



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

11th August 2024

19th 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

Priests, Prophets and Precipitation

(Elijah sat down under a furze bush and wished he were dead. *1 Kings 19*)

The parishioners always looked forward with hope and anxiety to the beginning of the rainy season. Their livelihood depended on it. Older members recalled years when the rain was too little or too late and hunger or worse got there first.

Senior members of our church would come to the priest and direct him to pray publicly for rain on the following Sunday. If it turned out to be too early there was the appearance of unanswered—as they saw it, ineffective—prayer. If you left it too late the rain came without your invitation and you'd missed the bus.

Our people had various means of discerning the right time to start. The most common of these was news that the shaman up the hill was already accepting offerings of chickens and goats to be sacrificed to the gods, and consumed or sold by his own kin, all in the cause of rain. So, some little faith in the power of our prayer was mixed with some fear that a "rival" could steal a march on us. That rival would then get credit for any shower that might fall before we even threw our priestly hats in the ring. Our stock would sink. We and our fellow-Christians would be subjected to ridicule as were the priests of Baal when Elijah had the upper-hand.

For all their frenzied efforts the sacrifices of Elijah's rivals failed to ignite while Elijah's went off like a flaming rocket. Elijah was the clear winner there. His bout with the priests of Baal had descended into farce:

The wicked priests prayed to Baal all morning. They jumped on the altar and shouted. Baal did not answer. Baal was only an idol. Elijah told the priests to pray louder. He made fun of them. He said their idol must be sleeping. The wicked priests prayed louder and louder. They prayed all day. Baal did not answer. The priests' sacrifice did not burn.

"Elijah told Ahab and his people if they did not repent, God would send a famine. **There would be no water.** The people would have no food. Then the famine came. There was no water in the stream. **Elijah had no water to drink or food to eat.**" He had, as it were, shot himself in the foot. He learned the hard way that you can't win 'em all. He got into such scrapes that you'd need a heart of stone not to laugh. His mission became too much for him. Running away from Jezebel, a queen sound in body but dubious in morals, "he went into the wilderness a day's journey, sat down under a furze bush and wished he were dead". Possibly over-acting a little, he thereby represented any of us when pressed down by a journey that seems too much for us. But Elijah regained strength at the words of God "Get up and eat or the journey will be too much for you."

Today's gospel tells us what our food for the journey is.

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



Pointers for Prayer

1. Jesus gave the disciples a share in his Faith is reasonable but we cannot reason our way into faith. We have to be 'drawn by the Father'. We have to be 'taught by God'. What opens your mind and heart to God's message?
2. One thing which closes our minds to what another is saying is when we label them disparagingly, as the Jews did to Jesus. Have you ever had the experience of being surprised by the wisdom of another when you laid aside your prejudices about her/him to listen to what s/ he was saying?
3. 'No one has ever seen the Father except the one who is from God'. As Jesus put a human face on God and God's love, so God's love for us today is mediated through one another. How have other people been sacraments of God's love for you?
4. The way in which Jesus became a source of life for us was by giving himself. It is when we truly give ourselves that we can be life-giving to one another. If we do not give of ourselves, what do we have to offer? How have you discovered the importance of self-giving, in yourself or in others?

PRAYER God our Father and provider, whose Son has given his flesh for the life of the world, sustain your pilgrim Church on its journey with the word of life and the bread of heaven. Draw us nearer to him in whose name we gather, that, following his way of sacrificial love, we may come to the banquet of eternal life. Grant this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Source: www.tarsus.ie /Sunday Readings

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Extra Mass at 1.00pm



Thursday 15th August

Masses: 7.30am, 8.30am, 10.15am

1.00pm & 4.00pm

Coffee Morning

In aid of Mothers and Babies in need in the Limerick area.

Saturday 24th August

9am - 12pm

St. Saviours Dominican Church, Limerick.
(please use the side entrance)

Enjoy a hot drink & some delicious baked goods, all in support
of a free service many depend on.

Raffle with great prizes too, including a Limerick Jersey signed
by Cian Lynch and Aaron Gillane.

Upcoming Feast Days

- Monday 12th** : St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious.
 - Wednesday 14th** : St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr
 - Thursday 15th** : The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - Saturday 17th**: Our Lady of Knock
- National Novena to Our Lady of Knock takes place at Knock Shrine 14th —22nd August. Ceremonies take place at 3pm & 8pm daily. www.knockshrine.ie/national-novena-2024



The Garden of the Risen Lord: From Recognition to Action

9.45AM-5PM at Glenstal Abbey

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2024

Explore Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus through the Gospel text, art, chant, and contemporary ecological and feminist readings. Dr Margaret Daly Denton, specialist in John's Gospel, will be the keynote speaker. Additional contributions will be presented by four monks: Luke, Sean, Columba, and Emmaus.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION EMAIL events@glenstal.com OR PHONE 061-621005.
Glenstal Abbey, Murroe, Co. Limerick, V94 A725. Cost: €70.

