



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

website: [www.augustinianslimerick.com](http://www.augustinianslimerick.com)

email: [info@augustinianslimerick.com](mailto:info@augustinianslimerick.com)

# 22nd December 2019

## Counting Down to Christmas

### 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

Since last Tuesday 17th December the church has been counting down the days to Christmas. For children it is the number of 'sleeps' before Santa arrives on Christmas Eve. Advent, the time of spiritual preparation for Christmas, is full of hope and expectation. In schools and in most churches now Jesus is firmly rooted in history with a family tree containing some daunting names for our readers.



St. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus is a mixture of saints and sinners. All human life is there. Unlike other Jewish family trees it includes women with a few of ill repute numbered among them. It is difficult for us to accept that a perfect Jesus, Mary and Joseph should have a few skeletons in the cupboard! They were completely immersed in the human story.

In recent years the creation of a Jesse Tree, the family tree of Jesus, has become a common Advent activity in schools and churches. Symbols representing the people and events leading up to Jesus are placed on a bare tree. All this connects with our new interest in roots and genealogies which give us all a sense of identity in an uprooted world. Why not roots in faith also?



Thank you for all your support and prayers throughout the year.

We wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

The Augustinian  
Community  
Limerick

## Nativity Windows

Once again we are displaying Nativity Scenes in the ground floor windows of the Augustinian Priory on O'Connell St. We are hoping that these images will remind shoppers of the ultimate reason for the commerce, the celebrations the parties and the exchange of gifts at Christmas.

Artist Des Langford's paintings have prompted nostalgic memories of the Crib scene in the window above the entrance to Roches Stores (now Debenhams). Apart from churches and religious bookshops, there is little evidence of the Nativity in public places. In these days for the church there is a need for the re-birth of hope and a guiding star for bewildered people.





## 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

Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th  
10.00am – 4.00pm

## Masses after Christmas

St. Stephen's Day 10.15am



# Thank You

- To those who assembled the Advent Wreath with its candles and greenery.
- To the girls in the Abbey Bookshop who handled the 'rush' very patiently.
- The volunteers who decorated our Christmas tree, erected the Crib, decorated our altars with flowers and those who prepared the Family Mass including our choir who's loyalty is very much appreciated!
- To our Eucharistic Ministers, & Ministers of the Word.
- To the members of our congregations and all who visit our church for your generous support and prayers throughout the year



## God with us

Brother Stephen Russell laid the foundations for work with the homeless in Limerick. His vision and compassion lives on today. The inspiration for his work is to be found in one of Brother Stephen's poems, the Spirit of Emmanuel, the God who is with me.

### *Knowing God*

I have seen a mother at a crib and I know what love is.

I have gazed into the eyes of a child  
and I know what faith is.

I have heard the pounding of the sea  
and I know what power is.

I have seen a rainbow in the sky  
and I know what beauty is.

I have planted a tree and I know what hope is.

I have heard a wild bird sing  
and I know what freedom is.

I have seen a chrysalis burst into life  
and I know what mystery is.

I have lost my parents and I know what sadness is.

I have been in prison— I know what loneliness is.

I have sat with the destitute and I know what want is.

I have sat with the dying and I know what fear is.

I have gazed into the sky alight with the stars at night  
and I know what the Infinite is.

I have seen and felt all these things  
so now I know who God is.



## 'Yellow Ribbon Remembrance Mass'

Limerick Rotary  
(Thomond Club) will  
hold their special  
'Yellow Ribbon'  
Remembrance Mass on  
Friday 3rd  
January at 4.00pm in  
St. Augustine's  
Church.

