

### **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 <u>SATURDAY</u>

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 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9th July 2023

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

# Awkward Yokes

Where people don't have modern machinery you'd see some strange yokes still in use. Among the most common is the crude length of timber laid across the necks of a pair of oxen fastening them to one another and, by a longer pole, to the trailing plough or cart. No upholstery cushions or softens the harshness of that harness-yoke.



Students of the funny-peculiar will find the biblical story of Elisha's retirement from ploughing diverting: That's what he was doing when his head was turned by the passing prophet Elijah and he decided to throw in his lot with him. Just as well he didn't go back to report to his father first as the dialogue would have had to go something like this:

Where are the bullocks? We slaughtered and ate them. You what! And the plough? Well, we broke it up for the fire to cook the meat. And the yoke I had made to pull the plough? We burned that too.

That's one kind of yoke. Another is often seen resting across the shoulder of woman or child with a heavy load of water hanging in balance from each end, the bending bar a sign of the hidden hardship of drawing water from a distant well. Common too is the sight of man or woman at building-site with pallets of mud bricks suspended from the bar whose fulcrum is the shoulder of the hard -pressed human. Whatever its particular form the yoke is a good metaphor for the fate of the slave, the put-upon animal or man, the imposed will of the controller over the controlled. The Biblical



writers used it well to allude to bondage and freedom. And indeed later times saw many a new, and hardly necessary, yoke fashioned for the neck of the followers.

Isaiah predicted a freedom the Messiah would bring in these terms, "the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor" would be broken.

Paul went further and saw the old law as overly burdensome, "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."

Today's gospel has Jesus introducing his own "yoke", easy and light, he says, something designed for a light step rather than a sore neck or a bent back. J.L.

## Thought for the Day

The Lord understands us and knows us better than we know ourselves. O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. (Psa 139:1–3) He knows of what we are made and so we can come confidently before him with our brokenness and need of his grace.

It might be good during Mass today to become aware of whatever is a burden to me now in my life and ask the Lord for his love and healing touch.

Prayer: Lord, you bore the weight of our humanity to come as near to us as possible. Help us to realise you stand beside us and walk with us the journey of life. Source: www.tarsus.ie/Sunday readings

"Go forward securely, joyfully, and swiftly, on the path of prudent happiness" (Second Letter of St. Clare)

Lord, I am often filled with fear when
I think of the future,
Haunted by past mistakes and hurts,
and I feel paralysed.
I surrender it all to you now
and trust you to take of it.
You are the One who makes all things new,
With you I will go forward, securely
and joyfully into freedom.
Amen.

Source: In the Spirit of St. Clare, Daily Reflections

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from where comes my help.
My help comes from the Lord which made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121 1-2

## **Augustinian Pilgrimage to Knock**

Those travelling with us on this Pilgrimage please note the bus will leave at 9am sharp next Saturday 15th July from the bus stop on Roches Street.

Looking forward to meeting you all.

## Lough Derg Pilgrimage Season 2023

Cashel & Emly Three Day Pilgrimage Monday 24th July—Wednesday 26th July Booking & Contact details on the notice board at the back of the church.

DIVA VOCES & CANTIGAS WOMEN'S CHOIR (USA)

present

Eternal Rebels

CONDUCTED BY Duncan Brickenden & Dr. Hannah Carr

St. Mary's Cathedral Limerick V94 E068

Sunday July 9th 2023 at 3.00pm -Tickets €10/€15

