



Sunday 15th August 2021

Parish Newsletter

Reflection: Some people will accept the message of Jesus, others will not. His spoken words and actions put before us the choice we are asked to make if we are to faithfully follow him. In the scriptures we read that God is 'making all things new.' Through Jesus all things are made new, especially each of us.

The choice to embrace and welcome this new life is ours. If we say 'yes' to follow Jesus, then we are also called to be made new and transformed. It is through the Spirit of God that we are encouraged and made new. The Spirit of God is powerful and life-giving. Archbishop Oscar Romero reminds of this with these words, 'The bible has a very meaningful expression; the Spirit makes all things new. We are the ones who grow old, and we want everything made to our own pattern. The Spirit is never old; the Spirit is always young.'

We are a missionary church not a static church. May each of us have the courage to open ourselves to the life changing message of Jesus.

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We are still adhering to all HSE & Government guidelines with regards COVID-19 by sanitising our hands on entering & exiting the Cathedral, wearing face masks and socially distancing. Thank you for your co-operation.

Donations are welcome and go towards the maintenance of our historic Cathedral (foundation stone was laid in 1856).

Queries: For queries related to your donation toward St John's Cathedral, please email admin@stjohnscathedrallimerick.com

We are in the process of changing our online payment system so our Online Payment facility for credit/debit cards will not be available for a short while. It will be reactivated on our website soon and will be up and running again.



Church Gift Shop Gift Shop is open Monday - Saturday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. The shop stocks a range of religious items and gifts for special occasions and a full selection of Mass Cards.

Split the Pot Congratulations to **Sophie O'Brien** the winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 8th Aug). "Split the Pot" draw entry is €2, Envelopes are available at the back of the Cathedral and can be placed into the black box at the back of the Cathedral.



Monday - Friday 10am & 5.45pm, Saturday 10am & 6pm (vigil), Sunday 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon & 7pm

For the housebound you can join us online for mass through our website

www.stjohnscathedrallimerick.com click on live stream.

Confessions each Saturday at 10.30am / **Baptisms** can be booked through the Parish Office at 061 414624 or email admin@stjohnscathedrallimerick.com

St Anthony's Novena each Tuesday at 10am & 5.45pm Mass with a special blessing of the relic.

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Registration for 12 to 15 year olds. Anyone aged 12 or older can now get a COVID-19 vaccine. If you are aged 12 to 15, your parent or legal guardian will need to register you and give consent for your COVID-19 vaccine



Snip of Parish History - St John's Cathedral Part 4

A High Altar, A Church, A Cathedral

Looking back now 170 years later, we accept that the Cathedral was always there. In previous pieces, we have seen how less than 50 years before the foundation stone was laid the open practice of Catholicism was banned under the pain of law in Ireland. This makes the building programme of churches and Cathedrals across the country more remarkable. A church of one kind or another has existed in or around the area of St John's for nearly a thousand years. Situated as we previously saw just outside a strategic gate in walls of Limerick and with local placenames identifying the area as Spitland, it is highly likely that the area was home to what would have loosely been known as a Leper colony in the days when anyone with a communicable disease was banished out from inside the city walls. These poor people did not have the protection of the city and access to the food and water that existed inside the commune. It was to these people that the "Crutched Friars of St Augustine" came to minister and the first church in the area probably emerged from their ministry. Various churches emerged over the years but with the increase in population and the opening up of Catholic devotion, it was recognised as early as the late 1830's that St John's, as it stood, was not fit for purpose. In 1843, before the worst of the famine-affected the city, plans were drawn up for renovating the church at St John's. Strangely if they had been allowed to develop at that time, we may not have the Cathedral we have today.

The next significant event for the Parish was the Parish Mission of 1851 when it is reported 5,000 people attended daily. This was historic for the religious life of the city as it was the first time that the Redemptorist Fathers visited Limerick. Within 4 years they would, on the invitation of Bishop Ryan, establish a permanent foundation here which we now know as Mount Saint Alphonsus.

Running parallel with the recognition of the need for a new Church at St John's was a growing belief that Catholic Limerick lacked a Cathedral, and at the start of the 1850s these were two different considerations completely in the mind of the Bishop and Priests.

St John's, under its administrator Fr Bourke decided that he would replace the high altar in the church and thus create more space. The project was met with such enthusiasm by the parishioners that very soon it was realised that there was an appetite for the construction of a new church. John Fleming tells us that on the 27th January 1856 the first public meeting was held in conjunction with the building of this new church. After this meeting the Bishop appealed to people, both Catholic and Protestant, to support the building of this new church. So great was the response that the first mention of The Cathedral of St John was on 5th April 1856, less than three months after the first mention of a new Parish Church.

It was on that date that it was decided that the foundation stone of the new church would be laid on 1st May that year. It had taken little over a year for the process to evolve from a new High Altar to the building of a Cathedral.

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