



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 28th January 2024 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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

Outside our Comfort Zone

Our introduction to the paranormal was gentle enough. Maybe once a year a road-show stopped in our half-parish, hung their lights in the Creamery Hall and put the cutting edge of mid-twentieth century entertainment in front of us. Truly, we were entertained. Always among the acts was a Hypnotist. After the fellow in cowboy suit sang "The Man from Laramie" and the magician broke raw eggs into the Sunday hats of volunteers the Hypnotist took the stage. This was the highlight. Perhaps emboldened by pre-show lubrication, some pillars of local society accepted the invitation to join him. He put them to sleep and had them do surprising things. A substantial farmer you'd doubt even undressed in private would now begin to do so in public. A dignified, well-scrubbed clerk would break into sweat as he milked an invisible cow. A portly gentleman who hadn't raised a trot for years now strained every sinew to jump a fence that wasn't there. A thrifty citizen, proud owner of one of the first cars in the parish would at a hint from the hypnotist furiously pedal a non-existent bicycle across the stage to delighted applause; and maybe even fall off it.

Such was our education in the paranormal until Fr Brennan came and we were taken to a higher level. He revived the local Dramatic Society and one of its first plays was "The Righteous are Bold." That brought us into the heavy stuff. The play opens with the return from abroad of a young girl, strangely different from the one who left. She has odd marks on her body and, though once religious, is now fiercely profane and anti-Christ. It's so bad that the doctor and the priest are called. The doctor prescribes; but the priest knows better—those were the days! She's possessed by the devil, he divined, dating from when she took part in a séance, for money. This was new to us in the run up to our Primary Cert and our wholly appropriate horror was interspersed with wholly inappropriate laughter.

Of all plays this had the longest run in the history of the Abbey Theatre. When it went to Broadway the New York Daily Mirror said it brought the first-nighters to the edge of their seats. while the NY World Telegraph and Sun called it tremendously gripping. Critics in general agreed. Still, I'd say our production was better. The priest decides to perform an exorcism. The rusted iron sheeting, roof and walls, of our theatre sawed, grated and groaned in the wind of winter nights in sympathy with the elemental battle raging on the stage. After a long and harrowing scene Old Nick is put back in his box and the girl released from hers. But it was a hard-earned win: the priest is shaken and soon dead.

Possession and exorcism don't sit easily with the modern mind, even the modern Christian mind. But Jesus was a famous exorcist and long after his death exorcists who were not even Christian invoked his name. Our world tends to think of illness rather than possession; people suffering in certain ways are thought to project onto an evil personal being the repressions and conflicts that torture them. As Galilean peasants of Jesus' time saw it, it was they who were assailed and invaded by evil spirits. They were an oppressed people and the great circle of crucifying crosses around Jerusalem at times of unrest is justification for their fears. Those fears were maddening at times and proof of how oppressive was Roman rule to anyone who might seem unenthusiastic about its benefits. The legions (Roman units) of swine (most "unclean" of animals) rushing to destruction in the sea could be a good metaphor for the way many would have liked to see Roman rule end.

Jesus confronted the demons directly without magic formula or tool. "Come out of him", he commanded. Growing into his mission Jesus was convinced he was acting by God's power. His struggle to liberate these unhappy people was a victory over Satan and the best sign of the coming of God's kingdom.

J.L.



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



Thought for the Day

How often do we meet people whose words and deeds match? Sometimes at least, but it may be rare enough. In the old expression, when all is said and done, more is said than done. Jesus is a teacher with authority — not the authority of position or force but power from within. This is suggested by the Greek word for authority *exousia*, from within (my) being. Even today, there are religious leaders who speak from within, whose word is genuine, whose deeds match what they say. These are the ones we listen to; these are the ones we would love to be like.

Prayer: Loving God, you love us wholly and your desire is that we become both whole and holy. Help us to take the Good News to heart. May we become fully mature in Christ, so that our inner and outer selves are one.

Source: www.tarsus.ie. Sunday readings

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible



An 8-week programme which helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, so you can get the 'big picture' of the Bible, aided by a unique colour-coded Bible Timeline Chart that arranges the key people, places, and events in chronological order. Pauline Maher, with Mossy Hynan & Paudie Hurley will run the programme from Tuesday 6th February to Tuesday 26th March (7.30pm-9pm), including an engaging video presentation, followed by lively group discussion over a cup of tea/coffee. Beginners are welcome, bible knowledge is not necessary. Venue: Limerick Diocesan Centre, St Munchin's, Corbally. V94 925C. Cost: €40 including course materials.

Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UnlockingBibleMystery>

Blessing of the Throats

Feast of St. Blaise Sat 3rd February

Since the eight century St. Blaise has been venerated as patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. The blessing of St. Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the Sick.

There will be blessing of throats at Masses on Saturday

Blessing at Masses

8.30am, 10.15am
3.00pm First Saturday
Anointing of the Sick

Feast of St. Brigid Thursday 1st February



St. Brigid of Kildare also known as Brigid of Ireland, is one of Ireland's patron saints along with Patrick and Columba. She founded her principal monastery in Kildare, and is remembered for her generosity towards the poor and her care for the sick. A rich heritage of stories and traditions have grown up around her name including St. Brigid's crosses which were placed over the door in the different rooms and recognized as signs of protection from fire, from harm, and from hunger. There will be hand made crosses available at the back of the church on Thursday 1st Feb. Crosses also available in the Abbey Bookshop.

Desert Day in Lent "Come back to me with all your heart"

Silent Retreat with Eucharist & Reconciliation
Saturday 17th February 2024; 10.30am to 5pm



Venue: Limerick Diocesan Centre,
St. Munchin's, Corbally, V94 925C

Facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan RSM 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

DESERT DAY IN LENT "Come back to me with all your heart"

A silent retreat with Eucharist and reconciliation on Saturday 17th February, from 10.30am to 5pm in Limerick Diocesan Centre (V94 925C). Facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan RSM 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.