



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 23rd July 2023

website: [www.augustinianslimerick.com](http://www.augustinianslimerick.com)  
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# Weeding and Righting

Matthew 12

## 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



## 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



*The French writer, Sartre, oppressed or obsessed by the LOOK— the feeling of being watched—blurted out "There's no need for red-hot pokers. Hell is other people."*

There's a lot wrong with that but we must sometimes feel that things would be better if our fellow-travellers were a better bunch. Strong men and women, despots and dictators, have often got the same idea and decided to improve the world by a bit of weeding in the human field. Purges, pogroms and ethnic cleanings followed. The past hundred years have seen many such, as tens of millions of people were eliminated, in the cause of human improvement! You might call it **weeding and righting**. The only certain result of such "improving" measures is that they leave things worse than before. I suppose it takes a certain wisdom to accept the mixture of the maybe-good and maybe-bad who make up the human quilt, the biodiversity, so to speak, that flourishes where God "hath sown and soon would reap."

Flannery O'Connor, of the U.S. South, is full of surprises. In her story, *Revelation*, is found Mrs Turpin, a restrained lady mindful of her superiority over the feckless and the reckless she saw all around her. She called them "the white trash and the \*\*\*\*\* who don't want to pick cotton any more." It was an insult that eventually shook her out of her satisfying superiority - a lunatic telling her to "Go back to the hell where you came from, you old warthog".

Disturbed, Mrs Turpin began to "see things":

*"A visionary light settled in her eyes. She saw the purple streak in the sky as a swinging bridge extending upward from the earth through a field of living fire. Upon it a vast horde of souls was rumbling toward heaven. There were whole companies of white trash, clean for the first time in their lives, and bands of \*\*\*\*\* in white robes, and battalions of freaks and lunatics shouting and clapping and leaping like frogs. And bringing up the end of the procession was a tribe of people whom she recognised at once as those who, like herself and husband Claud, had always had a little of everything and the God-given wit to use it right. She leaned forward to observe them closer. They were marching behind the others with great dignity, accountable as they had always been for good order and common sense and respectable behaviour. They alone were on key. Yet she could see by their shocked and altered faces that even their virtues were being burned away."*

There will be weeds among the wheat and even if, especially if, we consider ourselves clean and productive plants we should leave the weeding to the Great Harvester. Maybe we're all a bit weedy. In God's field a weed can turn into a flower. Cleansing society of "undesirable elements" has often been the stated ambition and starting point for the maddest and baddest in history.

J.L.

## Pointers for Prayer

1. The owner of the field who allowed the wheat and the darnel to grow together is a reminder to us to be patient with ourselves and with others when we see everything is not right. Sometimes a preoccupation with the negative (the darnel) can blind us to seeing the positive in our own lives and in the lives of others. When have you found that a willingness to live with the messiness of the present created the conditions for future growth?
2. Have you ever found that it was through accepting the darnel that you learned important lessons for life, e.g., learning by making mistakes, or asking stupid questions, or taking foolish risks?
3. The parables of the mustard seed and the leaven are reminders that seemingly insignificant things can have very positive results. Have you ever been surprised by the benefit to yourself or others of a kind gesture, a small initiative, or a word of encouragement?

PRAYER: O God, patient and forbearing, you alone know fully the goodness of what you have made. Strengthen our spirit when we are slow and temper our zeal when we are rash, that in your own good time you may produce in us a rich harvest from the seed you have sown and tended. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Source: [www.tarsus.ie/SundayReadings](http://www.tarsus.ie/SundayReadings)



## Reek Sunday 30th July

The annual Reek Sunday takes place on the last Sunday in July on Ireland's holy mountain Croagh Patrick in the Archdiocese of Tuam. What is it about that holy mountain



that it continues to attract all age groups out of their comfort zones to take on a demanding penitential exercise?

## Upcoming Feast Days

Tuesday 25th July, Feast of St. James the Apostle Son of Zebedee and brother of John, called the Greater.

Wednesday 26th Feast of Ss Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Saturday 29th Feasts of Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus who welcomed Jesus as a family friend.

Martha generously offered him hospitality, & Mary who listened attentively to his words.

## THE HURLER'S PRAYER

Grant me, O Lord, a hurler's skill,  
With strength of arm and speed of limb,  
Unerring eye for the flying ball,  
And courage to match whatever befall.  
May my stroke be steady and my aim be true,

My actions manly and my misses few;  
No matter what way the game may go  
May I rest in friendship with every foe!  
When the final whistle for me has blown,  
And I stand at last before God's throne,  
May the great referee when he calls my name  
Say, "You hurled like a man:  
you played the game".

By Seamus Redmond

# Luimneach Abu

## Lunchtime Concerts at St. Mary's Cathedral

Tuesday 25th July at 1.15pm  
Operatic Arias

with

Ruth Kelly (Soprano) &  
Irina Dernova (Piano)



Admission Free  
(with a retiring collection)

## Culture Night 2023



Limerick Culture Night 2023 will take place this year on Friday 22nd September with venues and public spaces across Limerick opening their doors to host a programme of free late-night entertainment as part of an all-island celebration of arts, heritage and culture. Culture Night is always great fun and offers the perfect opportunity for us as a region to showcase the wealth of culture that Limerick has to offer.

More info at [www.culturenightlimerick.ie](http://www.culturenightlimerick.ie)