



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

The Transfiguration of the Lord

6th August 2023

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Transports on High Ground

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

I used to drive halfway up Mount Leinster and walk the rest of the way to the top. The mast that transmitted RTE was already there but our broadcasters hadn't yet got the idea that they owned the place and fenced it off. Then, there were sheep everywhere. The people of my own place thought the debate about life on the moon was already settled - if there was any life on the moon the Carlow farmers would have sheep there. In clear weather there was always debate about how many counties you could see from the summit. A fleece of cloud or fog could come in quickly and a whole lot of counties - five or seven or ten or more—disappeared. You were left with the bit of Carlow you were standing on. When I had small children with me I noticed they had a different way of looking at things. They couldn't care less whether you could see every county in heaven and earth from the place. Their interest was the wind that blew strong there. They would cling to anything or anyone and squeal in delighted fright at the possibility of being blown away. In the lulls when the wind was weaker we debated how far it would carry you if you slipped your mooring: would it take you a million miles or seventeen million miles up into the sky or into the next sky? Or it might land you in South Africa, a country we knew well because the swallows carried our messages there every year and came back with the answers when the winter was over? Wouldn't it be funny if we got there before the birds, and we with no wings! Funnier still if the wind dropped you down the chimney at home like Santa?



Next the flights of fancy ran out of fuel and another thing about the wind got the upper-hand. It was cold. Fantastic flights quickly melted into I want to go home. Peter, too, on the mountain got a bit giddy. He'd build tents. One for the God who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in! Another for Elijah who travelled to heaven on a whirlwind driven by God! And a third tent for the Moses who had communed face to face with God at the Tent of Meeting as a man would with a friend.

But Peter's fantasy, like the children's on Mt Leinster disappeared in a cold fog. The vision faded, the exhilarating wind turned chill and there was nothing for it but back to the bottom to start again.

We may get a glimpse but we could never house God; we'd easier arrest the wind. History is littered with attempts. The vinegary Frenchman who said "God made man in his own likeness and man returned the compliment" was onto something. The human mind has bent and buckled God into many shapes to support governments and churches, wars and conquests, books of rules, causes and biases. God has been allowed in certain places and barred from others. The kind of people God could be associated with has been carefully prescribed and proscribed. Eventually this moulding of God turns to dust and only the chill remains. Then we should be left, as Mark says Peter and friends were, discussing what rising from the dead could mean.

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



Thought for the Day

Special moments of "presence" are important to us, even though we may not often speak of them. These can happen in all sort of ways: at the birth of a child, in nature, while listening to music, in prayer, as we contemplate a work of art and so forth. In any case, always unexpectedly. Often we would be a little embarrassed to talk about such "epiphanies" for fear of seeming foolish or naive but, nevertheless, such intimations of something more really matter to us personally because they give the holy a foothold in our own experience. We would like to prolong such experiences, but that is not their nature (as Peter discovered!).

Prayer Help us, Lord, to recognise you more and more in the present moment of our lives, that our love for you may be real and our hope in you strong.

Source: www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings

Novena to Our Lady of Knock

The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock will take place from the 14th—22nd August with ceremonies taking place at 3pm and 8pm in the Knock Basilica. There will also be daily workshops at 12noon in the Novena Village . The theme for the novena this year is 'Caring for Creation'.

Over the course of the Novena there will be guest speakers each day who will offer insights on a variety of topics, from personal faith stories to how we are responding to a changing world. There will be a Family Day on Sunday 20th Aug. **from 11am –3pm.**

More details on the notice board at the back of the church. Source: Programme for the Novena/ knockshrine.ie

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF KNOCK

Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, you gave hope to your people in a time of distress, and comforted them in sorrow.

You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your divine Son, remembering His promise, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find." Help me to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to heaven. Fill me with love and concern for my brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who live with me. Comfort me when I am sick, lonely or depressed. Teach me how to take part ever more reverently in the Holy Mass. Give me a greater love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Pray for me now, and at the hour of my death. Amen.



ALONE

'Would you be willing to provide companionship to an older person locally? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested, please apply via the ALONE website at www.alone.ie or for further information please email caroline.bradley@alone.ie

If you are over 60 and would like to know more about the services ALONE can offer you, please call 0818 222 024.'

GROW

Grow Mental Health- Friendly Community based groups for anyone experiencing mental health issue through 12 Step Program of connection, hope, identity by empowering people to nurture their positive wellbeing by supporting personal growth through education, peer support and self-teaching.
Contact : www.grow.ie

Grow Mental Health 0818-474 474
www.grow.ie

Friendly Community based, peer support groups for anyone experiencing a mental health issue.

Feasts for the coming Week

Tuesday 8th August: St. Dominic, priest founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans)

Wednesday 9th August: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) Patron of Europe.

Thursday 10th : St. Lawrence Deacon & Martyr

Friday 11th : St. Clare born at Assisi founder and ruler of the Poor Clares.

Saturday 12th: St. Jane Frances de Chantal, her friendship with St. Francis de Sales led to the foundation of the Congregation of the Visitation.