

Reflection: In the Gospel, a landowner hires labourers at various hours of the day—some at dawn, some at noon, and others at the final, eleventh hour. When payday arrives, everyone receives the exact same amount: a standard daily wage (a denarius). Naturally, those who worked all day in the scorching heat grumble. By human standards, their complaint is perfectly logical. In our world, more effort should equal more pay. But the landowner poses a penetrating question: *"Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"* (Matthew 20:15).

This parable reveals that God does not operate on a system of strict economic merit. God's justice is governed by an unconditional love that ensures everyone has what they need to live and flourish.

The tension of the Gospel is beautifully framed by the First Reading from Isaiah 55:6-9. God reminds us through the prophet: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways."* We tend to calculate love, mercy, and forgiveness. We create hierarchies of who is "deserving" and who is not. God, however, shatters these boundaries. The landlord himself goes out five separate times to seek out the unemployed, showing a deep concern for the vulnerability of those standing idle. God's primary desire is not a transaction; it is an open invitation into the vineyard.

The true sting of the parable lies in the resentment of the early workers. They were not underpaid—they received exactly what they agreed to. Their anger stemmed entirely from the fact that others, who worked less, received the same.

This warns us against a subtle spiritual danger: religious entitlement. It is easy for lifelong believers to look down on late-stage converts, or for "righteous" people to resent the mercy God pours out on repentant sinners. The Gospel reminds us that we are all eleventh-hour workers in some area of our lives, entirely dependent on a generosity we did not earn.

Saints of the Week

Sept 21st St Matthew, **Wed 23rd** St Eunan, St Padre Pio
Fri 25th St Finbarr, **Sat 26th** St Cosmas, St Damian

Priests of the Parish
Canon Gerard Garrett
Fr Daniel Tomasik
Fr Peter Claver Emeke Eze
Fr Robert Coffey
In residence Canon John Daly

Cathedral Shop
Mon - Sat, 10:30am - 1pm.
Sympathy Mass cards,
Occasional cards,
candles and other religious
goods for sale.

Mass Times
Mon-Fri 10am, 5.45pm
Sat 10am & 6pm Vigil
Sun 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon

Confessions
Saturday 10.30am

Baptisms
Saturday 4.30pm

Remembering the Deceased
We remember today in our
prayers all our loved ones who
have departed this world.
May they rest in eternal
peace.

Split the Pot Draw
Congratulations to
John Walsh
winner of last weekends draw.
Draw envelopes available at
the back of the church.

[Scan QR code to donate](#)



TOUR AND TALK ON THE WINDOWS OF ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
In conjunction with the Centre for Irish German Studies and St John's Parish
BY **GEORGE LEE**
Saturday 17th October 2026
12.30pm
St. John's Cathedral
Explore the stories, symbolism and craftsmanship of the cathedral's remarkable windows with George Lee.

Centre for Irish German Studies
PEOPLE IDEAS CONNECTIONS

St John's Parish
FAITH • COMMUNITY • HERITAGE

All are welcome

Feast of St Padre Pio
St Michael's Church Limerick City
September 23rd
Rosary 6.30pm
Mass 7pm
First class relics of St Padre Pio
Veneration of 1st class relics of St Padre Pio (Glove & heart bandage) after mass

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer."
- St. Padre Pio

Save a life Give Blood

Church Of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Dooradoyle Road Limerick
(After Shopping Centre Entrance)

Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd September 4:20pm – 7:40pm

New Donors welcome
Phone 1800 222 111 for apptmt

DOMINICAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK:
Sunday 11th October. Tickets on sale from Tues 1st Sept in the parish office 10am-2pm Mon-Fri.
For more details, contact 085 7262262

St John's Cathedral Choir

We are looking for new members. If you can sing in tune and are willing to commit to Thursday night practise and Sundays morning mass, we would like to hear from you. We sing all sorts of music and you don't need to be able to read music notation to join us. We are returning from our summer break on **Sunday 20th September** having had 3 months off so we hope this long break makes up for the extra commitment at Christmas and Easter. Ring 061 414624 to be put in touch with the choir directors for a chat.



HOW SAFE ARE YOUR KIDS?
An important evening for parents
Do you *really* know what your child is watching online? How much do you know about the dangers of social media?

Explicit images online
Online bullying & screen time
Social media
What can we do?

Monday 19th October 7:30 - 9:00pm Refreshments from 7pm
Guest Speakers: Mick Moran from Hotline.ie, Minister Patrick O'Donovan Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media of Ireland
MC'd by Brian Barron of Gaeil na hEirinn
Open to parents of kids of all ages.
FREE TO ATTEND
Contact: jeannamounsey@yahoo.com for more information.

Join us at St Saviours Dominican Church for **Bible Study**, beginning this Wednesday, **23rd September**, on the theme of 'Jubilee in Scripture'. Bible Study will take place every Wednesday at 7:30pm for 10 weeks.