



Season of Creation

St. Augustine's Church Limerick 15th September 2024 24th 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

Identification Parade. Who Am I ?

Who do people say I am ? (Mark 8)

In sheltered youth we knew of no body-piercing beyond pigs having rings in their noses to curb their innate compulsion to *root*. (It was a matter for wonder when a passing biker sported a nose-ring—he was asked in the local pub “were you rootin’?)

Then life took us to other parts of the world and we saw that most people had markings, face and body. These were etched by knife and dyed with indelible berry-juice. This announced to all that I’m of a certain race and place and so I will remain. In our ignorance we may have taken this as a sign of “backwardness.”

Then we came home to discover that those we supposed advanced had overtaken the others in backwardness. Piercing and tattooing had broken out and spread like a virus. Vlad the Impaler, it seemed, had been giving lessons and his pupils were busy in our land. Nails, staples, studs and spikes hung from ears, eyebrows, noses, navels, cheeks, even tongues. Walking the streets now were sights I’d previously seen only in Amsterdam, in the Museum of Medieval Torture Instruments there.

There was also a busy market in tattooing ink. The resultant branding was everywhere. Faces, necks, arms, ankles and whole torsos seemed to exhibit the work of apprentice silk-screen printers run amok. Now, a footballer scoring a goal urgently tears off his shirt to reveal a grotesquerie beneath. Players who never score pay equal attention, and money, to body decoration. These hope that one day a lucky deflection or a place at number eleven in a protracted penalty shoot-out will demand that their own identifying personal masterpieces be publicly unveiled at peak-viewing time.

The barbershop couldn’t lag behind and changed its mission statement from moulded uniformity to bespoke diversity. Some even advertised a complementary body-piercing service. We can see young men enter the *salon* with a “fine head of hair” and emerge with just a mop on top and a stud or a staple or other product of the ironmonger’s art decorating the naked nape. Some specialise in shortening hair and others in extending it. Countless shapes and shaves now adorn the human nut. One neck is wrapped in a blanket-sized-sized scarf. On another the hinterland of the ears and that part of the person upon which the hair was said to stand up in fright must be shining naked whatever the weather. Jesus saying “you can’t turn a single hair white or black” seems outdated now as the artists I’m admiring do, every day, turn a multitude of hairs from white to black and forty shades between.

I think it’s all about identity, about the question *Who do you say I am?* Or, *who do I say I am?* Those who took the way of the knife and the berry-juice dye said these are my people and will always be my people; we march together. The tattooed, the metal-spiked and the creatively-shaven say I march, at least for now, to my own tune. I’m my own wo/man. One position is not necessarily better than the other but each has potential strengths and weaknesses.

When the question was put to Peter in today’s gospel he only half understood it but he decided his identity would be as Christ’s man, not his own. He would still do lots of fumbling an stumbling but in the main would stick to the implication of his own rhetorical question “Lord, to whom shall we go.....? **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

Each generation is addressed by Jesus' question in today's Gospel and each generation must speak for itself. So must we as individuals within the community of faith.

Prayer Great and loving God, as we stand before the mystery of your disclosure in Jesus of Nazareth, we ask for great faith, deep understanding and, above all, love. Knowing him, we love him, loving him we confess him as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Source: www.tarsus.ie/Sunday Readings /Hearers of the Word.

Who do you say
I am?



'God, My Delight, My Life'

You are my God, my delight, my life.
Can our words about you really say anything?
But woe to those who are silent in your praise,
Even though those who are most eloquent
cannot find words to describe you.

You who are the light of my heart,
Living bread for my soul's hunger.
You who wed mind and soul in one.

Source: Confessions St. Augustine –
A fresh translation by Benignus O'Rourke OSA

Season of Creation



Blood Donor Clinics

Monday 16th

Castletroy Park Hotel 16.20-19.40

Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th

Crescent Shopping Centre
Unit 1A City Mall
15.50-19.10

**To book appointment
Ring 1800 222 111**

Afternoon Recital St. Mary's Cathedral

Mary Culloty O'Sullivan

*A repertoire of Musicals,
Classical and Irish Ballads*

Tuesday September 24th
1.15pm

Free admission

Culture Night

Limerick Culture Night 2024 will take place this Friday 20th September with venues and public spaces across Limerick opening their doors to host a programme of free night entertainment as part of an all-island celebration of arts, heritage and culture. More info www.discoverlimerick.ie

Limerick Jazz Festival September 26th - 29th September

For more information and listings
www.limerickjazzfestival.com