



AUGUSTINIAN CHURCH - LIMERICK

7th Sunday 19th February 2012

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CHURCH MASSES

MONDAY-FRIDAY

7.30. 8.30.10.15am,
& 4.00pm.

SATURDAY

8.30.10.15am , 3.00pm
(Mass for the Sick)

SUNDAY

9.00am. 11.15am
Evening mass 7.30pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday — Saturday

10.45am—12.00am

2.30pm—4.00pm

COUNSELLING

Contact Number

Eileen at 086 0853985

LENT BECKONS

Occasionally on Wednesday evenings I watch **Operation Transformation** on RTE I Television or listen to John Murray on morning radio as he “**shadows**” the same programme on the following day. In this established series five participants try to introduce **drastic changes** into their exercise and eating regimes, reducing their weight and improving their general health. They are under the direction of presenter Kathryn Thomas, a fitness expert, a doctor and a clinical psychologist. The five “leaders” have been chosen from hundreds of applicants. They are supported and accompanied through some gruelling tests by their families, their friends and their local communities. Anybody can join in. My main interest in watching or listening is to follow the progress of local Limerick student, Kayleigh Yeoman. At 18 she is the youngest to take part in **Operation Transformation**. She has a poor health record and her confidence was shaken by a bad car accident in 2011. I admire her courage. Come to think of it **Operation Transformation** could be another name for the season of Lent.



OPERATION TRANSFORMATION

The last programme in the present series of **Operation Transformation** takes place next Wednesday which happens to be **Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent this year. At the heart of that season is the concentration on efforts to transform ourselves. At the deepest level Lent is about change of heart. Ashes on our foreheads is a stark reminder of our mortality, the shortness of life and our feet of clay. In recent years we are offered an alternative formula with the ashes. Instead of “**dust to dust**” we may use the words: “**Repent and Receive The Good News**”. Words like repentance, mortification, penance and self-denial, the language and practice of Lent have almost completely disappeared from our vocabulary and experience. Their demise was hastened by the so-called good times. The word discipline survives in the sporting context. We don’t refer to children being disciplined any more. It has too many bad memories at the rod and corporal punishment. A secular society finds it difficult to identify with Jesus fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and forty nights. Lent is rooted in his prayer and fasting during that time. Away from its spiritual moorings penance takes the form of marathons for charity, **the Great Limerick Run**, crash diets, intense workouts in the gym and **Operation Transformation**. We don’t rule out the possibility that all these things can be done for spiritual reasons.

RESTFUL WATERS

Prayer, fasting and penance are still recommended during Lent. From the 1960’s onwards detailed prescriptions in these matters were dropped in favour of personal choice. Adaptations were made to the culture of the times. Through the **Trócaire Box** people were invited to enter into solidarity with those who hunger for food and for justice. Personal hunger for a while can open us up to the hungers of the heart, the **hunger for God**. It might be good to take a break from the internet and the various forms of new media. To reduce the traffic in our heads we might take a quiet walk in a country lane and get in touch with the Creator. Instead of all these flickering images on screens we could take time out and rest our eyes on pools of silence or lakes of peace. “**Near restful waters He leads me to revive my drooping spirits**”. Let that be your prayer for Lent. As well as giving up the drink or the cigarettes you might fast from gossip, road rage, compulsive shopping, retail therapy and junk food. Include God in the exercise! Extend your Mass going beyond Ash Wednesday. Return to the church and bring the children with you. Embrace the many austerities being imposed on us at present. Challenge them too! Let God operate **transformation in your heart**. Pray for Kayleigh Yeoman as she prepares for her catwalk finale on Ash Wednesday!



Liam Ryan OSA

GATHERING 2. SATURDAY March 3rd

The second round of **Gatherings** between Augustinians and our lay friends takes place in Cork City on Saturday 3rd March. We hope to build on the success of the first gathering in Mary Immaculate College on the 4th February. On this occasion the theme is **the Word** corresponding to the second part of the Mass. Following the general focus of the series: **Bringing Faith to Life**, this part of the programme aims to bring the Scriptures to life for those who participate. It will help us to discover the power and dynamism of God's Word, its power to change lives, to re-awaken the Irish church and to face the urgent social issues of our day. When Augustinians and laity sit down **together as equals** the Holy Spirit can re-shape our ministry to one another in Cork, Galway and Limerick. It is also part of our preparation for the **Eucharistic Congress** which takes place next June.

For **GATHERING 2**, a free bus will be provided for the journey to Cork, leaving from outside our church at 7.30am, arriving in Cork at 9.30am for tea and coffee. First session begins at 10am. Day concludes at 3.30pm. Tea, coffee and a light lunch will be provided. **Early booking appreciated** to facilitate catering. Book with Liam Ryan or Charlotte Gleeson in the Pastoral Office. Booking forms on the tables at the back of the church. Drop them into the boxes provided there.

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY

To obtain the blessed life, the true Life himself taught us to pray—not in many words, as though our prayers receive readier hearing the more loquacious we are; for we are praying to him who knows, as the Lord himself says, what is needful for us before we ask I of him..... So we pray always with unflinching desire. (Augustine: Letter 130, to Proba).



We need words to recollect ourselves and see what we are asking for; not to make us suppose that the Lord must be given information or swayed by words. So when we say, "Hallowed be thy name". We are counselling ourselves to desire that his name, which is always holy, may be held holy among us, that it may not be treated with contempt. (Augustine; Letter to Proba).

LENT—THINGS TO DO.

- Attend daily Mass
- Join our community for **Morning Prayer** in the Adoration Chapel at 9.50am (Monday to Saturday).
- Stations of the Cross and Confession.
- **The Pilgrim Way** by Liam Ryan available in the Bookshop.
- Prayer with the family.
- **From Word to Life:** Scripture Reflection on Wednesdays of Lent 11.00am –12.00 noon in the Augustinian Priory.
- Attend **Gathering 2** in Cork. (3rd March)
- **Fast** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday or other days by choice.
- A **Trócaire** Box for your home .
- Volunteer your time to a charity or community group.
- Find out about **Fairtrade** products.
- Get some Lenten booklets in the Bookshop
- A day in Glenstal Abbey.
- **Second Lenten** lecture in Mary I. College: **Christ and Power** by Jessie Rodgers. (Tuesdays at 5.00pm)
- Series of talks at the Dominican Biblical Centre Cecil/Dominic St. with the general theme of "**Creating a New Limerick**", beginning on Tuesday the 28th February at 7.30pm. The first theme is "**Shared Identity**" , given by Liam Irwin (Dept. of History Mary Immaculate College).



JIMMY BRODERICK

Another local character and a friend of mine went home to God during the week. He joined me at the altar on a number of occasions! Jimmy Broderick was unique, colourful and sad at times. He was known to deliver the morning papers to me during the Gospel. Beneath the rugged exterior he had some lovely qualities. Like some of his dramatic entrances into the sanctuary. Jimmy will create a stir in Heaven! **L.R.**



BRINGING JOY

Patrick Vieira that brilliant French footballer who played for his country, for Arsenal and Manchester City brought great joy to the pupils of St. Gabriel's special school in Dooradoyle when he visited them during the week. I was impressed by what he had to say to them and to the staff! "**As a footballer you always feel like you are privileged and I am healthy and you see some of the kids here who are struggling. To spend a few hours and try to make them smile and the parents smile I think is something that we should do more. Being here in this school is fantastic**". (The Irish Times).