

#### **Mass Times**

<u>Monday-Friday</u> 7.30am, 8.30am, 10.15am, & 4pm <u>SATURDAY</u> 8.30am, 10.15am Mass for the Sick 3.00pm <u>SUNDAY</u> 9.00am, 11.15am & 7.30pm CONFESSI ONS

#### 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 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8th October 2023

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

## In iothlainn Dé go dtugtar sinn.

"I had a farm in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong Hills" - first words of **Isak Dinesen in** "Out of Africa"

In Old Ireland it was common for a man to build up a farm with a view to supporting a wife. I lived for a time where it was more common to build a team of wives in order to support a farm. Land was plentiful. Labour less so and automation still in the future. The work was done by hand. The rainy / planting season was short. The area you could cultivate and plant depended on how many hands were available in your household. And what better way to build up a labour force than by marrying them? Simple and obvious.

In a sense I too had a farm in Africa. In that cash-starved place while **preaching God you'd keep a respectful eye on Mammon too. One option, personal** polygamy, had to be ruled out but the crowd calling you Fada pointed to another. The parish council would mark out a tract of unclaimed land. The people of God, maybe hundreds of them, would pledge a few days a year to prepare, plant, weed, reap, thresh, store and guard what could be sold to help pay church expenses for the coming year. Defaulters would incur censure not found in Canon Law. Many parables of Jesus were acted out. A hundred and more belaboured the land, driven on by drumming like a marching army. You could call it combined harvesting. As they toiled they looked forward with as much joyful hope to the beer-pots already simmering on the headlands as to the hundred-fold promised in the life to come. From the working, singing and drinking together came a sense of ownership and a fierce protectiveness.

J.B. Keane's Field was not so jealously guarded nor John Healy's Nineteen Acres so carefully tended as our few acres at the foot of the Mukuta hills. You could see there a trace of what impelled the tenants of today's gospel to such drastic action. Granted, no person died for threatening our bit of sorghum, beans and groundnuts but the monkeys were not so lucky. One had his enjoyment of fresh groundnuts, and everything else that was his, terminated by an unusually accurate arrow while many others were encouraged by machete, spear and arrow to go back to the hills to think again. And perhaps chatter into the night about the dangerous lunatics on the plain below

The readings today are forceful. As we hear Isaiah we might remember Paul telling the Corinthians, and us, *You are God's farm, God's building,* and a warning about the consequences of producing sour grapes. As for the building, the gospel recalls a psalm to assert that it has only one keystone without which it would crumble in on itself. The same gospel leaves no doubt as to the One from whom the whole lot is borrowed. Every season is Season of Creation. J.L.



## Workshop on Positive Mental Health & Wellbeing

**'Living a happy and contented life'**; getting the conversation going on positive mental health and wellbeing *with Grow & JIGSAW*.

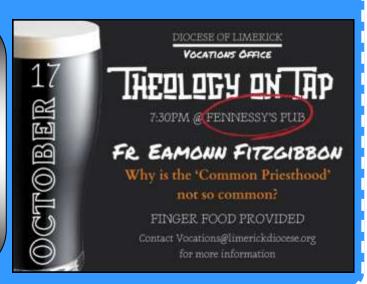
A workshop for parents, people in ministry, community leaders and others to <u>start</u> <u>the conversation</u> on the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing in the

family, the parish, and the wider community. Details of resources and supports available to families, parishes and community groups will be shared.

Date: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7:30-9pm in Limerick Diocesan Centre. *(No charge)* Please register your place here: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PostiveMentalHealth</u>

### Prayer

Lord, the light I choose to let into my life today is based on my hope in you. It is a small flame, but I believe that it can dispel a bit more darkness today. For it is through us **that Christ's light will shine** in the midst of the struggles and cares of the world.





#### Faith Renewal: New Autumn-Winter Programme at Knock

- **'What do we know about Jesus" ? Evening Faith** Formation Course with Fr. Eugene Duffy. Oct/ November.
- 'Joining the Synod: Weekly reflections & discussions on the proceedings in Rome'. Join online. Art Workshop: Seeing is believing . Reflecting on Art as a Glimpse of the Sacred' with Dr. Nora Donnelly, Saturday 9th and 16th December. Journeying through Advent and into Christmas: November remembrance Mass, Carols by Candlelight, Advent reconciliation Service. All night vigil 7th December. Programme on the Notice board at the back of the church. Further details & information (dates and bookings see www.knockshrine.ie/faithrenewal

### **Monastic Weekend**

Monastic Vocations weekend for women at St Benedict's Priory, Cobh, Co Cork 28th-29th Oct. For more information contact Mother Prioress: <u>cobhtyburnconvent@gmail.com</u>