

Sunday 3rd Oct 2021

Parish Newsletter

Reflection:



Jesus shows himself as a wise person. He points out how in the course of every period, a community always tends to take the easy way out. This is a normal turn of events. Then eventually someone like Moses arises on the scene. He makes something official although it was originally just a spontaneous compromise. It was intended to suit a particular circumstance. Now all of a sudden it takes on the force of a law. The relationship between man and woman is a very good example. The ancient text of Genesis reminds us that man and woman were intended by God to live on equal terms. There was to be no great difference between them. They are both human beings, created by God to live in harmony. Jesus then is the typical "wise person". He is able to move beyond the here-and-now problem and see how things were "at the beginning of creation." This is why he can see that "they were testing him". It was not a small question but a great one. We can read the passage then of other realities which God made to be complementary and we have allowed to become opposed or even in competition. Jesus is the great teacher who restores harmony that was there in the "beginning". He brings about that what had become two should once more be found as "one body", always in harmony, never in opposition.

Community Notices:



Garryowen Music Hub

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC
with St. John's Brass & Reed Band

Come and learn how to play an instrument with us!
Trumpet, Cornet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba, Euphonium, Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet

Beginner classes starting this September

€5
Subsidised classes for children

Join a musical group Forge new friendships

Get in touch today!
stjohnsbandlimerick@gmail.com
Email us with a contact number and we'll get back to you!

Supporting musicians of the next generation

www.stjohnsband.com



**Daughters of Charity
Disability Support Services**

Would you like to share your home and your heart with a child with disabilities?

Have-a-Break is a Home Based Respite Service which facilitates children with disabilities going to the home of a Carer for Short Breaks. This could be for a day, a night or even a few hours depending on your availability;

Experience of caring in any capacity is not essential but can be beneficial. Training and Support is provided.

Payment will also be provided depending of level of involvement.

For more information please contact Catherine O'Sullivan, Have-a-Break Coordinator Daughters of Charity Lisnagry, on 087-4132888 or 061-501438 or email catherine.osullivan@lim-docservice.ie



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.

We greatly appreciate your continued support.



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 Please ensure to have a copy of baby's birth certificate when booking.



Split the Pot: Congratulations to **Geraldine Lillis** the winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 26th Sept). Draw envelopes are available at the back of the church



Parish History - St John's Cathedral Limerick Part 11 **Born Under the Tower or Under the Spire? The Building Recommences**

Were you born under The Tower or under The Spire? Actually, if you are from St John's Parish you were born under both. The steeple is a Tower until it begins to taper in as it rises towards the heavens and then it becomes a Spire. There are a few things about the Steeple however that might get you to look at this magnificent structure in a new light.

In the original plans, it was never designed to be as tall as it is.

In fact, in Philip Hardwick's original design it was to be 191 feet and was to be a square tower base with four mini spires rising in the corners topped by a central spire. If this had been completed to plan the steeple as we know it would be a full 70 feet shorter than the one we have today. It is hard to imagine how different the skyline of the city would have been if that had been the final outcome.

As it happened the initial building programme from 1856 to 1861 only completed the first 70 feet or so of the Steeple as we now know it.

This roughly would have measured the building work to finish just below the roofline of the Cathedral as it now stands. Once again it is difficult to picture how this must have looked and how odd and out of proportion it would seem to us if we could be transported back to those times.

The building work came to a complete halt at that time and actually there was a time when it was felt that the Tower may never have been completed. It wasn't until early 1878, a full 17 years after the completion of the cathedral that the Bishop sought to once again recommence the fundraising and building work to complete the Steeple.

The Bishop called a meeting of the Clergy of the Diocese in the early months of that year and started off the campaign for the completion of the structure by donating £1000 of his own funds. This was supplemented by the clergy adding £1,500 and another £8000 was secured by the public donations from across the Diocese and the world. This £10,500 secured in 1878 is the equivalent of €1.5m in today's currency.

Fr James McCoy, whose image is preserved in one of the stained glass windows in the Cathedral was appointed as the Administrator to oversee the work. As we will see the project had many twists and turns and was dogged by a lot of troubles and adversity before being completed with the cross being put in place on the 27th of September 1882. But even that placement was not the end of the troubles as fate was to deal the new Tower a deadly hand before too long. **George Lee** drombanna@gmail.com