



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

### 26th November 2023

website: [www.augustinianslimerick.com](http://www.augustinianslimerick.com)

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## Kinds of Kings

### 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



There are kings and there are kings. Louis XIV of France, the Sun King early in his 73 year reign learned that kings are divinely chosen. So, disobedience to his edicts would be sinful. That was a good start. He modestly took the Sun as his emblem since France revolved around him as planets around the Sun. He built Versailles, still flag-bearer for gaudy extravagance.

Another shining king was Musa Manza Mali. Mali is now one of the poorest countries in the world. Musa was once king there and is still believed by many to have been the richest man that ever lived. Yes, ever, anywhere. On his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324 he had an entourage of 60,000 men. 12,000 slaves each carried 4 lb of gold bars, and 80 camels about a hundredweight of gold-dust each. Musa gave gold to the poor he met en route and collapsed the economy of Cairo with consequent inflation. He had to borrow his homeward fare. He recovered and built up Timbuktu with its great mosques and university.

Martin Crean OSA of this town was once parish priest of Madagali in the lately Augustinian diocese of Maiduguri and, stretching things, you could say the divine king of Sukur was once his parishioner. His Highness ruled from his high rock-fortress plateau in **the Mandara mountains. There's a rich story behind that throne. A man from the clan** responsible for hairdressing the sacred hairlock of the priest-chief of Gudur walked into Sukur. He was met by a daughter of a blacksmith. She ran to get him water and to tell the village of the stranger. All the men rushed out to see him but he had made himself invisible. **They heard his voice saying he'd let them see him if they gave him the girl as wife.** Impressed by the invisibility bit, they agreed. Not only that; they made him their priest-king because their own priests had been off-form and not producing the goods. Sukur was to become, in the words of McBride, long-serving missionary of the Sudan United Mission **and student of customs, "The supreme repository of the dynastic concept of divine king-ship."**

Sukur was prosperous since they learned to smelt iron found among the rocks. Around the turn of the twentieth century the notorious slave-raider Hamman Yaji with British arms nearly wiped them out. Still, shades of royal invisibility remained: the king could never be seen eating and if he had to go on government business to Madagali he lived on a diet of his own beer—maybe to preserve the aura or maybe he just liked the stuff.

In 1930 the then king tackled the recurring scourge of locusts by collecting a penny from every male in his realm. This was to finance the Sukur smiths smelting enough iron for their colleagues at Gudur to construct a cauldron big enough to confine all the locusts in the world, thus ending their devastation of crops and consequent famines. The great humanitarian scheme failed in its final end because the colonial power prohibited use of an indelicately procured component needed for its completion.

(Info from Kirke Greene: *Maiduguri and the Great Cities of Borno* (1958))

Today we celebrate a king, a divine one too, who made no virtue of grandeur or separation or invisibility or indeed of eating alone. No gold-carrying camel train. No gaudy palace or expulsion of inconvenient neighbours either. He ate, drank, walked, talked, lived and died with the common and commonest. In fact he eats when the hungry eat, pains when the sick suffer and weeps when the sad mourn. He lives after death and reigns after Calvary.

J.L.

# Morning for Peace

## Light a Candle for Peace

Saturday  
2nd December



Service at 1pm  
St. Augustine's Church

### "It is better to light a light than to curse the darkness"

The outbreak of War in the Holy Land has made us aware that the world is not a peaceful place. Every day since the 7<sup>th</sup> October, we have watched people being killed. Two babies have died this week in the neo-natal unit in a Gaza hospital because of lack of basic things, such as electricity. It is difficult to watch this each day and not feel helpless. War continues to rage in Ukraine and many other parts of the world are suffering serious violence and deprivation. We all need peace in our workplaces in our communities and in our homes.

We look at what we see and are troubled that there is nothing we can do. **On the basis that it is indeed 'better to light a light than curse the darkness' we are inviting you to join with us on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December for a special morning to pray for peace.**

From about 9.30 am on 2<sup>nd</sup> December people from this congregation will be outside the Church offering a night light to passers by and asking them to light it over the Christmas Season to pray for peace. It is important to stress that there will be no money collected and we do not want payment for the night lights. We wish to express our desire for peace and hope to share it with the city.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and people may wish to go into the Church and pray quietly for peace. There will be a short (20 minute) Prayer Service at 1pm and we would be delighted if you would come and join with us to express our united desire and pray together for peace.

If you would like to  
get involved

Contact Geraldine  
email

searchauglim1@gmail.com

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The image of the king is a foundational metaphor in the Bible, which in ordinary usage suggests power and glory. But even in the ancient biblical tradition, there are two significant modifications. According to an Old Testament vision, a king is meant to be a shepherd to his people, a true shepherd who cares for and who knows and even loves his sheep. According to a New Testament vision, Jesus our king rules paradoxically by loving service, humility and the gift of himself. This example and teaching of Jesus have lost none of their power.

PRAYER Wake us up, O God, and rouse us from the slumber of the everyday that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person, each day of our lives. Amen. Source: [www.tarsus.ie/Sunday\\_readings](http://www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings)

## MIC Advent Retreat Unitarian Universalist Church

Waiting Transformed in God's Presence

During this day of reflection we will explore and deepen some Advent themes in the Word of God and in our own lives. We will notice how God's presence with us can support us in being more choiceful in how we wait and open us to experience the blessings of Advent.

Facilitated by Therese Fitzgerald, Sister of Our Lady of Sion

Saturday, 2nd December, 10.30am-4pm  
Deebert Hotel, Kilmallock (V35 KV62)

Contribution: €70 (including 2 course lunch, morning, & afternoon tea/coffee).

Register your place at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdventWaiting>

## Mary's Meals Christmas Gifts Campaign

With the cost of living crisis, times are that bit harder for us all. The Global School Feeding Movement Mary's Meals have launched our Christmas Gifts Campaign - giving gifts that have a real and tangible impact on those in need.

**From as little as €5.50, which will provide 50 meals for children in their place of education, we can play our part in changing the lives of those most in need.**

Visit [marysmeals.ie](http://marysmeals.ie) to download a gift today or call 01-8535163/089-4339592.

## 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](http://www.alone.ie) or for further information please contact Caroline on 086-0591399 or via email [caroline.bradley@alone.ie](mailto: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.'