



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

4th August 2024

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

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. 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



PROMISING POLITICS

As recently as the year 2000, a Mr Connor - oft-times senator and sometimes T.D. for a west midlands constituency—went all spiritual in a Senate debate thus:

"I pray that the good Lord, who is always merciful, has forgiven those politicians who in the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s and up to the mid-1970s promised the people of the west and the midlands that the Shannon would be drained, one of the three great holy of holies—along with restoring the Irish language and uniting the country. I hope that the serious sin of breaking a promise has been forgiven."

I remember from my own easily-amused childhood a newspaper report of Dail proceedings where one politician addressed another with a rhyming couplet

*"If you, deputy, could suck as well as you can blow,
You'd have well-drained The Shannon long, long ago"*

(I thought that was good. I'm not so sure now)

I don't know if Boris Johnson and his Brexit companions have a devout Connor-like intercessor with the Lord for any shortfall in the promised benefits—fifty million quid a day for a start, watertight borders, early and profitable free trade with the great wide world etc.

It's easy to look back selectively to political promises, and laugh. But maybe we're laughing at ourselves. The demands of electors can draw the would-be elected into promising things that are near or beyond the edge of possibility. The candidate who says "I won't try to do any such thing for you, you're not entitled to it" is unlikely to get many votes. Likewise, the one who says "you're well able to do that for yourself, so don't be wasting my time." Much compromise between people and causes is required of our politicians. Our understanding and tolerance of that fact sometimes falls short of the charitable.

Jesus and his early followers met this situation too. Last Sunday's gospel ended with him "escaping back to the hills" after he had fed the five thousand because "they were about to take him by force and make him king". And today he is clear-eyed and blunt about their motivation "you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat." He always insisted while the hungry should be fed all should be encouraged to lift the head to look beyond the pans of meat and plenty bread, the manna and the quails and "see the signs" What we want rather than what we have is the way to misery or happiness.

Meanwhile the Shannon continues to flow, and flood. And here's a peculiar thing about the running of our rainy island: sixty years ago you'd get government grants to drain and reclaim your soggy bogs and now they're throwing money at you to re-wet and re-wild them.

J.L.

Upcoming Feast Days

Monday 5th : .Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

Tuesday 6th : The Transfiguration of the Lord

Thursday 8th : Feast of St. Dominic, Priest. A Spaniard who founded the Order of Preachers (Dominicans).

Friday 9th: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

Novena to Our Lady of Knock

The National Novena to Our Lady of Knock takes place at Knock Shrine from the 14th August—22nd Aug 2024.

In this dedicated Year of Prayer the theme of this year's novena is '**Whispering with God—How do you pray?**'. Daily ceremonies take place at 3.00pm and 8.00pm

More information at www.knockshrine.ie/national-novena-2024

Thought for the Day

Physical hunger is unmistakable and urgent. The deeper hungers of the heart are also urgent but can take a while to recognise. Deep down, for what do I really hunger and thirst?

Prayer: You alone can satisfy the hungry heart, Lord God, and may we make ours the words of the Gospel, "Sir, give us this bread always." Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: www.tarsus.ie /Sunday Readings



Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and
we shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth



Lunchtime Concerts St. Mary's Cathedral

Tuesday 6th August at 1.15pm



Seamus Tse (Piano)

Music by Haydn, Bartok and Chopin

Monday 5th August Public Holiday

Mass Times at St. Augustine's Church

10.15am & 4.00pm

No Confessions.

Youth 2000

Join young people between 16 and 35 this August at the Youth 2000 Summer Festival. The festival takes place in Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co Kildare from Thursday 15th August to Sunday 18th August 2024.

The festival includes inspiring talks, music, prayer, concert, workshops, dramas, share groups, reconciliation and healing services, and Mass. Donation only and we have buses going from all over Ireland.

For more information and to book your place go to
www.youth2000.ie