



St. Augustine's Church Limerick 13th January 2019

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Mass Times

Monday -Friday

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

SATURDAY

8.30am, 10.15am
3.00pm

(Mass for the Sick)

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

Maranatha Prayer Ministry

You are invited to a Prayer Ministry retreat with Fr. Bernardino, Monks of Moyross on Sunday 20th Jan., with Mass, Confession, and Worship at 2.30pm in St. Paul's Church Dooradoyle. All are welcome!



St. Augustine: Reflection on Baptism

John first met Jesus when both were hidden in their mother's womb. The coming was unexpected (John leaped in surprise), but it had no evident effect on the lives of either. Each went his own way after birth, to meet again only much later on. John must have had a sense of this destiny because, as soon as he was able, he took himself to the desert to prepare for the second coming of his Lord. He knew that the Lord was in the world and that someday he would come to him again, and he proclaimed this fact to all who would listen to him. Crowds came from all over to hear him. They perceived John to be an extraordinary man and wondered if he himself was not the expected Messiah. They agreed with Jesus' later statement that "There is no man born of woman greater than John." (Luke 7:28)

When Jesus finally came to John in the desert, it was unexpected both in circumstances and effects. The circumstances were very ordinary. One day Jesus appeared with hundreds of others to listen to John's preaching and participate in his liturgy of cleansing. John pointed out Jesus to one or two groups of his followers; Jesus went through John's baptism in the Jordan and then the meeting was over. There was no great fuss. Jesus was ignored by most. The revelation of the Father and the Holy Spirit was perceived probably only by Jesus and John.

What lesson is there in all this for us still waiting for the coming of the Lord? Perhaps only this: when the Lord comes to us there is no guarantee that our lives will be made any easier or that our problems will have any quick solutions. He may come to us in our desert as he came to John, saying: "I am here waiting for you. Now get on with your ordinary days of living and dying".

Donald Burt OSA

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which takes place from 18th -25th January.

This year's resources have been prepared by Christians in Indonesia and they have taken their theme from Deuteronomy 16:18-20 "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ..."

There will be a special service here in St. Augustine's Church on Thursday 24th January at 7.30pm. We hope to welcome a number of people from other Christian denominations and Fellowships to a service of Prayer, Readings, Song and Silence in St. Augustine's to be followed by some simple hospitality. We warmly invite you to attend this special service as we pray together for Christian unity.

Feast of St. Ita

Saint Idé - or St Ita - was known as the foster mother of the Saints of Ireland. Her name - idé - meant a thirst for holiness, and her feast day is on January 15th (Tuesday).

Idé was born Deirdre, to noble parents in Deise, Waterford. She rejected an arranged marriage, instead professing vows to God. She left her father's safe home and set out with some companions for the Úa Conaill territory in the West of Munster, the present Co. Limerick, to a place called "Cluain Creadhail" which some interpret to mean "Meadow of Faith" and which is now called Killeedy. Here she founded a convent and remained for the rest of her days.

When she decided to settle in Killeedy, a chieftain offered her a large grant of land to support the convent. But Ita would accept only four acres, which she cultivated intensively so she became known as a patron saint for small holders. The convent became known as a training school for little boys, many of whom later became famous churchmen. One of these was St. Brendan, whom Bishop Saint Erc gave to Ita in fosterage when he was a year old. The great Navigator revisited her between his voyages and always deferred to her counsel. St. Ita, along with St Munchin and St Senan, is a patron saint of our diocese.

Limerick Diocesan Newsletter

The annual St. Ita's Mass will be celebrated in St. Ita's Church, Raheenagh, Co. Limerick on Tuesday 15th Jan at 11.00am. In preparation for this feast day there will be Adoration in St. Ita church Ashford on Monday 14th Jan from 10.30am - 12 midnight. All are welcome!



Training for Eucharistic Ministers St. Augustine's Church

There will be ongoing training for all Eucharistic ministers from St. Augustine's church on **Saturday January 19th** in the Diocesan Centre, St. Munchin's College, Corbally from 10.30am - 12.30. This is a great opportunity for all our Eucharistic Ministers, and we would encourage you to attend. Please give your name to Charlotte (061 415374) as soon as possible on or before Wednesday 16th January



WINTER GOD

God of Hope in the darkness of these
Winter days keep the promise
of Spring alive in my heart.
In the wilderness, hold me open
to the hope of new life.
Give me an awareness of bulbs
awakening from their Winter sleep,
life stirring in the darkness of the earth.
In the dark places of my own spirit
help me to notice the seeds
of 'resurrection'.
Give me time and space to reach down into
the soil of my own existence.
Show me how to nurture the roots of faith
and love in the
desert places of my life.
Amen

Liam Ryan O.S.A.