



# St. Augustine's Church Limerick

19th December 2021

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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### *The Enduring Christmas Carol*

#### Mass Times



#### Christmas Week

##### Monday - Thursday

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

##### Friday Christmas Eve

7.30am, 8.30am,  
10.15am

##### Vigil Masses

7.00pm, & 9.00pm

##### Christmas Day

9.00am, 11.15am  
No evening Mass

##### St. Stephen's Day

9.00am, 11.15am  
No evening Mass

##### Monday 27th Dec

10.15am & 4.00pm

##### Confessions

Mon 20th—Fri 24th  
10.00am -4.00pm

#### Carols by Candlelight at Knock

Sunday 19th Dec

8.00pm



[www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live](http://www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live)

In 1843 Charles Dickens finished his famous book, A Christmas Carol, still a favourite, especially at Christmas time. It tells the story of that penny-pinching miser Ebenezer Scrooge –and of his faithful paid clerk Bob Cratchit and his needy family. The whole story, as most of Dickens's stories, is a comment on the hard London times of the day and the exploitation of children and the poor. Scrooge cares nothing for people and mankind exists only for money. Scrooge particularly despises Christmas – such foolish spending, until one Christmas Eve the ghost of his late partner, Jacob Marlow, visits him. Then, slowly, begins the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge into the generous caring benefactor of all.

Christmas is of course the inspiration for the story, A Christmas Carol. The most Generous Creator of the world, The Father of us all, visits us Himself in the person of that Infant of Bethlehem. He wants to be one of us, for we matter so much to Him. And He wants to share so much with us – He wants us all to be His children, eternally. He will save us from ourselves. Oh, to have faith in that Truth can be so transforming. Thank God, it is for so many.

Faith is about taking that courageous plunge – diving from a height into the water without hesitation, and then you know you can dive. You believe. Faith is the giving of ourselves, God-like, oblivious of the cost. What a huge difference it would make if we were to give just that tiny bit more that costs so little: give a smile to others; give a moment's greeting; don't rush by somebody but stop for a moment; give a helping hand to someone in the queue; give a gentle word of encouragement, of appreciation, of thanks; be patient, be forgiving; make that phone call to a broken relationship; mend fences; a phone call to a house-bound neighbour, a lonely person -a listening ear, drive less aggressively, with more care, within the speed limits; , the list is endless.....

Like the Infant of Bethlehem, Christmas is about small insignificant daily actions. Little acts can mean a lot. Let us all take the plunge this very Christmas Day: then we will know that Christmas is here. We will experience it.



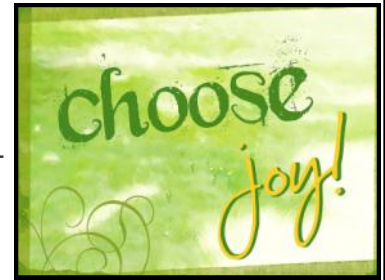
## Thought for the Day

Even in its resolutely secular form, the Christmas celebration has positive sides to it. People do try very hard to get together with close family and friends. It might help to reflect in advance on this seasonal intensity of encounter. What do I hope for? What do I bring? How can I/we be so that we are not simply in the same physical space but truly meet each other and are the better for it? There should be some leap of joy, so that at the end of the festivities, we are glad we made the effort.

### Prayer

God of all loving, bless all our encounters this Christmas. Help us to be both kind and joyful, so that all whom we meet will be the better for it. Inspire us to know when a word of witness will lift the celebration and enable family and friends to get to the heart of it all.

Source : [www.tarsus.ie](http://www.tarsus.ie)



The Augustinian Community Limerick would like to thank you for all your support and prayers throughout the year and especially during this difficult Covid period.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas & a blessed and safe New Year. Our Calendar will be available for takeaway at the back of the church this coming week. A small token of our appreciation to you.

## 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. 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.



### Festive Music Treats

Sunday 19th December  
1.00pm St. John's Brass Band  
2.30pm Limerick Chamber Choir

Pick up your 'Gifts of Love' information pack at the back of the Church.

**TRÓCAIRE  
GIFTS OF LOVE**

**BUY A TRÓCAIRE GIFT OF LOVE  
& SEND YOUR LOVE AROUND  
THE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS...**

