



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

Sunday of the Word of God 26th 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



Natural (S)Election

Over the course of time, species modify their phenotypes in ways that permit them to succeed in their environment.

In 1859 Charles Darwin wrote this in *Origin of the Species*. If he wasn't speaking of politicians that's only because it was before the age of elections as we know them. Every few years, if we think about it, we are trenchantly reminded that politicians turn themselves inside out and upside down to please us. And, often enough, we're not pleased. "S/he is only in it for what's to be got out of it" is often our unflattering, and unjust, conclusion.

The canvassing politician after our vote has to show a face grave with concern while writing into the notebook a series of mutually contradictory requests at doorstep after doorstep and promise each time to, at least, "look into it." The reward is the none too reliable promise "I won't forget you." A vote-counter at our recent general election remembers a ballot paper with eighteen candidates. All had been honoured with a No 1 preference. An explanatory note at the bottom of the paper simply said "As promised."

If the supposedly cherished virtue of honesty, "I can't do anything about that", or, worse still, frankness, "get off your backside and do something about it yourself" should break through, your campaign is sunk. No, you have to frown or smile in a concerned manner even if it leaves you so stressed that you yearn only to get home and kick the cat in safe privacy. The old emperor's reaction to news of his son's spectacularly scandalous behaviour "*anything would be better than the truth*" sometimes applies if you want the vote of the one standing in front of you. Aren't all politicians selfish and all voters unselfishly interested only in the good of their neighbour and the wider world!

If in a spontaneous moment the politician responds to a rude or sarcastic interviewer in like manner s/he may as well throw the hat at it and go home. That honest reaction becomes more newsworthy than a cure for all the ills of the world and will be repeated from paper to paper and studio to echo-chamber studio while carried to earth's ends on the anarchic vehicles that fly through cyberspace.

The old canard dug up by Churchill, *democracy is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried*, has something to say. Politicians are mirrors of our composite self. If we were to be different, so would they. We need them but we don't go easy on them. God would have little chance of being elected, might even lose his deposit. Far too slow with the promises and too quick with the truth.

Not all politicians, anywhere, behaved well in fresh and recent memory. I presume many voters were a bit bold too.

J.L.

Thought for the Day

One of the encouraging signs in today's church is the growing popularity of lectio divina, praying the Scriptures. This is best done with other people because it is so enriching as we benefit from the observations and questions of fellow pilgrims. It comes alive when I can say "today, this scripture has been fulfilled in my hearing."

Prayer: Lord, inspire me to read your Scriptures and to meditate upon them day and night. I beg you to give me real understanding of what I need, that I in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet, I know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So I ask that the words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into my heart. Amen. (Origen, 184-253 AD)

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



You pierced
my heart with your Word
and I fell in love with You.

St. Augustine

Sunday of the Word of God

At the end of the Year of Mercy Pope Francis had proposed setting aside a Sunday given entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people. He declares the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

Source: Excerpt from the Liturgical Calendar 2025 Pg 50



Discover the history, art and theology of the Irish High Crosses at Glenstal Abbey Saturday 15th February 2025. Cost €70 with lunch and refreshments provided. For bookings contact 061 621005 or events@glenstal.com

Burren Outdoor Retreats

Fri May 2nd - Bank Hol Mon May 5th 2025

Mary Lillis & Nóirín Lynch



Day places and residential
For more details see www.fcjspirituality.com



FCJ Spirituality House
Teach Spioradail

Navigate your Life
with God.

A retreat for those making choices of discerning
decisions to be made

Fri April 11 - Mon April 14th 2025

Join Ashley Evans SJ in beautiful west Clare,
for a time of rest, reflection and insight.

Full details and booking www.fcjspiritualityhouse.ie

Posters on the Notice Board at the back of the church.