



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

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



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 25th February 2024 Second Sunday of Lent

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

Vain Builders

My last months in an African parish saw the building of a parish hall there. I was, in theory, overseeing the job. The bishop was coming to bless it and that function would be combined with my "send-off" party. The parish council thought it would be appropriate to mark my time there by naming the hall after me. This I learned too late. Worse, they had commissioned a plaque bearing my name, correctly spelt, to be mounted in a prominent position to tell generations yet unborn, *J.L. was here*. Now, I was well used to being in a hot sweat in that place, but this day my sweat went cold. It wasn't humility that was behind my diffidence but rather fear of humiliation. You see, some of us had learned, too late, that part of our pride and joy was built not on rock or good soil but rather on a buried rubbish dump. You couldn't build on worse. Had it occurred to him, Jesus would have ridiculed not the man who built his house on sand but the one who located his monument on a trash-tip. I had good grounds for fearing that the thing would crack and crumble when wet-season water seeped into the rotting matter over which it stood.

The bishop came and blessed. Fine speeches were made alluding to my virtues, prominent among them my expertise in the field of construction. I was presented with a couple of shirts and a painting. The bishop went home and the sun went down.

I was only a short few years home when sad letters informed me that the great construction lay in rubble. I didn't want to hear that. I'd rather they kept the embarrassing news to themselves. Distressed, I had to go back a second time to finish reading. Here was bad news indeed but in the terrible dark cloud my purely selfish viewpoint glimpsed a sliver of silver lining. It was an attack by Islamic fundamentalists, not the cursed rubbish dump, that had done for our parish hall. They burned the building along with many others in church compounds around the city. The bone-dry mahogany furniture became a heap of blazing charcoal. The burning roof timbers came down on top of that and the sad remnants of the walls showed that a bomb-burn-and-run brigade had done their worst. The mob had done for the thing before my engineering shortcomings were too plainly exposed.

There can be a lot of ego built into a building. Not for nothing were many 19th century constructions in these islands called Follies, the vanity of their rich builders often being the main reason for their existence. When I was in Cork many keyboard warriors and street orators dubbed the magnificent newly-developed Pairc Ui Caoimh "Frank's Folly" until it opened to great admiration and proud Corkishness. Frank (Murphy) was saying what Kevin Costner was believed to, but didn't, say in *Field of Dreams* "Build it and they'll come."

Peter the apostle, possibly no better a builder than myself, in today's gospel was prompted to go into the construction business too: "Let us build three tents, one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah." His project collapsed without getting off the ground. You can put your ego, your animals or your family in a building but you can't confine your God there. What Peter learned was "Try to confine or control them and they'll go away." **J.L.**



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, provided we have some expression of interest, even if the group is very small. Please let us know by Monday evening at 5.30pm if you are interested in taking part.

Please let us know if you would like to attend or require further information by contacting Geraldine at searcauglim1@gmail.com or at 089 2410066 All are most welcome.

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 searcauglim1@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

SUPPORT FAIRTRADE



Our World is Boiling! It's Time to Adjust the Heat!

Fairtrade Ireland is focussing on climate change this year. Small farmers and workers in the developing world who produce our tea, coffee, cocoa, bananas are suffering more than most from either drought or flooding caused by climate change. We can help them through this crisis by adjusting the way we live and also buying their products with the Fairtrade logo.

How can WE make a difference to farmers and workers in the developing world? Many of them are struggling to produce food on land that is affected by drought or flooding. We have the power in our hands.....we can change the way we live so that those who are the poorest people in our world can cope with the effects of climate change. We can also change our purchasing habits by putting some Fairtrade products such as Fairtrade tea, Fairtrade coffee, Fairtrade cocoa in our shopping baskets.

Fairtrade Fortnight takes place from the 4th March -17 March 2024 and there will be a display stand at back of the church with more information from Monday 4th -11th. Drop by and enter the draw for the Fairtrade Hamper.

A New Springtime for Life

Talks every Sunday of Lent
at 4.30pm in the
Glenstal Abbey Library
Sunday 25th: Transfiguration (Mark 9 2-8)
with Abbot Brendan Coffey OSB.
More Information: events@glenstal.com/
061 621005

"Lent, A time to Let God's Spirit Help us in Our Spiritual Journeys!"

The Holy Rosary Parish will host five evenings of reflection with Fr. Joe Hayes S.J.
Tuesdays from 7.30pm-9.00pm
February 20th, 27th
March 12th, 19th & 26th
Church of Our Lady of the Rosary
Parish Hall, Ennis Rd. Limerick.