

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

22nd October 2023

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



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 MISSION SUNDAY

22nd October 2023

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God and Caesar

The interests of God and Caesar are not always easy to distinguish one from the other. My first Christmas in charge of anything - it was a woebegone kind of parish—I was expected to **balance them. It was a job I possibly could have done better and probably couldn't have done worse.**

Being Christmas, God was in our village and was to be welcomed with Mass in church and a community party in schoolyard. Though the collective larder of the village had to **be stretched precariously to meet the uncertain coming of the next harvest we couldn't** send Scrooge to welcome the Prince of Peace. So, beer was brewed. Yams and rice were boiled. Scrawny chickens and a couple of goats that had lived on their wits lived no longer. **There was no worry about weather; four months had gone since the last rain and we'd wait** as long for the next. The Mass was prepared, with servers drilled, readers coached and musicians flattered into unwonted amenability. God would be well-come.

Now Caesar, chief of the district, was a different question. He was not of our faith but he considered any gathering of his people illegitimate, maybe even treasonable, were he not there to receive their homage. Ignoring him, I was advised, would leave me on very shaky ground and my ground was shaky enough already. The **dead-man's grip of custom dictated** that I should collect him and return him to his palace when he had his fill of the jollity. That made a total of four hours turbulent driving, with my resentment fermenting and simmering, but afraid to boil over, with every bump in the horrible road.

Caesar sat beside me in the old jeep tediously telling and re-telling the Ninety-Nine Names of Allah. At his side an acolyte acted as air conditioner, his horsetail whisk metronomic in front of the royal face. Behind, in the open back of the pick-up, a lackey held his prayer-mat and kettle—each ornamented to fit his royal station. Others too stood swaying behind. **First among these, His Majesty's bugler. We stopped at each hamlet and this artiste trumpeted** as if it were the Last Trump itself and the peasants threw themselves into such attitudes of servility as agility or arthritis allowed.

Behind the bugler stood a little folk-group of praise-singers who **didn't spare themselves:** each time the bugler blew himself out they roared out the finest of things about Allah and, especially, our Caesar.

He took his royal seat on one side of the altar. The crib was on the other. I won't say which side of the altar saw the warmer veneration after the Go in Peace. To tell the **truth, before day was done I wasn't sure what or who Christmas there was about.**

History is stained by human attempts to marry God and Caesar. We've had Holy Empires and Divine Right Kings and Theocracies and Islamic State and Complete-Way-of-Life Caliphates with Umma over Infidel, all heavily or lightly clad in infallibility. Too often Caesar did better out of them than the God of any gospel, while ordinary people came out worst of all.

The God who invites and the Caesar who compels differ in their ways and interests. **Even now a brand of religion which claims to be a "complete way of life" is, unashamedly, a way of death by mass murder for those who demur. And here's another thing: those who would separate church and state do well so long as they don't become a kind of "church of compulsion" themselves. Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar and God what belongs to God.** The person who said that is our best guide as we make what we can of it.



World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday is the Holy Father's annual appeal to support overseas mission and missionaries. It takes place in every single parish worldwide where the Church is present. In Ireland, Missio Ireland is tasked with organising the Mission Sunday collection. Missio Ireland is the Pope's official charity for overseas mission.

The fund supports missionary activities in over 1,100 young dioceses: mostly Africa, Asia and Latin America. As young dioceses grow, so do their needs. On top of this, they are often found in remote areas devastated by conflict or natural disasters. The Universal Solidarity Fund provides aid so that missionaries can continue to go these places to share the love of God.

Source: Mission Month Toolkit

Pope Francis has chosen the theme this year from Luke (cf.24:13-35): **"Hearts on fire, feet on the move"**. Inspired by the story of the two disciples on the way to Emmaus, their encounter with Christ in the word and in the breaking of the bread which sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim the Lord had truly risen.

Support Mission Sunday

This weekend parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. The kindness shown will help overseas missionaries to continue to share the love of God with some of the world's most marginalised and vulnerable people. Thank you for supporting in whatever way you can, and please remember it is more than an appeal for financial help. Missionaries also need spiritual support. On World Mission Sunday missionaries take great strength in knowing that the faithful of the world are keeping them in their thoughts and prayers. If you would like to support Mission Sunday you can leave a donation in any of the mission boxes as you leave the church. **Two at the glass door entrance and one at our Roches Street entrance. You can also donate €4 by texting the word 'Mission' to 50300. Thank You.**



November Desert Day

Remember your loved ones who are with God

Silent Retreat with Eucharist & Reconciliation
Saturday November 4th 2023: 10.30am to 5pm



Venue: Limerick Diocesan Centre,
St. Munchin's, Corbally, V94 9250

Facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan OSM and Bernadette Murphy
Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea/Coffee/ Snacks provided. Donation: €20
Booking is essential. Contact Phyllis at 087 963 6893 or email moynihanphyllis525@gmail.com

November Desert Day, Sat 4th November:

Remember your loved ones who are with God: Silent Retreat facilitated by Sr Phyllis Moynihan and Bernadette Murphy with Eucharist & Reconciliation, Saturday November 4th: 10.30am to 5pm in Limerick Diocesan Centre, St. Munchin's, Corbally, V94 925. Reserve your place by contacting Phyllis at 087 963 6893 or email: moynihanphyllis525@gmail.com. Bring your own packed lunch, tea, coffee, and snacks provided. Donation: €20.

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 contact Caroline on 086-0591399 or via 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

New Arrival at the Abbey Bookshop

Calm the Soul

A Book of Simple
Wisdom and Prayer

The Poor Clares,
Galway

Updated 10th
Anniversary Edition



Chopin by Candlelight

St. Mary's Cathedral

Friday 27th October at 9pm

Entrancing Melodies of Chopin
in an unique candlelit experience

