



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 10th March 2024 Fourth Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday

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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. Patrick's Day
Festive Mass
Sunday 17th March
11.15am



Mass also at 9.00am
No evening Mass
at 7.30pm



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



Do we have Ways of Making you Happy?

This poor Sunday has acquired a lot of handles. It was always the **Fourth Sunday of Lent**; It's long been **Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday**, and it's lately named **Mothering Sunday**. *It's had other names too*, maybe as many as a new-born baby of the Royal House of Windsor. The men - as Mary McAleese might point out they're probably all men - in charge of Church labels call today "Sunday for Rejoicing" The Mass is introduced by Isaiah, "Rejoice Jerusalem and all you who love her." Many will find the *Rejoice* part hard. We can't command joy. That idea calls to mind the satirical catchphrase, usually in a mock accent carrying a threat of torture to encourage compliance, "we have ways of making you happy."

Adlai Stevenson II, a sophisticated and superior (Oh for the days...) kind of candidate, got a pitifully small vote when he went up against the war-hero Eisenhower in the 1952 U.S. presidential election. Then as now when journalists saw somebody miserable they had to ask "How do you feel?" (they seem to teach that in all the best courses). In reply Stevenson echoed Lincoln in similar circumstances, "I feel like the boy who accidentally kicked a rock: *It hurts too much to laugh and I'm too big to cry.*"

Many people must feel like that in hard times, and many people see many hard times. They can't see a sunny side but still they soldier on. Joy is easier said than done. What about the woman or man who comes to this "Rejoicing Sunday" in some misery? Deaths and debts, ill-health and ill-luck, poor choices and bad neighbours all conspire against our happiness, whether we're preparing for feast or funeral. Still, through all these, and worse, people have found faith to see through fog of many kinds, that "God sent his son into the world, not to condemn the world but so that through him the world might be saved." (John 3) Seeing that, however opaquely, the bottom line, far off as it may be, will be joy.

In view of the week that's in it, another word about naming is not out of place. Some time back I wrote here of St Patrick's statue being decapitated at our Cathedral in Maiduguri: *"One Friday, fired by religious rant, a mob came to the cathedral not to pray. Before they were pushed back the Patron had lost mitred head and blessing hand. The image-breaking arm of Koranic interpretation gained ground fast and soon graduated to the infinitely more serious mass-decapitation of the living."*

Space doesn't allow me to elaborate but I believe another form of mutilation has become fashionable in our own place. We used to mark many things by celebrating St Patrick's Day. Now many who might know better refer to the feast as "Paddy's Day." That's a sort of vandalism in its own right.

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.

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. There will be no Confessions on Monday 11th, but will resume on Friday 15th.

Limerick Dementia Social Club

The **Limerick Dementia Social Club** opened its doors in November 2018 to people with dementia and their carers across Limerick. Held on the first Wednesday of every month from 6.30pm to 8.30pm, the club aims to provide a dementia friendly space where people socialise, enjoy refreshments, share information and enjoy activities to support people to live well with dementia. The club aspires to reduce social isolation and promote open discussion, fun activity, acceptance and new learning.

It was set up by a small committee of volunteers, with a background in nursing, occupational therapy and social work who were concerned at the lack of dementia friendly social outlets for people with dementia in the community. There is no fee to attend.

They run a fun interactive community choir in the same venue again for persons with dementia and their carers on the third and fourth Wednesdays of every month from 6.30pm to 8pm.

Please contact Margaret on 087-9189833 if you have any queries.

Source: Parish Notes

There will be no Scripture Reflection—Lectio Divina this Tuesday March 12th but will resume Tuesday 19th in the Adoration Chapel

Preparation for Holy Week

“The Cross in the 21st Century”- dead metaphor, or a sign of hope?

Join Mossy Hynan for two evenings of reflection, in preparation for Holy Week, Thursday 14th & 21st March, 7:30pm to 9pm, Limerick Diocesan Centre.

Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CrossIn21stCentury>.



“Companions on the Journey”;

Desert Day in preparation for Holy Week.

Silent Retreat with Eucharist & Reconciliation, Saturday 23rd March 2024; 10.30am to 5pm in Limerick Diocesan Centre.

Facilitated by Phyllis Moynihan RSM and Ann Mulcahy. 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 to register your place.

Biodiversity Workshop for Parishes

The third opportunity is a very practical workshop for parishes who would like to explore how they could improve biodiversity in their parish grounds and protect our native species. We are delighted to be working with Limerick City and County Council and Salesian Sisters Cosmology, to offer a practical workshop for parishes with tips, ideas, and guidance on planning, mapping, and planting. Sinead McDonnell, Biodiversity Office with Limerick City and County Council, and Councillor Sean Hartigan (and Green party member) will give inputs and advise and guide parishes on how they can play their role in responding to the environmental crisis. This is a great opportunity to partner with your local Tidy Towns group. All are welcome. You can register for this workshop at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BiodiversityInParishes>

