



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick 28th April 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter

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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

## A Once for All Turncoat

In Dublin we knew a dedicated man from another county. He collected money. He tapped commuters on morning trains at Heuston and then did a well-planned round of churches. Noon-time and afternoon found him in shopping areas and early evening in entertainment venues. At each stop he afforded all the opportunity to give him alms. In surprising numbers they availed of the facility. On summer Sundays he took a rest from the shopping malls and put on the jersey of the best-supported county playing in Croke Park that day. He mingled with fans and practised his craft. One All-Ireland day before noon I saw him dressed in black-and-amber (ah! they were the days) as he welcomed the Waterford/Kilkenny train at Heuston Station. Not long later I cycled by the Gresham Hotel where Cork people gather to exchange pre-match talk and tickets. There he was, his well-fed figure togged out in blood-and-bandage, moving from one red-clad group to another, hand outstretched in friendship—or something. A little thing I'd read came to mind:

*The Duke of Saxony, whose land was bounded in part by France, had a coat blue one side and white the other. He wore the white side when he wished to be thought of in the french interest and at other times the blue side. A true turncoat.*

Fuller in "**Worthies of England**" describes a man of similar outlook:

*The vicar [of Bray] lived under Henry VIII, Edward VI, Queens Mary and Elizabeth. He was a Papist, then a Protestant, then a Papist, then a Protestant again. He had seen, at distance, martyrs burned and found this too hot for his tender temper.*

Was he a turncoat, an inconstant changeling? 'Not so' said he, 'for I kept my principle - to live and die the Vicar of Bray'.

*When royal James possessed the crown, and popery came in fashion.*

*The penal laws I hooted down, and read the Declaration.*

*The Church of Rome, I found, fit full well my constitution*

*And I would be a Jesuit, but for the Revolution.*

*When William was our King declared, to ease the nation's grievance,*

*With this new wind about I steered, and swore to him allegiance.*

So, there we have turncoats ancient and modern.

What about St Paul? He changed his coat on the Damascus road but never reversed it again. And, God knows, there were plenty reasons why he might do so. He himself in 2 Cor 11 lists things faced in remaining loyal to his first turn: Compared with some "most eminent apostles", he wrote that he had: *worked much harder; had been in prison more often, flogged more severely, exposed to death again and again, whipped, beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, adrift in the open sea, in danger from rivers, bandits, fellow Jews, Gentiles, in danger in the city and country, and in danger from false believers, laboured and toiled and often gone without sleep, been hungry and thirsty, cold and naked.*

(It's one of the more impressive CVs in the Bible)

Unlike our Vicar, Paul didn't find any fire, near or far, *too hot for his tender temper*. The pruning that had begun in traumatic experience between Damascus and Jerusalem inspired him to resist turning coat again and carried him all the way to Rome and the end of his earthly preaching.

**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

In the Bible, things from everyday life are used to speak of God. Two good examples would be those staples of the Mediterranean, the olive and the vine. In particular, the vine lends itself to metaphorical reference. It takes great tending; at the same time, it is obvious that even the furthest tendril "must with the vine be one." By staying connected and with careful pruning, the fruit itself is "pleasant to the sight and good for food" (Genesis 2:9). No need to mention the wine!



**Prayer** Help us, God of all growth, to be one with the true vine, Christ our Lord. May the difficult experiences which prune us make us more abundant in the fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Amen.

Source: [www.tarsus.ie/Sunday\\_readings](http://www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings)

## Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Milford Care Centre will be hosting its annual **Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Castletroy, on Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 3pm** for those people who have died under our care in Milford Care Centre and across our community services. We hope that you may wish to join with us and we look forward to sharing with you in this service of remembrance and thanksgiving. Please feel free to invite family and friends to join you in solidarity and support.

## National Pilgrimage for Life

Join the National Pilgrimage for Life in Knock Shrine, County Mayo, as we pray for the protection of all human life— Starting at 3pm with Mass and Anointing of the Sick on **Saturday 4th May 2024**

## St. Joseph's Church Celebrates 120years

Invitation to the 120th Anniversary Celebration of St. Joseph's Church O'Connell Avenue, Limerick.

We give thanks to the Lord for His incredible blessings over the years to us at St. Joseph's Parish. This year, we are commemorating 120 years of God's faithfulness to us at St. Joseph's. This special occasion calls for a special celebration!

Please join us at **7.00pm on Wednesday May 1st 2024** for the 120th Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Brendan Leahy. Our celebration will be followed by refreshments in our Parish Centre.

The Celebration will be a great opportunity to welcome many of our friends who have attended St. Joseph's over the years and those within our Parish Community

## Riverfest Limerick 3rd - 6th May 2024

Limerick's biggest festival Riverfest takes place this coming May Bank Holiday weekend. Embracing the scenic River Shannon, with the Riverfest Village located in Arthur's Quay Park showcasing delicious artisan food, a treat for all the family. Sunday 5th May the Regeneration Great Limerick Run starts at 9am on Pery Square and finishes outside the Augustinian Church. Later that evening enjoy Riverfest Spectacular Fireworks Display at 10.15pm with viewing points from Clancy Strand and Sarsfield Bridge. Please note traffic restrictions will be in place for the Limerick Run. Details of Riverfest 2024 at [Riverfest.ie](http://Riverfest.ie)

