.

Prayer Mysterious God, we are those who have seen and at the same time not seen. Help to look beyond the simple gifts of each day to see you the giver behind—and in—every gift. Help us embrace the grace that we may know true blessedness in believing. Source: www.tarsus.ie /Sunday readings





#### 'Mission Possible'

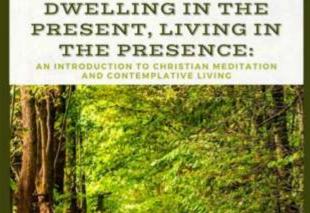
On Sunday April 16th 2023 at 07:00h Documentary on Newstalk airs the premiere of 'MISSION POSSIBLE' produced by Grainne McPolin, tells the fascinating story of five Irish women religious who worked in the missions abroad; why these women chose the life that they did and the challenges they faced not only on their missionary posting but also the difficulties encountered on return home to Ireland BROADCAST TIMES: 'Mission Possible' will be broadcast on

Newstalk 106-108fm on Sunday 16th April 2023 at 7am and again on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at 9pm

PODCAST: 'Mission Possible' podcast available on all major podcast platforms from 8am 16th April 2023 www.newstalk.com/documentaryonnewstalk

#### Notices:

- The Annual Church Gate Collection for Milford Hospice will take place after all Masses next Sunday 23rd April.
- You can now return your Trocaire Boxes to the Pastoral Office or to any of the community. Thank you for your support.
- Confessions resume tomorrow and daily Masses at usual times.



Over the retreat Br. Richard Hendrick. OFM Cap. will introduce us to the path and practice of meditative prayer in the Christian tradition and offer practical advice drawn from the teaching of the saints and mystics of the Church to help us live in the present moment, while always aware of the presence of Cod.

#### 6:30 PM FRIDAY, 9 JUNE - 2:00 PM SUNDAY, 11 JUNE MIC ST PATRICK'S CAMPUS, THURLES, CO TIPPERARY COST: €180 (FULL BOARD)

Br. Richard Hendrick is a priest-friar of the Irish branch of the Capuchin Franciscan Order. For Br. Richard, poetry is tool for living a contemplative life in the heart of the world. He is the author of the viral meditation on the good to be found in the midst of the pandemic. "Lockdown", and "Still Points: A Guide to Living the Mindful, Meditative Way".

Reserve your spot by contacting: eamonn.fitzgibbon@mic.ul.ie