



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th November 2023

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

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



Risk and Reward

Betting people are much exercised these days about a proposed imposition by law of *affordability checks*. Problem gambling and the publicity it attracts has people worried. Governments propose that before the punter sets out to win he must prove that he can afford to lose. At first glance today's parable seems to have Jesus favouring the daring punter over the cautious minder but it's hardly as simple as that. Parables are older than arguments said a man called Francis Bacon. A parable, while fictitious, is true to life.

The man himself told me this story. In his early teenage the treat of the year was to accompany his father to the local race meeting. Early in the day they agreed strategy. The father would provide the capital for the day, a full fiver. They would, as the day progressed jointly work out which horse, in each of five races, would be entrusted with their pound. The son would do the running—to the bookie with the wager and back to the dad with the winnings. These would be split fifty-fifty.



On his way to place the first bet our young runner's attention was taken by a circle of deeply-engaged men. Investigation showed that at the centre was one flourishing a pack of playing cards and his curate shouting invitation to all to avail of easy money. Our runner was young but not naive. Far from it. He came from a bright card-playing family and even before his Confirmation he could hold his own in any associated activity, over or under the table.

While inside the rails the first race started and ended unnoticed, he studied the art of the card-man. He saw three people in turn be fleeced before he cracked it. He saw how it was done and knew how to counter it. He watched for another while to confirm his findings. Buoyed by the feeling of solving a problem to one's own great profit, he plunged with the full fiver. His antagonist took the money without a flicker of emotion before showing and flourishing the cards in his usual peacock-tail style.. All went as expected till the card came up. The wrong card.

A nervous afternoon ensued. At the conference on where to place the second, now absent, pound our man found it hard to concentrate. But no situation is hopeless. Four horses followed the example of the first. They fell, faltered or otherwise contrived to fail. Ill wind seldom generated such gratitude as horse number five, carrying the last phantom pound, signed off a loser. The family outing ended smoothly. Father, as punters do, hid the mild irritation that comes from a losing streak while son likewise concealed the wild elation that comes from a great escape.

How stands all this with today's gospel? Well, our custodian of the five talents didn't exactly double their money. The joint intention was to speculate in order to accumulate. He did that, though the nature of the speculation deviated from that intended by the financier. They went to the races united and likewise went home, one poorer and one wiser. The novice obeyed the counsel inherent in today's parable that what's given is given to be used. At least he didn't bury a pound in the ground, Granted, many might say burying it in a conman's pocket was worse. **J.L.**

World Day of the Poor

Give, and it will be given to you;
A good measure,
pressed down
and shaken up,
and running over,
will be poured into
your lap.
For with the same
measure
that you use for others
will be the measure
God will use for you'.

Luke 6:38

NCB

Today Sunday 19th November is the seventh World Day of the Poor with the theme of not turning away. Pope Francis takes his inspiration from the elderly Tobit, who says to his son, 'Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor' (Tobit 4:7).

Jesus words remind us: Truly, I say to you: whenever you did this to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me.' Matt 25-40



'Making Room in the Inn'

Advent Silent Retreat with Eucharist & Reconciliation
Saturday December 2nd from 10.30am –5pm.
Limerick Diocesan Centre, St. Munchin's Corbally.
Booking essential 0879636893 Donation €20
Facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan RSM and Ann Mulcahy

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

What does God desire of us? This simple question is perhaps not asked frequently enough! It can be made quite personal: what does God want of me, from me? In the end, the answer has to be—in the words of the song—all that I am," precisely because God loves all that I am. This will mean allowing ourselves to be loved. It will also mean responding with my whole self, including all the gifts of body, mind and soul that God has bestowed upon me. In the end, God does hope that we may be and become our true selves. Nothing less is adequate to God's own love for us.

PRAYER We are truly grateful to you, God our creator and redeemer, for your many gifts. We ask your help that we may use all you have given us for your glory and for the good of our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

Source: www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings

Tarsus Scripture School Advent 2023

The theme of this Advent Scripture Course is "**Stories of Hope,**" and will focus on how hope is found in three very different texts in the Bible: Esther, Romans, and Mark. The course will feature a total of six pre-recorded presentations, two from each of the three presenters, which can be enjoyed at your own pace once the course goes live.

In addition to the presentations, there will also be two live Zoom webinars: a Q&A session, and a meditation session based on the texts and themes of the course.

Cost: €20 per household
tarsusscriptureschool.ie



CROOM
Christmas Market
Sunday 19th November
12.00pm –4.00pm
Croom Sports
Complex Hall

Lunchtime Concert
St. Mary's Cathedral
1.15pm

Tuesday 21st Nov

Eve Stafford Soprano
& Irina Dernova Piano

**Shrek
the Musical**
Lime Tree Theatre
Wed 22nd -Sunday 26th