



St. Augustine's Church Limerick

The Presentation of the Lord 2nd February 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

all are welcome



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



Monks on the Move



Some Irish media noted the recent departure of the monks from Mount Melleray. In 1831 sixty-four Cistercians landed at Cobh from a then hostile France and within a year the landlord of Capuquin offered them 600 acres of barren mountain land to establish themselves. They were a vigorous bunch and with great local support they set about making the mountain bloom. Bloom it did as they prayed and worked their way into the blood and bone of the area. In their long prime they sent men out to found new abbeys in places far and near. But the swing of history eventually brought their numbers down, their age up and their viable continuity to an end. It was perhaps a matter of indifference to many, but for others, especially people of the area, it was a sad and poignant thing to see them go.

A place Cistercian monks had to leave long ago is Duiske Abbey at the foot of Brandon Hill and within sight of Mount Leinster. They came there in 1204 and within twenty-five years they numbered nearly eighty. Prayer and work proceeded and around them grew a town called Graiguenamanagh, a place-name you might translate to English as Monksland. It was not advancing age or dwindling numbers that put an end to their living there but a gentleman called Henry VIII. You know the rest. After suppression the place went to ruin but it was handed back to the local Catholic parish community in the early 19th century. A long period of restoration came to fruition in the 1980s and perhaps the finest of the thirty-four abbey churches in medieval Ireland was to be seen in its soaring splendour again. The monks are long gone but the people don't want them forgotten. They commissioned "a series of statues of monks in Graiguenamanagh."

At the centre, in the little square beside the church stands the Abbot himself with Psalms in his hands awaiting his brothers getting up at the ungodly hour or coming in from the fields to join in prayer.

About a dozen similar granite monks man the roads entering Graig,. Arriving from Dublin you pass by the man with the three-legged milking stool and the bucket of milk. One of the monks you leave behind as you make your way towards my own place is holding a sickle and a fine sheaf of corn. Go down the tow-path towards St Mullins and you find a man of God watching you from the edge of the bushes with a fishing net hanging over one arm and a fine salmon dangling from the other. (St Moling himself who ruled here hundreds of years earlier probably took an odd fish from the Barrow too, by hook or by crook.) Cross the river into Carlow and you meet an historical conundrum: the monk stationed there looks full of himself with four dead rabbits draped over his shoulders and a happy ferret larking around on his forearm. Problem: some historians tell us the monks didn't eat meat. Maybe my friend and his ferret were engaging in some off-site enterprise. By that river too stands another holding a vicious-looking trident as if expecting Moby Dick to swim into view. More humbly, an old monk has a bundle of firewood to warm the bones and another a hammer and chisel to God knows what end. There are a few others carrying willow rods for basket making, shears and fleece from a shorn sheep and a serious kind of fellow holds scroll or parchment and a couple of quills from an eagle's wing or a pheasant's tail; the pouch hanging from his belt may hold the ink he'd need to complete the scholarly picture.



St Paul hit it last Sunday "There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit.

J.L

Thought for the day

Our Gospel today describes two very old people—Simeon and Anna—who are very attractive in their old age. They have lived prayerful lives of faith and, in particular, of hope and expectation. Being wise, they are people of discernment and they recognise the moment of grace, the coming of the Messiah. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be like them in old age? The secret is to be now what we hope to be then. If we wish to be serene, wise, discerning, full of faith—then now is the time: As St Paul says: "See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!" (2 Cor 6:2)

Prayer Abba, Father, God of all time, you call us to become your children. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may live our faith serenely in the present moment and give us grace to recognise the time of your appearing.

Source: www.tarsus.ie/SundayReadingsHearersoftheWord

Blessing of the Throats

Feast of St. Blaise

Since the eight century St. Blaise has been venerated as patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. The blessing of St. Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the Sick.

There will be blessing of throats tomorrow
Monday 3rd Feb at 10.15am & 4.00pm Masses

St. Augustine's Church

Blessing of the Throats
Monday 3rd February
Public Holiday

Masses
10.15am & 4.00pm
No Confessions

'Whisper of God' One Day Retreat

Saturday February 8th
Knock Prayer Centre

A serene space for silence, quiet prayer, reflection and spiritual direction.

€70 including lunch and refreshments

Details : www.knockshrine.ie

St. Mary's Cathedral Lunchtime Concerts 1.15pm Tuesday 4th February

Emma English (soprano),
Sarah-Ellen Murphy (mezzo soprano)
and Irina Dernova (piano)



Join the Diocese of Limerick on the 2025

Tourdes YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

Travel with other young people from the Diocese of Limerick for this exciting pilgrimage to France!

€950

6 NIGHTS/7 DAYS

- 18 to 24 June 2025 ages 16+
- Vatican/Astoria Hotel - full board
- All flights and travel costs included

TO REGISTER: Call or email Karen with the contact details below for more information or a booking form

061-350000
tourdesyouthpilgrimage@limerickdiocese.org

10Km

Milford Hospice
Run/Walk
12.00 noon

Feb 16th at UL

Details : milfordcarecentre.ie

The Ukraine Ballet of Peace

Presents

The Nutcracker

Thursday 6th February at 7.30pm
University Concert Hall
061 331549