



Day of Prayer for Vocations

# St. Augustine's Church Limerick 4th Sunday of Easter 30th April 2023

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## Shepherds: To Lead or Drive?

### 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



*One Man And His Dog* ran for many years on BBC TV and millions watched. The shepherd whistled the orders. The dog, combined swift movement with utter stillness and a concentrated eye and passed the orders on to the sheep. Without fright or panic these obeyed the predator born to hunt but trained to herd. (If it went wrong you had scattered, frightened sheep and a confused dog. Then the shamed shepherd whistled in frantic impotence, greatly embarrassed and intent on having a serious talk with the dog as soon as the cameras were off and the judges gone home.

A rougher model of shepherding used sometimes be seen on the roads of Ireland. Bleating sheep bunched fearfully together. Behind them, a shouting, sweating man or woman with arms flailing like a marooned sailor. Somewhere in the vicinity a child or two or three ready to run and stop gaps or more likely incur the wrath of the agitated parent for failing to do so in time. The circus was completed by a barking dog, often **pursuing its own agenda, darting in on excited impulse to nip at sheep's heels.** (If the TV dog did this the shepherd would be disqualified and the SPCA would have to make a statement about animal-on-animal violence, probably condemning the human).

**There's another model again: We were once in a place where it was common to meet nomadic shepherds on the journeys which made up their way of life.** It was as if a whole town and its hinterland were migrating. Sheep and goats in numbers, a few cattle and camels. All depended on one another. The hardy youths carried the weakest lambs and kids. Feeble old men and women, like the smallest children, were secured atop the biggest bulls or camels while all the in-betweens loped along in the same direction. The chief shepherd walked ahead without looking back and the flock followed confidently. They moved continuously lest the turning seasons put grass and water beyond their reach. The flock over-nighted in guarded thorn stockades hastily assembled for their protection. Thieves and brigands, quadruped or biped, are not unknown there. Night-watchers carried knife and machete, bow and arrow that were not for decoration. Their chief shepherd called the flock out in the morning and called them in in the evening in a voice they knew. They spoke directly to the sheep - cutting out the middle-dog. Jesus must have had something like all this in mind when he said "I am the good shepherd .....".

The difference between leading and driving comes to mind. It might be said:



that shepherding in the Church went through all three models and all but the third were tried too long ;

that when driving rather than leading becomes the style of the shepherd the game is being lost;

**that church sheep don't like being driven;**

**that when they realise they don't have to like being driven they're out the gap, quick as the athletic animals of the psalms, "leaping rams and yearling sheep". Into danger, maybe, but free to choose.**

On this Vocations Sunday we pray for a renewal of shepherding intent on and trained to lead, not drive.

J.L.

# Thought for the Day

What is distinctive about our faith as Christians? We do not believe in a system of ideas or even in a higher ethics: we believe in a person, who gives life "a new horizon and a decisive direction" (Benedict XVI). John's Gospel makes this clear with its great I am sentences, one of which we hear today: "I am the gate." Naturally, we think the gate to what?

The gate to life to the full. The risk today is to set our expectations low, to be happy with less. But the Gospel calls not to be half alive, but to be fully alive. Let us enter by the gate himself, because the gate to life is always open.

Prayer :Often, loving Lord, we find ourselves astray and defenceless. Let us recognise your voice, calling us one by one as you call us to follow you.

source: [www.tarsus.ie/readings](http://www.tarsus.ie/readings)



## Prayer for Vocations

Lord, make me a better person, more considerate towards others,  
More honest with myself, more faithful to you.

Make me generous enough to want sincerely to do you will whatever it may be.

Help me to find my future vocation in life and grant that through it,  
I bring happiness to others and find happiness myself.

Grant, Lord that those whom You call to enter the Priesthood or Religious life,  
May have the generosity to answer Your call, so that those who need Your help  
May always find it. We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.

## LECTIO ONLINE - FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST

Lectio Divina is continuing online. The group will continue to meet to look at Sunday readings from now until Pentecost. If you would like to join us, please send your email address to [searchauglim1@gmail.com](mailto:searchauglim1@gmail.com) and a Zoom invitation will issue to you. All are welcome.



## Gala Concert

We are delighted to announce that there will be a Gala Concert in support of the Dominican Church Limerick Roof Restoration. Louise Morrissey will be joined by Norman Morrissey, Denis Allen, Denis Carey and Marty Daniels, for a great evening of music and fun!

The concert will take place at the Radisson Blu Hotel Limerick on Friday 26th of May. Doors open at 7pm, concert 8-11pm and there will be great spot prizes to be won, and a draw on the night. Tickets are **€25** and can be bought from Haven Pharmacy on Davis Street or St. Saviour's Dominican Parish Office on Glentworth Street. More details on the poster at the back of the church.

## Annual Service of Remembrance

Milford Care Centre will hold its Annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday 14th of May commencing at 3pm in Our Lady Help of Christians Church Milford Limerick V94DK44. We will remember all those who died under our care between 2019-2022. Further information on the service can be got from the Pastoral Care Team, Tel 061 485907 or 485908.

## Irish Doctors Orchestra

Sunday 14th May 2023

Redemptorist Church Limerick at 4.30pm

All proceeds in aid of Children's Grief Centre

Tickets available at the door or at [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie) €20

Poster on the notice board at the back of the church.

