

Sunday 24th Oct 2021 Mission Sunday

Parish Newsletter

This weekend parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. The kindness shown will help overseas missionaries to continue to share the love of God with some of the world's most marginalised and vulnerable people. Thank you for supporting in whatever way you can, and please remember it is more than an appeal for financial help. Missionaries also need spiritual support. On World Mission Sunday missionaries take great comfort knowing that they are in your thoughts and prayers. You can help right now by Donating €4 by texting the word Mission to 50300 or by calling Missio on 01 497 2035. To learn more go to www.missio.ie



Easing of COVID-19 Restrictions: The further easing of COVID-19 restrictions is a very positive measure, however it is imperative that all other Covid-19 protective measures remain in place in the Cathedral in order to protect all members of our congregations. We will continue with hand sanitiser on entry and exit of the Cathedral and the use of separate entry and exit routes, face masks must be worn inside the Cathedral. Congregations will be encouraged to spread out as much as possible when attending and those experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms should not attend and can view Mass on our webcam at www.stjohnscathedrallimerick.com

Community Notices:

**INFORMATION AND SERVICES
FOR OLDER PEOPLE ACROSS
LIMERICK**

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. Services provided include transport, meals, chiropody, personal hygiene, hand and foot massage and hairdressing. Activities include, bingo, crosswords, Sudoku, flower arranging, art and crafts and sing-along. **COVID protection measures in place.** **Daily Fee €10.00**



We have a new **Xmas Crafts class** starting 3rd Nov @ 10.00 - 12.00 for people wanting to make gifts and decorations for Xmas. Tel 061 310 690 to register.

Also we have spaces on the following courses:

Motivation Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 / **Beauty and Skincare** Thurs 10.00 - 12.00
Confidence Building Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00 / **Art** Thursdays 3.15 - 5.15



Church Gift Shop:

Open Monday - Saturday from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

The shop stocks a range of religious items, gifts and candles for special occasions. Also available to buy a full selection of Mass Cards.



On-line Donations: Our on-line Donation link has now been updated and can be used to Donate to any of the options listed. For your first donation (only) you will be asked to Sign Up and this will allow you to receive emailed receipts automatically. Enter your details, click "Yes" to the questions and then click "Register" For subsequent donations, just enter your login details, Sign In and proceed with your donation.



Please note as Monday is a Bank Holiday there is no evening Mass at 5.45pm

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

Copy of baby's birth certificate required when booking.

Split the Pot: Congratulations to Fiona Kenihan the winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 17th)
Draw envelopes are available at the back of the church.



Parish History - St John's Cathedral Limerick Part 13 The Tower

In our previous piece, we explored the early part of the building of the tower and how under the watchful eye of Architect Maurice Hennessy and the workmanship of clerk of works Thomas Byrne and his group of skilled workmen the tower rose each day in front of the fascinated eyes of those watching on. After the structure had reached the top of the first third and the massive belfry windows had been completed, the really detailed and stunning stonework and detail of the middle third of the Tower comes into stark focus.

The description was written by a local correspondent of the time who, it would appear had access to the thoughts and workings of both architect and builder do the building much more justice than I could. In a reprinted article from the 1880s that featured in the Limerick Leader in 1926, he states

“Above the canopies of the niches for the statues are plain sloping weatherings and from them rise clusters of delicately wrought pillars with lancet-like panels, moulded caps, and pointed arches forming four sets of colonnades. Between these is a corbel course with sunk and circular panels, on top of which rests the balcony formed of mouldings, traceries, and other nice work; and above this again are highly ornamental doorways, surrounded by rich deep panels. This is one of the main beauties of the entire building.”

At the top of the indent for these balconies and at the four corners of the tower rise four spirelettes which from the line above the balcony to their wrought iron tips measure some 30 feet.

In an almost hidden way behind these spirelettes the octagonal spire begins to rise and from here to the cross measures 117 feet. All of the stonework for this part of the spire, with the exception of the top 20 feet, is made up of individually cut ashlar limestone blocks, quarried from the Rosbrien Quarry behind where Our Lady of Lourdes Church now stands. The only relieving feature from the octagonal spire is the rounded stone edging which defines each of the eight panels and draws the eye to the top of the steeple.

The quality of the workmanship and the absolute precision that needed to go into each stone and feature is breath-taking. Bearing in mind that any deviation in sizing would lead to serious structural problems it was a remarkable feat for everyone involved in the building that this level of perfection was achieved without access to the machinery and technology available today. The fact that it is recorded that all of the stonemasons and masons were local shows the level of expertise that existed in those years, in fact, it could be surmised that a similar building could not be attempted today even with access to all of the modern aids. Unfortunately research material doesn't list the names of those masons with the exception of one, Mr. Clohessy. Amazingly the only other name recorded as having worked on this portion of the building is “an old man named J. Clohessy, a scaffold maker who worked under Mr. Byrne”.

In the next part, we will see some of the methods employed for working with and handling the stone and putting together the jigsaw that ultimately became one of Limerick's most recognisable features.

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