

1st Sunday of Advent



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

1st Sunday of Advent 3rd December 2023

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

Advent Alarm: Time Ticking Away

Stay Awake (Mark 13)

Around twenty-five years ago the National Lottery installed what they advertised as "the most beautiful and astonishing clock in the world" - the millennium Countdown Clock - in the River Liffey. Its design had been put out for public competition and the winning entry secured a prize of £10,000. The super-clock cost £250,000 and would count down every one of the 119,757,600 seconds left to the great year 2000. Ten thousand people including the Minister for Finance turned up to see it switched on. A gigantic fireworks display illuminated the proceedings. The event was relayed live on the Late Late Show. The ten thousand and the uncounted T.V. audience were told that "every 30 seconds the clock will send out recorded sounds of Dublin life - the clank of Guinness barrels on pavements, foghorns in the bay, seagulls' cries anywhere and everywhere and the calls of Moore Street traders." So far so good. The device ticked away for a mere couple of hundred thousand seconds before, as its curators delicately explained, it became "plagued by the issue of visibility". For the lay person, that meant it couldn't be seen. So it came to be called the *Chime in the Slime* and took its place beside its elder Dublin siblings the *Floozie in the Jacuzzi* and the *Tart with the Cart*. It did of course continue to mimic beer barrels on pavements, foghorns, seagulls cries and the calls of Moore Street traders. The odd indignant Dub asserted that you didn't need a quarter-of-a million-quid clock to help you hear sounds of Dublin life in Dublin.

Then, after a few days, even the sounds stopped and the clock went silent as well as unseen. In fact it was gone. The National Lottery, always happier dispensing good news than bad, were kindly economical with terrible truth and said "the temporary removal of the clock would not affect the timer in the least. It would not miss a second." In fact it had ticked its last public tock and missed the rest of that millennium and all others. It never came back. The £10,000 prize awarded to the winning architects was no doubt well spent.

Advent is a kind of a countdown clock ticking towards Christmas each year. It's also a reflection of the bigger clock which is running towards the unknown date when my own personal ticker becomes, to paraphrase the great millennium clock curators, "plagued by the issue of viability" and ticks its last. Preparing for Christmas is a joyful thing and preparing for the last tick or the last kick is we hope the same.



J.L.

Advent at the Abbey A Season of Opportunities

The **Glenstal Advent Talks** are at 4.30pm on Sunday 3rd, 10th and 17th December in the Abbey Library. They are followed by refreshments and the opportunity to attend sung Evening Prayer in the Abbey Church at 6pm. The talks are available afterwards from the website as recordings.



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Donation €20 Bookings-
Email events@glenstal.com
Call 061 621005

Advent Reflection

O Come God of our Hope
We invite your Word
into our hearts.

May we be awake and alert
To your presence in our world,
To your hope for our world.

Call us out of our apathy
out of our own selfish desires.

Help us to live as people who strive
to unite, rather than destroy,

To spread light,
rather than darkness.

Make your vision and hope
for this world our own vision,

And grant us the wisdom courage and
strength to work towards it. **Amen**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Beginning again is an invitation to look in two directions. What happened for me in the last year, both in my ordinary life and in my life as a believer, a person of faith? For what do I ask forgiveness? For what do I give thanks? We also look forward and the new beginning gives us a chance to start again on the Way of discipleship. Both thanksgiving and renewal are to be found in today's readings. The Gospel is in invitation to wake up, to keep watch, to live fully the present moment under God, in whom we live and move and have our being. Amen.

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, today and every day of our lives.

Source: www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Team Hope Shoebox Appeal this year. The final count from the warehouse on boxes sent from Limerick was **7,587**
Well done to everyone!

7,587

Grow Mental Health

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. Based in 33 Henry Street and Croom, several meetings including new meeting on Monday 11-1pm. Contact Michael 086-6063182/Celia 0861526966/www.grow.ie

Maranatha Healing Retreat

Maranatha Healing Retreat with beautiful praise worship songs music starts 2.45 pm at St Michael's church, Limerick city next Sunday, 3rd December, 2023 and including Mass at 4.30 pm and blessing of relics of St Faustina, Padre Pio and pope John Paul 11. Christmas raffle after Mass. All welcome

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.'