

**Sunday 17th Oct 2021**

**Parish Newsletter**

**Reflection:**

When our attachment to our ego and its supports has been modified to such an extent that we sense a new freedom for action and new peacefulness with others, we can focus on others. However, our service to others is not a subservient "whatever you want." James and John might have got this impression from Jesus, and so they bluntly asked him to fulfill their fantasies. Jesus makes it clear that he is not available for that project. Neither are we. Service means discerning the lure of God in the life of others and committing ourselves to their response. This commitment may bring us into conflict with people who are invested in maintaining oppressive structures. So in order to be faithful to service, we will have to "take up our cross." But there is joy in being part of the divine-human energy that is fashioning a new humanity. It is not the joy of the ego that wants to claim and proclaim its influence. It is the joy of the soul that soars, cooperating with the invitation of the Spirit.



**Community Notices:**



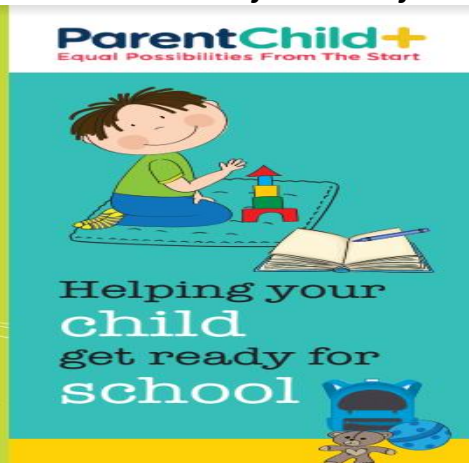
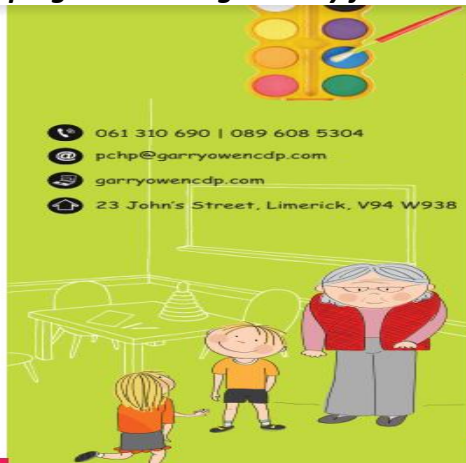
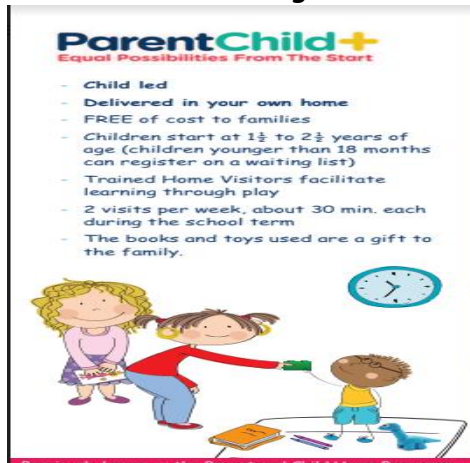
We have a new **Xmas Crafts class** starting 3rd Nov @ 10.00 - 12.00 for people wanting to make gifts and decorations for Xmas. Tel 061 310 690 to register.

Also we have spaces on the following courses:

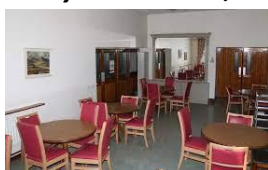


<b>Motivation</b>	<b>Mondays 1.30 - 3.30</b>
<b>Beauty and Skincare</b>	<b>Thurs 10.00 - 12.00</b>
<b>Confidence Building</b>	<b>Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00</b>
<b>Art</b>	<b>Thursdays 3.15 - 5.15</b>

**Parent-Child Plus Programme – Helping Your Child get ready for School Tel 061 310 690 for more info.**



**Day Care Centre, Pennywell Road:**



Re-opening of Day Care Centre – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct @ 10am –

COVID protection measures in place.

*Morning Coffee & Scones  
4 Course Lunch  
Lots of Varied activities,  
Daily Fee €10.00*

**Tune into Prayer: YOUNG ADULT'S RETREAT - SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER at GLENSTAL ABBEY.**

Start time 10am.

To register: [luke@glenstal.com](mailto:luke@glenstal.com) / tel 086 2717937





### 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: Thank you for your continued support.



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.



**Monday - Friday**  
**Saturday**  
**Sunday**

10am & 5.45pm,  
10am & 6pm (vigil),  
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 Pat Hennessy the winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Oct).  
Draw envelopes are available at the back of the church



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## Parish History - St John's Cathedral Limerick Part 12 ..... The Tower Rises

As anyone who has ever been involved in building anything will tell you, much of the effort involved happens before a block is laid and this certainly turned out to be the case with the recommencement of the building of the Tower. As we previously mentioned Fr James McCoy was overseeing the project and he worked to secure a contractor, Patrick Kenna, whose father, also Patrick, had successfully completed the building of the Cathedral and who went on to, amongst other things build and open the Glentworth Hotel. For some reason now lost in the mists of time, Mr. Kenna withdrew from the building. From this adversity came an opportunity and soon after he was able to secure the services of Mr Thomas Byrne of Newry and Belfast, a builder of some repute in the building of Cathedrals and Churches all over Ireland.

The original plans had been drawn up by Philip Hardwick and this book of designs was presented to Maurice Alphonsus Hennessy a Civil Engineer and Architect of 10 Glentworth Street Limerick and Cork. He was born in Cork in 1848 and designed several Catholic churches in the south of Ireland. In September 1875 he published a pamphlet in which he advocated the appointment of diocesan architects to the Catholic Church in Ireland. In January 1879, around the same time as he took on the commission for St John's, he was appointed general engineer to the Limerick Union. In 1889 he was invited to prepare plans for new schools in connection with the Limerick Athenaeum. By 1896 he was living in Cork, where he remained until his death in 1909.

From 1878 or earlier, Maurice Hennessy collaborated to some degree with his brother S. Hennessy, who appears to have had an office in Cork while Maurice Hennessy was in Limerick. The undated chapel at Mount St Laurence Cemetery, Limerick, is also said to be by them though there is some debate around this.

Maurice Hennessy completely reimagined the steeple and added 105 feet to the height originally designed by Hardwick. He also added greatly to the decorative elements and his work transformed the relatively plain exterior of the already constructed Cathedral. He designed cornices and traceries, crocketing and mouldings and pushed the boundaries of the workmanship of the wonderful stonemasons that executed all of the design with amazing precision.

The base of the tower is twenty-four feet square on the inside and the walls are four feet thick. They are strengthened by eight buttresses each extending out a further five feet. These in turn support massive corbels (stone supports). On these rest four columns with carved caps that sit next to the first set of louvered windows. Each of these stone caps weighs over four tons and they form the base of the pedestal on which were supposed to rest statues of the four evangelists. The statues were never erected and it would appear that the reason for their absence was an accident reported when the block and tackle are used for placing them gave way almost killing the workers beneath. Though not recorded it also probably led to the destruction of the statue which was never replaced. Thus if you look at the tower about 60 feet from the ground you will see on the four corners empty pedestals. **George Lee** [drombanna@gmail.com](mailto:drombanna@gmail.com)

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