



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th January 2025

website: www.augustinianslimerick.com

email: info@augustinianslimerick.com

Mass Times

Monday-Friday

7.30am, 8.30am,
10.15am, & 4pm

SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am

Mass for the Sick
3.00pm

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



Wine to Gladden the Heart

Gospel mention of wedding, water-pot and wine reminds me of a time when in most weeks I used to see weddings, water-pots and beer combined. When a member of our church choir, or some other church society, was to marry it was common for fellow members to take responsibility for the catering. A portion of the funds accumulated through weekly membership fees would be available for expenses. Choristers met, discussed and organised, assigning roles for the preparation and celebration. Some would do the food and others the drink. *The Wedding Feast at Cana* makes me concentrate on the latter.

A number of women would be allotted measures of sorghum grain to make beer for the feast. (An academic work tells me: *Women were the traditional brewers of beers and men the traditional consumers.* (I didn't need an academic treatise to give me that insight even if I have known a woman or two to cross the great divide from production to consumption).)

The brewing process went something like this:

The grains were soaked overnight before being drained off and spread out on a damp bedding to be turned and dampened repeatedly, maybe for up to some days, to promote germination which should not be allowed to go too far before being halted by drying. Malt, acquired by a separate organic process, was dried under the sun and ground to a powder. This is added to a clay pot with water, boiled and cooled, stirred and allowed to ferment. The product was filtered and given as long or a short as you liked.

In our place, the full pots were well guarded until the church part of the wedding was over and allied festivities had begun with speeches and formal dancing. Then the tasting started. It was quickly followed by the freestyle drinking. The consumers were a discerning, or at least a critical, clientele. Shortcomings in taste or texture didn't go unmentioned, even though criticism always stopped short of abstention.

I bet it was not very much different at Cana in Galilee: There was talk of good drink and not so good. There was someone who thought about the best way to present things. Embarrassment of the hosts was to be avoided. There was someone concerned with the happiness of a family trying to celebrate well and show their best to the guests; someone intent that shortcomings be covered over rather than emphasised.

It touched the deeper things, things society held most dear. Life and family, continuity and faith for the future were nowhere more surely affirmed than in a wedding. A cause beyond other causes for celebration. Highly though water was valued, the occasion called for something a little stronger. And, from what we read today, it's clear that Mary was keenly aware of the celebration's importance and that Jesus did not disagree.

Among the glories of God's creation is, the psalmist reminds us, "wine to gladden the heart."

J.L.

Pointers for Prayer

The marriage imagery puts all the emphasis on love, an emphasis found richly in this Gospel, in St Paul and, of course, in Jesus' own teaching. Go back to significant experiences of being loved and how these have opened your own heart to receive and to give in love.

2. The wine symbolises true joy in believing—a bit of a challenge these days, but central nevertheless and even life-giving. Where do you find your springs of joy?

3. "Do whatever he tells you" is a strong invitation to conformity to Christ on the path of discipleship. What have been the important points on that path? And where am I now?

PRAYER God of wonders, at Cana in Galilee, you revealed your glory in Jesus Christ and summoned all humanity to life in him. Show to your people gathered on this day your transforming power and give us a foretaste of the wine you keep for the age to come. Amen.

Source: [www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings/Hearers of the Word](http://www.tarsus.ie/Sunday_readings/Hearers_of_the_Word)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18-25 January

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As we join in prayer with other Christians around the world for this year's Week of Prayer, we are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17.21).

Blood Donor Clinics

Monday 20th Jan –St. Munchins College Corbally

16.50—20.10 V94 HXW5

Crescent Shopping Centre

Unit 1A, City Mall V94 832X

Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd January

15.50—19.10

To book and appointment please ring

1800-222 111

Day of Discernment with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia IN LIMERICK

*If you are who you are
created to be*

*you will set the
world on fire!*

For Single Women ages 16-30

25 January 2025

Contact limerick@op-tn.org for more details

Day of Discernment

Join the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia (Limerick, Ireland) for a day of prayer, talks, discernment and much more!

Are you, or someone you might know, considering religious life, or even just curious about what it might entail,

come along on Saturday, 25th January 2025, from 10am until 8pm to get an insight into it and to spend time with the Dominican Sisters.

It will take place in the Dominican Convent, next door to St. Saviour's Dominican Church, Co. Limerick (near the train station).

To book a place and for any further queries, please feel free to contact us at limerick@op-tn.org . God bless

Lunchtime Concert St. Mary's Cathedral

Tuesday 21st Jan at 1.15pm

John O'Shea (Guitar) & Peter Barley (Piano)