



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 18th February 2024 First Sunday of Lent

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Operation Transformation

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

For a number of years RTE have run this show. It seems clear that one criterion—maybe there are many others - used to select the participants is that they must appear built for comfort rather than speed but are eager to adjust the ratio. A certain shape-shifting and lightening of the load is the main objective. So, the weighing-scales is star of the show. At regular intervals participants are herded onto it, one by one. The nation watches the dial as intently as did beef-butchers in days gone by. The machine gives its verdict. Whoops of joy or groans of disappointment, preferably accompanied by tears, declare the spectacle a success. All based on the principle that less is more. Many find this entertaining. But - pardon me mixing my drinks—what's some people's nectar is not everybody's cup of tea.

Had not RTE appropriated the title the Christian project itself might be called Operation Transformation. Our Scriptures are peppered with words meant to be transformative: repenting and renewing, winnowing and weeding, planting and pruning and many more—putting on the new man under the impulse of the Spirit who renews the face of the earth. All the liturgical seasons are concerned with transformation and renewal but the one just begun is the most explicitly so.

A problem with Lent is its length. Maybe a Celtic monk of old, trying for a personal best, could keep the spiritual revs sky-high for forty days but most are not able to pedal that hard for that length of time.

What about ashes? Depends on whom you ask. After a defeat by Australia 150 years ago an "obituary" stated that English cricket had died; "the body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia". The English captain, Ivo Bligh, vowed—not promised or predicted, it had to be "vowed"—"to regain those ashes." Fair play to you, Ivo! So, to the sporting fraternity the Ashes is a trophy for winning a cricket contest. To the weary fireman ashes mean what's left after a disaster he was unable to arrest. To Frank McCourt readers it will mean Angela and misery, and poor-mouthing to the edge of credibility or beyond.

There's an appetite for ashes. A few years ago in Dublin I saw an Augustinian, habit blowing in the not so merry March wind, signing Thomas Street passers-by with the cross in ashes. Many of them were puzzled pilgrims from afar traipsing towards the Mecca of their devotion—and triumph of the advertiser's artifice - the Guinness Hop-Store. We did our bit here on Wednesday. People lined up to be exhorted to repent, and have their foreheads marked accordingly. It was quite orderly. We've seen it otherwise, akin to the stampede of avid shoppers spotting the last of the for-half-nothing fur coats in the January sales. Cost-free tradition dies hard

Tell the truth, it's hard to know what to make of it all. External signs are meant to be seen but we mustn't do things to be seen. Still, the Jesus who said go into your private room and don't let your right hand boast of its good deeds even to its twin, the left, also said let your light shine before people. I suppose it's all about motive and balance. The Ash-Cross is probably a message to ourselves rather than to others. The real Operation Transformation is not a show. The official line is that ashes symbolise our mortality - as if we needed another reminder—or that no matter how long my innings I'll end as ashes.

JL

Stations



of the Cross

JOIN US
Every Friday
for Lent following
10.15am Mass



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



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION - LECTIO DIVINA FOR LENT

It is hoped to form a group, to reflect together, as people from Christian traditions of the Word of God during Lent.

Lectio Divina is a method of reflecting on the Word by allowing the piece of Scripture to speak to our lives today. There is no knowledge of Scripture required to take part. Lectio Divina is lead by the Holy Spirit. We read a passage, listen to what it says to us and as the Spirit of God leads us, we listen to each other to find deep meaning in what it says.

The group will be facilitated by two people from two different Christian traditions (Catholic and Protestant) We will meet in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Augustinian Church on O'Connell Street at 11.15am on Tuesdays during Lent.

All are most welcome.

If you require further information please contact Geraldine at searchauglim1@gmail.com or 089 2410066.

Online Lenten Lectio Divina

Online Lectio for Lent will take place at 8.00pm on Wednesdays during Lent. If you wish to take part, please forward your email address to searchauglim1@gmail.com



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 Celia 0861526966/Www.grow.ie

Source: Parish Notes



Bereavement Support Information Evening will take place in Milford Care Centre, Education Department on Tue 27th February 2024 from 7pm - 8.30pm.

The Bereavement Information evening is designed to give general information on grief and bereavement to bereaved people, their family and friends.

Members of the Bereavement Service will be present to provide general information on Grief and Bereavement.

The evening will comprise of: Short talk by a Bereavement Counsellor, Different experiences of Grief, Services available, Question Time. The Information Evening is Free

Source: Parish Notes

A New Springtime for Life

Talks every Sunday of Lent
at 4.30pm in the
Glenstal Abbey Library

Sunday 18th: *'The desert as threshold
of the Garden of Paradise'*
with Columba McCann OSB.

More Information: events@glenstal.com/
061 621005

Resources
available in the
Abbey Bookshop
to help enrich and
guide us on our
Lenten Journey



Lenten Scripture Reflection

'A Journey through the Bible'

Wednesdays February 21st, 28th,
March 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th

Venue - Athea Library
Time - 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Followed by
Cuppa & Chat 

Presented by
Pat Higgins 087 2034626
Seán O Mocháin 087 2321375

St. Mary's Cathedral

Discover the music of Hans Zimmer's Best Works at St. Mary's
Cathedral under the gently glow of candlelight
Wednesday 21st February at 6.30pm and 9.00pm
Bookings at 061 310293

Source: what's on in limerick.ie

