

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

*On Wednesday evening we held our Bereavement Mass for families who buried loved ones during the year and had their funeral here in the Cathedral. We were overwhelmed with the attendance and thank each of you for coming and making it so special. We are grateful to the volunteers who are always so giving of their time and a heartfelt thank you to our musicians who made the Mass so special with their beautiful music and singing. Clergy of the Parish*

November Dead lists are available at the back of the Cathedral. These can be filled in, put in the envelopes marked Holy Souls and left in the box's provided.

**Reflection:** You see, Jesus watches, and he notices all of the tiny, insignificant, unconscious even, good thing we do. A kind word, a smile, an acknowledgement, a 'thank you', stopping for a moment to listen to someone, a hug, a kiss, 'I miss you', 'can I help?', 'don't worry', and so, so many other tiny copper words and actions we don't notice or forget. They may be unnoticed by others, forgotten by us, but never lost to God. We are good at spotting our sins. We are not so good at spotting the good we do. But Jesus does spot our tiny acts of kindness and he does not forget them. They stand out for him. They touch him. How could we ever fear the God revealed to us in this Gospel? I can't, even if I try!



**Community Notices:**

**Garryowen CDP has vacancies the following activities: Contact John at 061 310690 if interested.**



1. Parent and Toddler Group, storytelling and toddler exercise class Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. - 11.00
2. Woodwork Classes for Adults (beginners and intermediates) Mondays 2.30 - 4.30
3. Beauty and Skincare - Pamper yourself and get ready for Xmas Thursdays 10.00 - 12.00
4. Art Classes (Beginners and Intermediate) Thursdays 3.15 - 5.15.

**Pennywell Day Care Centre**

**ENROLLING NOW - Places Available**

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, and good company.

On arrival tea and toast is provided. Activities include bingo, arts and crafts, knitting, gentle



exercise. The centre provides social services to the over 60 population in the city and operates Mondays, Tuesday's and Wednesdays each week from 10am - 2.30pm.

Referrals are through your GP, Public Health Nurse. Charge for attending is €10 per day (including a 3 course hot meal). If you are interested please contact Geraldine Tuite on 061 414150 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) or email pennywelldaycare@bergerietrust.ie.

Transport is provided on request.

COVID protection measures are in place.



**Trocaire EMERGENCY APPEAL**

**OVER 30 MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS EAST AFRICA ARE STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE A DEVASTATING HUNGER CRISIS**



Families like Joy Jeremiah's are struggling to survive in East Africa's hunger crisis. Please help if you can.

*"The cries of my children when they need food, the suffering we are going through, I ask for your support and your prayers. God bless you"*  
— Joy Jeremiah, mother of five, South Sudan

**A CHURCH COLLECTION WILL TAKE PLACE THE WEEKEND OF 6TH & 7TH NOVEMBER**

**PLEASE DONATE WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF SOMALIA, SOUTH SUDAN, ETHIOPIA, AND THE STATE OF SOUTH KORDOFAN IN SUDAN.**

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## Church Notices

**Mass Times: 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 *Mary Coffey* the winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Oct)  
Draw envelopes are available at the back of the church. All proceeds go towards maintenance of the Cathedral. We are very grateful for your support.



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

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## **Parish History - St John's Cathedral Limerick Part 15 ..... Joy and Mayhem**

We are told that the Cross on the main spire was finally raised to its position just after four o'clock on the afternoon of Wednesday twenty seventh of September 1882. While outwardly the Tower was now completed it was still just a hollow shell inside with scaffolding still in place. The only outward sign of the building work at this time would have been the scaffolding which extended from the oval windows up to the top of the cross and of course an extensive building site at the base.

It is fair to surmise that the raising of the cross on that day was a cause of much curiosity in the local area and across the city and that hundreds of people gathered from local vantage points to see the final works being carried out. It is recorded that there was much celebration that this mammoth project had been completed successfully and we are told that the scaffolding at the top of the spire was bedecked with banners and flags representing the church, the mason's guilds and the city.

In a strange twist of fate that rejoicing was to be short-lived and the flags and banners that declared such celebration were to prove disastrous within a few short days.

Occasionally in Ireland we are visited by severe weather events such as the remnants of Atlantic hurricanes that mostly blow across the Atlantic along the warmer waters of the Gulf Stream. Thankfully today we have adequate forecasting services which give warning in advance.

The Meteorological services in 1882 were not capable of predicting these rare weather events and so when on Saturday night September 30th a major storm blew across Limerick much devastation was wrought. The local papers of the day record that trees were uprooted and chimney stacks blown down as well as gas lamps twisted off their posts and even buildings more or less demolished across the city and county.

Mass went ahead as usual in the Cathedral on what was the feast of the Holy Rosary and, we are told that a sizable congregation had gathered for the eleven o'clock service. The mass was to be celebrated by Fr.

O'Higgins the new administrator of the cathedral and many of the attendees were probably glad to be in a warm dry place on such an inclement day especially as the domestic accommodation in the city at the time was, in the main, sub-standard.

Just before eleven o'clock the unthinkable happened and amidst much panic there was an almighty gust of wind followed by a thunderous crash. In advance of this one of the curates had noticed that the cross on the newly erected spire had shifted and was sitting at an unusual angle.

Mayhem broke out in the packed cathedral as a sizable piece of masonry crashed through the roof of the building and people rushed for the exits. Miraculously, the only reported injury was an arm fracture caused to a woman and this was caused as a result of the rush to get out through the main door.

In a truly fortuitous turn of events the prevailing winds of the Atlantic hurricane blew in from the western side of the building and in the collapse the newly set cross and the twenty or so feet of stone that supported it and into which it was set had been, for the most part blown away from the building onto the road at the side of St John's Hospital. We are told that pieces of rubble, stone, and scaffolding timbers were strewn over a considerable area but that no-one was injured outside the cathedral in the accident. George Lee [drombanna@gmail.com](mailto:drombanna@gmail.com)