

Sunday 28th November 2021

Parish Newsletter

Today Sunday 28th November at 3pm, the Priest's of St Munchin's Parish will lead prayers for the dead in Mount St Lawrence Cemetery. All are welcome to attend. This is the final week.

Reflection: The message of Advent is an invitation and it is also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are asked to wait in joyful hope. Waiting is not something that we are usually good at these days. Our modern world tells us to move faster in so many ways. We have smart phones, emails and microwave ovens that all 'help' us to get through our busy days. However Advent asks each of us to do the very opposite. During these sacred days of preparation, we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent as we prepare ourselves deeply for the Christmas. While we can't simply ignore the shops, the media and the advertisements over the next few weeks, neither can we ignore the words and message of Jesus in today's gospel; *'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come... what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'* Let's not miss Advent's joyful and it's hopeful message.



In what ways can I prepare a way for the Lord this Advent as I get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas?

Church Notices:

Advent Prayer Service: Each Monday of Advent there will be a short prayer service here in the Cathedral after the 5.45pm Mass. All are very welcome to attend.

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

Mass Times: **Mon - Fri** 10am & 5.45pm, **Saturday** 10am & 6pm (vigil), **Sunday** 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon & 7pm

Confessions: Take place Saturday morning after 10am Mass.

Baptisms: Can be booked through the Parish Office 061 414624 or email admin@stjohnscathedrallimerick.com

Split the Pot: Congratulations to *Sinead Gunning* the winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 21st Nov).

Donations:

We are always grateful for your donations which go towards the upkeep of The Cathedral. Listed are the various ways to donate:

1. Baskets at exit door.
2. Weekly Envelope collection.
3. Tap to Donate machines at exit door.
4. Online through our website www.stjohnscathedrallimerick.com tap the donate key.:

 **DONATE**

A festive poster for a Christmas event. It features a red background with white snowflakes, a gingerbread man, a cup of hot chocolate, and a small Christmas tree. The text reads: 'Santa's coming to Garryowen!', 'Meet Santa, Get a present, Take a photo!', '17TH DECEMBER 4-7.', '@ 23 JOHN STREET', 'To book text Kate on 0873634529 or email kates@garryowencdp.com'. There is a 'FREE EVENT' badge and a 'Garryowen Community Development Project' logo at the bottom left, and a 'limerick youth service' logo at the bottom right.



9 Day Rosary Novena for Ireland :

We are inviting you to join in a **9 Day Rosary Novena**

Beginning Tuesday 30th November and ending on Wednesday 8th December. People all over Ireland will pray the Rosary together each evening at 9pm. On the final evening at 9pm on Radio Maria the Primate of All Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin will lead the final Rosary live.

Parish History - St John's Cathedral Limerick Part 18..... Presbytery and Consecration

We have seen how the completion of the Tower and the installation of the great bell in 1883 marked the swansong for Bishop Butler in his part in the building of the cathedral and how, in 1886 Edward Thomas O'Dwyer was appointed as Bishop of Limerick. The new bishop took a renewed interest in the cathedral and set about modernising the interior to allow the building to be as magnificent in its interior as it was externally. He also undertook to build a presbytery to house the clergy of the parish and was quite clear that this building needed to reflect the style and grandeur of the cathedral to which its priests would serve. On April 6th 1891 the foundation stone for the three storey gothic building with a frontage of 52 feet was laid by the bishop in the presence of the then administrator Fr George Quain and the other clergy of the parish. The building team and architects Messrs Ryan and Callaghan were the same team that had completed the remedial works on the cathedral over the preceding years. When looking in from the then renamed Cathedral Place at the new presbytery the imposing statue of Patrick Sarsfield catches the eye.



The story of its commission and erection would merit an article on its own but it is sufficient to say here that its positioning in the cathedral grounds was regarded as a compromise when it was placed there in 1881 after a heated debate on two other sites, one in Bank Place near the Hunt Museum and the other at the Pery Street, Mallow Street junction couldn't be resolved.

With the cathedral works and presbytery completed thoughts then turned to finally consecrating the cathedral and, it is fair to say, the planning and execution of this great celebration became an event that the entire community embraced. Before the consecration two monuments were placed in the cathedral. The first, which was donated by Harriet O'Brien, was a bust and monument in the memory of her great friend the late bishop, George Butler. It was carved by the eminent Irish Sculptor Thomas O'Farrell, the second was a carved scroll that records the detail of the consecration itself recording the date, 21st June 1894, and the fact that the high altar contains the relics of Saints Polycarp, Justin and Agatha and that their anniversary date would henceforth be transferred to the second Sunday in October. Both of these monuments were placed in the transept in front of the altar of St Vincent De Paul.

The consecration ceremony was scheduled for 11.30am on the longest day of the year and a high level steering committee consisting of the Bishop, Mayor, Lord Emly (who had contributed so handsomely to the project), the Vicar General of the Diocese, the president of St Munchin's College representatives of all of the religious orders in the city and Dr Hallinan, who was to succeed Bishop O'Dwyer as bishop in 1917.

The event took place on a Thursday and it may be that day was chosen because traditionally in Limerick most retail shops closed for a half day on that day every week. The Munster News of the time tells us that many of the houses and buildings of the city were lit up by gas light and Chinese lanterns and candles. This would have been a major novelty in those pre electricity days. We also learn that over 50,000 people attended benediction in the grounds and markets area on the day. The whole day was observed by all of the city's businesses and firms as a public holiday, including those businesses that were under protestant ownership. The streets were bedecked in flags and the ceremony itself was attended by The Corporation in full robes, practically all of the Irish bishops, and over 200 priests and was presided over by Cardinal Logue, the Catholic Primate of All Ireland. The Mass itself was celebrated by Dr Donnelly an auxiliary bishop of Dublin who was an intriguing and interesting figure in the Irish Church, being the guardian of seven of his late sisters' children one of whom became an MP for Kerry and a winner of two medals (gold and Silver) for Tennis in the first Olympiad of the modern era in Athens in 1896. He also was the man who floated the firm of Boland's Biscuits on the Irish Stock exchange. We are told that he was a great friend of Bishop O'Dwyer and that is probably why the honour fell to him. Interestingly, also present that day were two bishops whose memory now is more associated with Gaelic games than religion, Bishop Harty (Harty Cup) and Archbishop Croke (Croke Park).

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