

## Sunday 31st October 2021

**What is Religious?** We often ask people what is most important to them in life. Various words come to mind - family, faith, love, and peace of mind, money or others. Jesus is asked something like this in the conversation of today's gospel. His most important word is love – anything in the religious tradition of the time is secondary to love of God and love of the neighbour. In August 2012 a survey indicated that the Irish are among the least religious people of Europe. This came out of a sample of 1,000 people and indicates something to do with religious understanding and practice. Maybe though we could challenge that we are most religious, not necessarily when we are in church or praying, but also when we are at our most loving and caring, or concerned for justice. True religion is that, and is especially true when it cares for the needy. Jesus' heart went out mostly to people like that in his own time, especially any group who were outcast like people suffering from leprosy. This can be the same today. He is the one on the side of the needy, and most on our side when we are most needy. This is the meaning and the reason for the Christian community – to be bearers of love in our world. So maybe in Ireland we are much more religious than the survey shows! When we love, in the smallest and biggest ways, among the family, neighbourhood and wider world, then we are religious in the name of Jesus.

## Parish Newsletter



### **DON'T FORGOT CLOCKS GO BACK!!**



*The Annual Mass for the Bereaved will take place Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 here in the Cathedral at 7pm. We would like to invite those that have lost loved ones during the year. Candles will be lit for each of the deceased and the candles can be collected after the mass or during the week from the sacristy.*

*Next Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm, the Priests of the Parish will lead the prayers for the dead in Mount St Lawrence Cemetery. All are welcome to attend.*

### **Community Notices:**



**Get yourself ready for Christmas with our Beauty and skincare classes!**

**Where: 23 St. John's Street**  
**When: Every Thursday from the 4th of November from 10 -12pm**

To register please contact (061) 310 - 690



**CHRISTMAS CRAFT CLASSES**

Every Wednesday starting on the 3rd of November from 10-12pm

**Make your loved ones a gift for Christmas!**

Call 061-310690 to register today  
PLSS code 333957

## MONEY MATTERS

a series of talks to get your money under control  
with **Pauline Maher**

- finding it hard to know where your money is going?
- feeling anxious when opening bank statements or checking your balance?
- worried about Christmas or other big costs?

**IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET YOUR FINANCES UNDER CONTROL**

Join us on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm (Millennium Hall, St Nessel's, Rahenee) for these free talks:

|        |                                |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| 04 Nov | How to Break Spending Habits   |
| 11 Nov | Tracking your Money            |
| 18 Nov | Building a Budget              |
| 25 Nov | Starting to Save               |
| 02 Dec | Creating your Vision           |
| 09 Dec | Dealing with Debts             |
| 16 Dec | Building Blocks to Maintenance |
| 23 Dec | Over to you!                   |

You can register using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MyMoneyMatters>

Registration is required due to COVID-19 restrictions on numbers

**Day Care Centre, Pennywell Rd** If you are over 60 and would like an occasional change in surroundings, why not come and spend some time in a pleasant environment with gentle but interesting activities, a nice hot meal and good company. Operates Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week from 10.00 am to 3.00pm. COVID protection measures in place.

**Daily Fee €10.00**



**Church Gift Shop:** Open Monday - Saturday from 10.30am to 12.30pm.



**Monday - Friday** 10am & 5.45pm, **Saturday** 10am & 6pm (vigil),

**Sunday** 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon & 7pm.

**Confessions:** Take place each Saturday after 10am Mass.

**Baptisms:** Can be booked through the Parish Office 061 414624 or email [admin@stjohnscathedrallimerick.com](mailto:admin@stjohnscathedrallimerick.com)

Copy of baby's birth certificate required when booking.

**Split the Pot:** Congratulations to *Geraldine Toomey* the winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 24<sup>th</sup>)  
Draw envelopes are available at the back of the church.



### **Parish History - St John's Cathedral Limerick Part 14 ..... Completing the Tower**

Picture if you can how the building site at the foot of the Tower must have looked. At this time there was no electricity or electrical tools, no mechanised transport. No cranes or hoists and most significantly no steel scaffolding as we have today. All of the stone needed to be quarried as locally as possible because transporting it was a major undertaking. It is probably fair to surmise that a fleet of horse and traps were employed ferrying stone primarily from the Rosbrien Quarry a distance of over a mile and a half and that stone cutters and masons operated on site at the Cathedral cutting and shaping the stone using traditional methods with hammers and chisels.

Raising the stones required much brute strength. Pulleys and timber scaffold needed to be erected with ropes graded for the weights they needed to carry. Most of these ropes were produced locally with a series of "Rope Walks" for twisting rope scattered around the parish.

From the beginning the Tower was a hollow structure. The Clerk of Works, Thomas Byrne, engaged an unorthodox building method by having the builders and masons working from inside the hollow Tower with blocks being passed along "overhand". We are told that at the beginning of 1881, the really intricate work of the middle third (including the balconies above the belfry windows) was concluded and that it was at this point that the true scale of what was emerging became obvious to the watching public. From here the tower started to narrow as the shape went from Tower to Spire and as a result fewer and fewer men could work at the top of the scaffolding.

Despite this the height of the Tower increased every day before the eyes of an interested city.

By the time the building reached the oval lights half way along where the spire narrows it was obvious that it would be no longer possible to continue building from the inside out.

At that time Tom Byrne showed his true genius by thrusting out massive beams of Timber through the lights left and right forming a cross like structure parallel to the ground and on top of this was created a scaffold of poles and cross pieces that allowed the masons to now work from the outside in. It is recorded that nowhere on this construction was the scaffold attached to the Tower. To give some idea of how strong and secure this timber construction was the local newspaper recorded that when the diameter of the spire reached four feet, it was required that all of the stone for the last sixteen feet of the Tower was needed to be brought up at once. We are told that this required thirty two individually carved stones to be hoisted and placed on the scaffold and that each of those stones weighed on average 1.3 tonnes giving a total weight load of approximately 40 tonnes balanced on the top of the scaffold nearly 200 feet in the air. It is also said that to raise those stones to that height required a team of horses to pull the ropes on the pulleys over Baals Bridge for the first time during the building of the Tower. At that point, we are told, the only people working at the top of the scaffold were Mr Tom Byrne, Mr Clohessy the stonemason and the other Mr Clohessy the scaffolder. They were tended by a group of men who climbed up and down during the day bringing bottles of water to the three men to keep the cement from "going off" prematurely. So precarious was the work that the workers needed to keep the water bottles for this purpose in their pockets and so they needed to be replenished throughout the day. At this time the Cross for the top of the Spire arrived from Bethell's Foundry in Watergate. Many people came to see it and it was blessed by Fr. McCoy before it was raised. The Cross made from galvanised iron weighed over 3 Tonne and it sat into a socket that sat on top of a great bar that ran 20 feet into the masonry below and is tightly screwed into a plate that straddled the stonework. The lightning conductor was then put in place and it was of a brand new design invented by Dr Siemens of Germany, a company that was to play such a major part of the mid-west of Ireland's industrial development forty years later with the building of Ardnacrusha Power Station and The Shannon Scheme. George Lee [drombanna@gmail.com](mailto:drombanna@gmail.com)