

Sunday of the Word of God



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick 21st January 2024 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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## Mass Times

Monday-Friday

7.30am, 8.30am,  
10.15am, & 4pm

SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am  
3pm Mass of the Sick

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

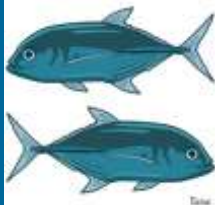
Ms Charlotte Gleeson

Mr. John Doyle



## Networking

When Noah, ready to sail, had them all lined up for inspection; two camels and two cats, two giraffes and goats, two monkeys and mice, and so on, there was not a **fish in the whole menagerie. Fish were exempt, God's free gift living in water. They had no need to be herded or housed, foddered or fed, or saved from drowning. They'd never be road-kill and it wouldn't worry them if the Ark turned out to be the Titanic.**



**If today's gospel reading stood alone you might think there was a sign "only fishermen need apply" over the door of the Jesus School of Theology. Peter, Andrew, James and John were all trawler-men driven by the need to feed families and the hope that many a tall tale would turn out true. There's something special about fish; a creature of God that takes nothing from us, even our space, and sustains the lives of many. We share the earth and its food with animals. Even the birds, or most of them, have to touch down for re-fuelling but fish have the sea more or less to themselves.**

Sure, many others did become members. But these fishermen were well-placed to begin the networking, to appreciate God's largesse and let Jesus inspire that appreciation to new heights and new depths.

Fish is what Jesus and his people ate any time, by hook or by crook or even by bursting net, they could get some out of the Sea of Galilee. And many early Christians too had fish on their minds. When it was dangerous to mention their faith they indicated it to one another by drawing a fish on a wall of their homes. They'd noticed the letters of the Greek word for fish, **ἰχθῦς**, could stand for Jesus Christ **God's Son (our) Saviour** - their creed and their identity.

The fish-on-fasting-Friday culture probably damaged the image of fish among us. But we're recovering. People booking tables in the restaurants of Kinsale don't have fasting on their minds. Fish is for feasting. The open-air markets of the hot places of the world reek of the stuff: fresh, dried or smoked and always smelling. For pungent sauce you couldn't beat it. We lived in a place where a great treat was the magnificent, and magnificently-named, fish *dan Sarki* (Child of the King) or *giwan ruwa* (elephant of the water). But they were luxuries. When the rivers dried, and hungry times came, people were glad of the lowly mudfish whose bones are beyond counting. This creature burrowed deep into the damp soil under the dry riverbed, there to wait until dug out by a fisher man or woman whose "rod" was a farm hoe or, if lucky, to be refloated by the next rains. But it was a fish, food, even if the dominant taste was of the mud wherein it had its seasonal home.

Even early on, it was plain that God too was fond of fish: we go back to Noah—when people's waywardness led the Creator to reduce every thing on feet to two of a kind, what else did He do? He filled the world with water. For footless fish, you see. And a Rainbow.  
J.L.



## Thought for the Day

The journey of life inevitably brings up the question what should I be, who should I become? Is life a maze or a labyrinth? Is it just round and round or is there a way out? How will I be as a spouse, a parent, a partner, a church member? Within the Christian project, do I feel myself called to "activate" my baptism is some particular ministry or

contribution? Such discernment will take in the grateful acknowledgement of my gifts as well as an examination of my inner generosity of spirit. In reality, we are all called by the Lord to build up the body of Christ. It is not a question of if but rather of how.

Prayer: God of surprises, take me by surprise once more and let me see how my special gifts could be part of your project of the Kingdom in Jesus.

Source: www.tarsus.ie. Sunday readings

## Sunday of the Word of God



St. Luke tells us that, just before his Ascension, the Risen Lord appeared to the apostles, and broke bread with them. 'He then opened their minds to understand the Scriptures'(24:45). This is how Pope Francis begins his apostolic letter, *Aperuit illis*, issued 30th Sept 2019, the feast of St. Jerome, instituting the Sunday of the Word of God.

The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: 'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ'

The third Sunday in ordinary time ( this year 21 Jan 2024) is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

Source: Excerpt from the Liturgical Calendar 2024



## Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2024 will be celebrated from Sunday 21 January – Saturday 27 January. on the theme of *Catholic Schools: Communities of Service'*

Resources are available [catholicschoolsweek2024](http://catholicschoolsweek2024)



## Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage (Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024) is back in its full capacity for 2024, bringing a full team of workers and assisted pilgrims. If you know someone (family member, neighbour, friend etc) who would like to travel as part of our assisted pilgrim section please let them know. Further information available from Limerick Diocesan Office on 061-350000.

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Dominican Sisters in Limerick will be offering Level I Catechesis Training sessions for Adult Formation for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd- a Montessori based method of catechesis for children 3-12 yrs old. The training will be held at St. Saviour's Parish 12 Feb-17 Feb, 2024.

For more information email Sr Mary Emily, O.P. at [limerick@op-tn.org](mailto:limerick@op-tn.org)

## Blood Donor Clinic

Limerick Greyhound Stadium  
Dock Road, Limerick. V94 Y17X  
22nd & 23rd January 16.20pm -19.40pm  
To book an appointment ring 1800 222 111

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**FRIDAY JANUARY 26TH &  
SATURDAY JANUARY 27TH**

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CURTAIN 8PM**