



AUGUSTINIAN CHURCH - LIMERICK

Fourth Sunday 29th January 2012

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St. Augustine and his mother St. Monica

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

CHAMPAGNE RUGBY

Once again sports writers exhausted all the superlatives to describe the performance of the Munster Rugby team last weekend. That sparkling bubbly drink appeared in many of the headlines. In some cases the champagne was replaced by the description borrowed from the wedding feast of Cana, keeping the best wine until last, until the final match in the pool stages of the Heineken Cup competition. There is a religious ring to the slogans and the banners associated with Munster Rugby. Thomond Park has been often described as the **spiritual home of the team**. Miracle matches “By the Grace of God” are part of the legend. I have seen a quotation from the film **Chariots of Fire** about the power that comes from within! If the church could capture a spark of the fire and the passion which runs through the Munster Team and its supporters, a new Pentecost might sweep through a traumatized Irish church. Bland colourless water could be transformed again into the new wine of the Spirit. Our **Gathering in Mary Immaculate College** could bring about another Cana if we come together with expectant faith.



RESISTANCE TO CHANGE

The good news since our last communication is that some Augustinians and laity from Galway are joining us in Mary Immaculate College next Saturday, 4th February. Cork Galway and Limerick have a shared ministry in three major Irish cities in central locations. Galway brings the experience and the challenges of having a small parish. The underlying questions are the same: what is our vision for the future? Can we shed the light of the Gospel into the stress the pain and the money worries of so many? Have we returned to the upper room of fear and detachment? Can all of us together rebuild a **church of the People of God**? Why do we continue to resist change in spite of the obvious need for it? Archbishop Dermot Martin of Dublin, the solitary voice in the wilderness, has spoken about the strong forces resisting renewal. At the local level we ask you to help us to let go the control and make a journey of trust towards each other under God’s guidance.



WHY GATHER?

On Saturday morning we begin at 10.00am in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick with the appropriate theme of **Gathering—the human experience of gathering, coming together for Mass, gathering in forgiveness, gathering to give praise**. We take a new look at the introductory Rite of the Eucharist (Greeting, Penitential Act and Gloria). The backdrop to all of this is personal and pastoral preparation for the **Eucharistic Congress** which takes place in Dublin next June. Hopefully the presentations and the sharings will bring urgent questions of faith and practice to the surface. The shape of Augustinian life and ministry into the future may be defined. In the final stage of the programme which focuses on **Mission** we will have an opportunity to engage with the issues of Ireland 2012. The Eucharist sends us out to do so. The whole purpose of these meetings is “**bringing faith to life**”. While we were planning this project, the hospitality industry announced a series of “**gatherings**” throughout Ireland to promote tourism. Contact will be made with the global Irish community throughout the world, people with Irish roots and they will be invited to organized “**Gatherings**” here at home. Our gatherings are drawing the Christian community together with shared roots in faith at a difficult time for the church and for the country. In the absence of any real leadership from our church hierarchy, it is high time that we come together in hope under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The first Pentecost was about fire and passion. Can we re-kindle the dying embers?

Liam Ryan OSA.

SPORT AND RELIGION

Having written that piece about the fire and passion of Munster Rugby and its echoes in the spiritual world, I opened the January-February issue of **Spirituality**, a publication of the Irish Dominicans with a worldwide Circulation. An article on “**A Spirituality of Sport**” leaped out at me. It was written by Rory Coyle, the priest Secretary of the Armagh County Board of the GAA. He quotes St. Paul, Pope John Paul II and the present Pope. They link sport with character building and the virtues of **temperance, team spirit, respectful attitudes, honesty in the game** and the humility to deal with victory and defeat in a mature way. The ugly scenes at last Sunday’s junior club semi-final between Derrybresk (Tyrone) and Dromid Pearses (Kerry) fell far short of these high ideals. The passion and the fire overflowed into violence.

FAITH AND LIFE

One of the aims of the **Spirituality** magazine is “to help lay Christians especially as they try to deepen their Christian lives while grappling with mortgages, unemployment, forced early retirement, parenthood. It offers encouragement for handing on the faith while faith and the practice of the faith diminish all around us”. Not a bad summary of what we are trying to do through our project beginning next Saturday!

BRINGING FAITH TO LIFE.

OSCAR NOMINATION

We rejoice in the nomination of a short Irish film for an Oscar. It is entitled **Pentecost**, the story of a young boy who has to balance his role as an altar boy with his passion for football. It is an interesting theme. We hope that it adds to our reflection on **Champagne Rugby and Religion** (opposite page).



A GIFT OF PRAYER

An interesting card with an inspirational idea was dropped into our church during the week. It establishes a clear link between the Eucharistic Congress and **praying support** for one another. It is particularly appropriate leading into the Congress in June. It is about spending an hour in prayer in the Blessed Sacrament for somebody of your choice and recording that in a special card which can be sent to that person and signed by yourself. You will find the cards on the way in to our Adoration Chapel.



ORDER OF ST. AUGUSTINE: WE ARE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST!

The followers of St. Augustine, or Augustinian Order, based upon the teaching of the Bishop of Hippo (354-430 A.D.), was founded in 1244, to live and promote the spirit of community as lived by the first Christian communities (Acts of the Apostles 4, 32-35).

There are many ways in which to describe the Augustinian Order, to speak of its character, its history, its mission, its charism. First and foremost, however, the Augustinian Order is people —men and women — who, in the words of the *Rule* we profess, “**live together in harmony, being of one mind and one heart on the way to God.**”. We are Christians who, captivated by the example of Saint Augustine, journey together, as we build our house and serve the Lord’s people.

From the Rule of St. Augustine:

The main purpose for your having come together is to live harmoniously in your house, intent upon God, with one heart and one soul. (Acts 4:32).



GATHERING DAY

Our Gathering Day: Bringing Faith to Life is fast approaching . It takes place next Saturday, 4th February in the Mary Immaculate College South Circular Rd. between 9.30am and 3.30pm. All Augustinians and laity are invited to this important programme. It is an urgent project which could determine our life and ministry together into the future. We are being joined by similar groups from Cork and Galway. It will be a **Down-To-Earth experience dealing with practical issues. It is not a Gathering for scholars intellectual or theologians.** You still have time to book. Forms available at the back of the church. Please drop them into boxes provided on or before **Thursday, 2nd February (next Thursday).**

Note: Tea, Coffee and a light lunch will be provided at the college.

Location: Mary Immaculate College is on the South Circular Rd. O’Connell St → O’Connell Ave., → Right at Punch’s Cross and Hotel into New Road → 100 yards to small roundabout → right into South Circular Rd. → entrance on the left or from the Dock Rd. into Courtbrack Ave. to New Entrance on the left.