



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 3rd March 2024 Third Sunday of Lent

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

Whip Hand in Father's House

We approach Cheltenham, high point of the year for horses that run and jump and sometimes fall. So, we can expect debate on use of the whip. To help the medicine go down with the TV viewers, commentators will sanitise the whipping saying such things as the jockey *is asking his horse for an effort*, or *is getting after him* or *reminding him of his job* or, best of all, *has drawn the persuader*. Animal-lovers will cry "cruelty" and horse-lovers will reply with the noble sentiment that the whip is an aid to equine excellence. One will see it as callous violence against a beautiful animal while to another it will be nothing more than motivation for pampered racehorses to be, in the current trite expression, the best version of themselves.

Jesus "drew the persuader" in today's gospel, not to educate a reluctant nag but in disgust at misuse of his Father's house.

Like many an institution the Temple had become entrapped by its riches and muddled in its purpose.

A building of shining white marble and gold, with bronze entrance doors, it was said that you could not look at the Temple in daylight as it would blind you. The attention to detail in its construction is exemplified by the placing of gold spikes on the roof line of the building to prevent birds sitting on the Temple and soiling it. And, perhaps worse, the imperative of sacrificing animals on the big feast-days had turned it into a shambles in its original meaning, a place of carnage. Visible splendour mixed with stinking horror.

(The Second Temple; Jewish Virtual Library.)

Talk of trade in the Temple reminds me of a place where our own churches saw services and rituals not found in directives from **The Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments**. There were times when a parish church where we were stationed did look like a marketplace—at Harvest Thanksgiving Mass. The place shook with music and exuberance. You had hours-long Offertory processions. People of all kinds and stations danced to the altar with everything from live goats to small guinea fowl eggs proudly carried by a small child for presentation. A few rams, trussed hens and a haltered bull were persuaded to go forward unimpeded by rules against excessive use of the whip. Ghetto-blasting music-machines and toilet bowls held high by young men—like Declan Hannon (every year?) with the Liam McCarthy Cup in the Hogan Stand — stood out in the joyful parade. A hundred other items went up the same aisle to be sold in an afternoon auction to the relatively rich. These loudly and proudly demonstrated both their wealth and their support for the church by paying high prices. A bottle of beer, a cooked chicken and unrestrained flat-tery were the big donors' reward. It was all part of the life of our Temple.

I think the trade of Harvest Thanksgiving Day would escape the whip of Jesus because the motive was not exploitation or private profit but to build up a house of God. And to celebrate in high joy while doing so. This house was built of many bricks, a number of whom were very proud to be rich and a much greater number equally unashamed to be poor.

J.L.

Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

From Monday March 11th to Thursday 14th the priests of the Augustinian community in Limerick will be away, attending a Chapter of the Irish Province in Athlone. During our absence, our daily Mass will be replaced by a ***Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion***. These services will be led by members of the congregation who are already commissioned for service in our church, who will be using a format approved by the Diocese of Limerick. As the title states, the service will be comprised of prayers, readings and distribution of Holy Communion. The responses will be the same as those used at Mass. The services will be held at the usual times: 7.30 am, 8.30 am 10.15 am and 4.00 pm.

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.

We will meet in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Augustinian Church on O'Connell Street **after 10.15 Mass on Tuesdays during Lent.**

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.



Fairtrade Fortnight takes place from the 4th March –17th 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.



Volunteer to help People with CF

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Cystic Fibrosis Ireland are looking for volunteers to help on 65 Roses Day, Friday 12th April. We need volunteers to sit at a table and give a purple rose to people who make a donation in Dunnes Stores Harvey's Quay, Limerick for a few hours. Please contact us at fundraising@cfireland.ie or 01 496 2433, if you can help. Your support would help fund services for people with CF in your area!

A New Springtime for Life

Talks every Sunday of Lent
at 4.30pm in the
Glenstal Abbey Library
Sunday 3rd March: A New Remembering
(John 2: 13-25)
with Luke Macnamara 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.