



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 6th Sunday of Easter 14th May 2023

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We're not Orphans

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

When I was thought to be the richest man in the village - makes me suspicious of those "rich lists" we see regularly in our own Sunday papers - I was asked to take in an infant orphan for few months. You'd be used to odd requests there. In the desire to seem human and humane you'd give in to many of them. But this one seemed beyond odd and well into no-go land. But a few questions showed me a vista a lot less alarming. The helpless creature of God I was being asked to rear was not a dear baby but a baby deer, an antelope a few days old. The animal-welfare credentials of the men who brought the baby to me were not beyond question. They had shot his mother for the pot. Still they had with them the pitiable little creature and were putting it up to me to give him a chance of a future. In their opinion I was fitted for the parenting role by the



fact that I was known to sometimes visit a town where powdered milk could be got and that they wouldn't have to pay for it. Relief that it wasn't a human orphan I was being offered, along with an agricultural background, made me accept. Spoon-feeding began that day. Soon I was seen, maybe a bit furtive, purchasing a baby bottle complete with teat. The orphan took to this appliance with pleasing enthusiasm and thrived. It was a pleasure to see how quickly he grew strong. The wobbly match-

stick legs that had been handed to me were still matchstick but soon propelled the creature to feats of speed and agility. He'd leap high into the air for the mere fun of it. When running he'd bound over invisible fences and land safely every time to rocket away once more. The gazelle of the Song of Solomon "leaping over the mountains" would have nothing on him. This orphan prospered. He began to go foraging but would come back for his milk. His absences grew longer and longer. The last I saw of him was a blur of speed as he passed through our yard pursued by three dogs. I'm glad to report that our runner seemed in control of the race. He was at his ease - cruising, as a race commentator would say, with his opponents "hard at it to keep sight of the leader." I got the impression they might even pull up beaten well before the final fence. "Orphan" is a powerful image for things as the should not be. Abandonment of the child was the worst thing. A parentless child was most to be pitied. The orphan and the widow were the ones who had strongest claim on the Lord's protection in the Bible, having no one else to look after their interests. Without a strong protector above or a social safety net below they were the most easily abused of humankind. "Unspoilt religion in the eyes of God is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows....." (Jas 1:27)

Sometimes now we may feel we're sailing in a ship poorly captained or weakly crewed, hearing the regular splash of "man overboard." As he was about to leave his anxious friends on his return to the Father Jesus promises us "I will not leave you orphans." The Spirit of God is, he promised, the greatest of lifejackets. We may sometimes be intended quarry but we're not victims. I suppose that's what Peter has in mind as he says "Have your answer ready for those who ask the reason for the hope that's in you."

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



Exam Prayer to St. Rita

St. Rita, Saint of the Impossible,
bring serenity to my mind and heart
while I take my exams.

Give me a quiet confidence in my gifts and talents.

Remind me of my dignity and preciousness
in a world where we compete in exams, for jobs,
for a place in life.

Anoint my memory with the power of recall.

Keep me calm on the day of my exams.

May my results be for enrichment of my life
and the education of my heart.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Exam Mass at Knock Shrine:

For all students preparing for exams and their families. Take some time out from your studies for a quiet moment to ask for God's strength and guidance as you move through your exam period.

Bring your pencil case to have it blessed.
June 5th, 7.30pm, Knock Basilica.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit

Fill the hearts of your faithful

and kindle in them the fire of your love

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Feast of St. Rita of Cascia



We celebrate the Feast of St. Rita of Cascia on Monday 22nd May here in St. Augustine's Church. An exceptional Saint a young widow who suffered years at the centre of family feuds in medieval Italy. A young woman yearning to become a religious; a nun in Cascia who bore the thorn of the Crucified; a mystic, whose love for Christ has marked her out as exceptional. As the Saint of the Impossible people pray to her for their many intentions and also for those doing exams.

We will celebrate this feast on Monday 22nd with the Blessing of the Roses and Novena prayers at the 10.15am & 4.00pm Masses.



Augustinian Pilgrimage to Knock

The annual Augustinian Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Saturday 15th July. The Mass in the Basilica will be at 3pm. Our celebrant this year will be the Provincial Fr. Tony Egan OSA; and the homilist is Fr. Robert Marsh OSA, Religious leader of the UK 'Delegation'.



Tickets will be available nearer the date.

DESERT DAY...

TIME APART WITH GOD

To celebrate the great feast of
Pentecost

Date: Saturday, 27 May 2023

Time: 10.30-5pm

Venue: Limerick Diocesan Centre,

St. Munchin's College, Corbally,

Limerick, V94 925C

Donation: €20



Step aside from the ordinary for a one-day Pentecost 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.

Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea/Coffee/Snacks provided. Facilitated by Phyllis Meehan RSM © - An Maibh. Early booking advisable as places are limited. Contact Phyllis at 087 961 6893 or email: meehanphyllis21@gmail.com.

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 and a Zoom invitation will issue to you. All are welcome.

Pentecost Sunday 28th May

As we move forward during this Celebration time of the Risen Lord we begin to glimpse horizons of the Ascension and Pentecost: two great moments in our Faith Story. Read the Gospel accounts and the Acts of the Apostles to catch the lively spirit of the early Christian community and see how the new Christians were caught up in the "unbelievable" events that were so powerfully affecting their daily lives.

Celebrate with us on
Sunday 28th May at the 11.15am Mass

Irish Doctors Orchestra

Sunday 14th May—Redemptorist Church—4.30pm
All proceeds in aid of Children's Grief Centre
Tickets available at the door €20