



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

16th July 2023

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Human Race is a Handicap

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

WELCOME!



TO OUR CHURCH

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



In my youth the proceedings of the district court as reported in the local paper was a staple of our entertainment. One memorable week saw a lady we knew, of impeccable character and flamboyant inclination, charged with driving at dangerous speeds. She was of a certain age and so was her car. It was before the time of speed-trap cameras and maybe even before statutory speed limits. The dreaded "hair-dryer" hadn't yet come to the roads of our idyll. The camera-van sneakily parked near the end of the only straight stretch on a road of many crooked miles was an instrument of torture not yet devised.

The squad-car caught our woman by first coursing her, as the hound the hare, along the twisting road between New Ross and Waterford. They eventually overtook and accosted her. The Garda witness read dispassionately from his little notebook :

"We had to exceed seventy miles an hour to overtake her, Your Honour."

His Honour was a just judge and gave the defendant the chance to say her bit. She confessed.

"Have you anything else to say, Mrs Coogan?"

"Yes, Judge. If I had their car they would never have overtaken me."

Mrs Coogan was commenting on a fact that we all know but don't often allow for, viz. life is a handicap race, we don't all start at level weights. If the guards and herself had the same horsepower the race result, she was adamant, would have been different.

The wise world of handicapped horse-racing accepts this and adjusts accordingly. There's a weight-for-age allowance: the two-year-old is not asked to carry as much weight as the three-year-old who in turn gets an allowance from still older horses. There's a mares' allowance and a penalty weight for winning. You slip down to a lighter burden if you show no prospect of carrying the heavier one to success. Apprentice jockeys have an allowance from their more experienced competitors which diminishes as wins accumulate to show that it's not so much needed anymore. And so it goes on. Bookies know it too: that's why they're offering odds of 4/11 Limerick and 11/4 Limerick in next week's Final—the widest estimated disparity of strength since Tipperary met Antrim in my middle age long ago! (*You don't mind my slipping that in?*)

Jesus shows his appreciation of handicapping in today's gospel. We're not all Derby-qualified hundred percenters, bred in the purple and pampered from foaling-pen to final fence or fall. We might be born into thorns or on rocks. We might be fated to struggle through a bird-pecked life. We might be planted, raised in and sustained by good ground. We might strive hard to reach a maximum of thirty percent. We might do better. We might not. The Great Steward of the Winners Enclosure in the Sky is not a *one-size-fits-all* Assessor. Anyhow, dare I say it, doesn't Himself play a part in the handicapping? At the very least, He knows about it.

J.L.

Pointers for Prayer

1. Jesus uses parables to make people think about their own responses to his message. As you read this parable you may recognise that at different times you have been like each of the different types of soil. As you recall times when you presented fertile soil for the word of God, what helped you create that receptive atmosphere? What lessons for life do you get from that?

2. Parents with children, teachers with pupils, speakers with listeners, are all like sowers in a field where the preparation of the soil is up to another—the child, pupil or listener. They can sow the seed but cannot guarantee that it will bear fruit. At times there may be a temptation not to try any more. The challenge is to sow in hope. When have you been surprised by the harvest you have reaped?



3. **“We are wasting our time here” may sometimes be the apparent wisdom in a group. Have there been times when you have gone against this apparent wisdom and seen your efforts bear fruit?**

PRAYER: God of the heavens, God of the earth, all creation awaits your gift of new life. Prepare our hearts to receive the word of your Son, that his gospel may grow within us and yield a harvest that is a hundredfold. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

Source: www.tarsus.ie /Sunday Readings



Speak Lord, your Servant is Listening

For the word of God to become a living word, we need to listen beyond the words to the one speaking to us through Scripture. It is our faith that God **speaks to us as we listen to “the very voice of the pilgrim people God.”** This does not happen of its own accord; it calls for a listening ear and an open heart. Merciful God, anoint me with your Holy Spirit. As I read your Word, let me hear your voice speaking to me from within. Give me the wisdom to understand your message to me. Let your Word be the joy of my heart and the light to my feet. Give me strength to build my life on your Word. Let it be done to me according to your Word. May I rejoice in the blessedness of hearing your Word and keeping it. Speak Lord; your servant is listening.

Source: Sunday Readings www.tarsus.ie Apr 2021



Augustinian Abbey Fethard Celebrates 200 years

The Augustinian Abbey in Fethard dates from 1305. It was suppressed in 1540 and became a ruin until the 1820s. In the meantime the friars maintained a discreet presence in the Fethard area. Included here was Fr William Tirry who was executed in 1654.

In 1820 the friars returned officially to the Abbey and celebrated their first Sunday Mass on July 6, 1823. This important anniversary was marked last Sunday, July 9th with a special Mass at the Abbey and with refreshments afterwards.

– Iggy O'Donovan OSA

Source: fethard.com/current news July 10/2023



Limerick Bastille Day

Wild Geese Festival 15th -16th July



- Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th—take a tour of the Wild Geese Museum (Old St. Munchin's Church, Kings Island) from 10am –4pm, which will exceptionally be opened the weekend!
- Visit the Hunt Museum Garden on Saturday from 1-5pm for live music, Historical re-enactments, Dance and more.
- Sunday join a joyful procession at 2pm from the Wild Geese Museum to the United Nations Peace Garden in front of St. Mary's Cathedral for a ceremony supported by the Defence Forces.
- Finally follow the bagpiper and the re-enactors for a final farewell to the Wild Geese at the Curraghower Boat Club, Merchant's Quay at 5pm.

Source Festival Programme