



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## Third Sunday of Advent

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# 15th December 2019

## Candle in the Window

### 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

**St. Augustine's Church  
Child Safeguarding  
Representatives.**

Fr. Noel Hession OSA  
Fr. Flor O'Callaghan OSA  
Geraldine van Dam  
Mr. Robert Ryan  
Ms Charlotte Gleeson  
Ms Mary Deegan.



At sunrise next Sat, 21st December—weather permitting— a shaft of light will penetrate the burial chamber at Newgrange, Co. Meath. This has been happening for thousands of years on the shortest day of the year, the Winter solstice. A privileged few will witness this awesome event within the passage itself. It will be relayed to the world through a multiplicity of media images. In deepest darkest Winter our ancestors celebrated the return of the light in our Northern Hemisphere. Hope dawned into the inner recesses of a tomb foreshadowing Resurrection.

Thousands of years before Christ a people who walked in darkness saw a great light from Newgrange to the twilight days of the Old Testament, from the Irish Candle in the window to the gathering light of the Advent candles. All of human history has been illuminated by that Event which took place in a stable over 2,000 years ago.



The lighting of a Christmas Candle in your home puts you in touch with the heart of the Festive Season and all its layers of spirituality and religion.

## Journey Inward

The journey inward which Augustine invites us to make is a kind of homecoming. For Augustine, the heart is not the place of emotions but the place of richest, deepest thought and peace. It is the centre of our being, where we are totally ourselves, our deepest selves. In allowing ourselves to wander outside, we loose touch with ourselves.

'Why do you want to drift so far away from yourself?' he asks. 'Turn back from your idle wandering. Return to your Lord. He is waiting. You have become a stranger to yourself. You do not recognise yourself. And you seek for Him who created you!' If

we are a long way from ourselves, he is saying, how can we come near to God?

To return is to find our true home, to find our paradise on earth. This is a bold promise. But Augustine's reason for making it is that when we journey inward it is not just our true self that we find. We find God who has made his home within us.



Benignus O'Rourke O.S.A.



## Christmas Family Mass 2019

Once again this year we are having our Family Mass at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, a convenient time for children and families. This will be a child friendly celebration which includes the creation of a Nativity Scene with full participation of the children in the various parts of the Christmas Story. Children are invited to come at 4pm for a short rehearsal beforehand. All are welcome



**Tuesday 24th December at 5pm**



**Christmas Services 2019**

## Christmas at St. Augustine's Christmas Eve December 24th

7.30am, 8.30am, 10.15am  
Family Mass 5pm,  
Vigil Mass 8pm

## Christmas Day December 25th

9.00am & 11.15am No Evening Mass

## St. Stephen's Day December 26th

Mass 10.15am

## Confessions

Tuesday 17th – Saturday 21st  
10.00am-4.00pm  
Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th  
10.00am – 4.00pm

**Maranatha Christmas Healing Retreat:** You are invited to a Christmas Healing Retreat with Fr. Joseph Mary (Monks of Moyross), Limerick this Sunday 15th December. It will be an afternoon of Praise & Worship with Confession, Mass at 5pm and Adoration in St. Pauls Church Dooradoyle at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

**Yuletide Carols:** Parishes journeying together in hope. You are invited to celebrate family and friends this Christmas with Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Joseph and St. Saviours to Yuletide Carols this Sunday 15th December at 3pm in St. Joseph's Parish Centre.

**Quiet Reflective Christmas Service:** A service of reflection will take place on Sunday 22nd of December at 3pm in St Mary's Cathedral for those that are not looking forward to Christmas for whatever reason. All are welcome.

**St. Saviour's Dominican Church:** Christmas at the Dominicans Sunday 29th December at 6.30pm. Featuring choirs from Adare, Askeaton and St. Saviours, the Dominican Sisters, and other performances. Tickets €15 /Seniors and students €10. Bookings can made in the Sacristy between 12.00-12.45 each day. Every Tuesday sandwiches are served at 1.30pm in the Bl. Terence Albert O'Brien Hall. (Dominicans) .All are welcome!

**Sacred Heart Church O'Connell St.** On Tuesday 24th December at 11.45pm they will have the Blessing of the Crib followed by Midnight Mass

**Advent at Glenstal Abbey: Here is the Lord: Come out to meet Him.**

The last of these Advent talks takes place this Sunday 15th December at the Monastery Library – Glenstal Abbey at 4.30pm. The speaker will be Cuthbert Brennan OSB All are welcome.

**Ecumenical Lectio Divina- Sacred Scripture Reading and Sharing:** This Monday 16th at 7.30pm we will end our Advent Lectio Divina at St. Michael's Church Pery Square. We would like to thanks all those who joined us and also our facilitator Rev Paul Fitzpatrick and Fr. Noel Hession OSA.

**'Light in the Darkness Lunchtime talks'.** The fourth in the series will be given by Peter McVerry, of the McVerry Trust in St. Michael's Church Pery Square on Friday 20th December from 1pm - 1.50pm. . Within the context of the fifty minutes there will be time for questions interaction and refreshments. This is open for anyone to attend.