

Fr Leo McDonnell 1951-2025



Fr Leo was the son of Dr Leo McDonnell and Margaret Nicholas, of Barrington Street, Limk. He was the youngest of four children. As a child he would accompany his father to St John's Hospital when his father, an ENT and Eye surgeon, would go to visit patients. He always remembered the care and honour his father showed to all irrespective of status or wealth. The death of his father when only 11 years old had a profound impact on Leo. He and his next youngest sister Moira (later Fitzgerald) developed a closeness through those years that would endure their whole lives and continued

with Moira's family. He started his working life in the catering industry spending many years in the Trust Forte Hotels in the UK where he made many life-long friends. Returning to Ireland he worked for a short time in Ryan hotels. He had a near-death experience when he wrote off his car in a serious accident outside Gort but miraculously suffered only a broken nose. Shortly afterwards and following the death of his mother, he entered seminary in Thurles in 1987 for Limerick Diocese. In those days, at 36 years of age, he was considered a late vocation. He embraced seminary life and was thankful for his years of formation.

Ordained in 1993, he spent a year in Salthill, then Our Lady of the Rosary, followed by Abbeyfeale and Templeglantine. Fr Leo remarked that his principal teachers of theology were the faithful whom he met every day in his ministry. What he learned in textbooks in Thurles came to life in his pastoral encounters. Leo sensed that his life was guided by divine providence. The observing of his father's care for his patients and the early experience of bereavement as a child equipped him with a sensitivity to the needs of others, particularly when accompanying families at funerals. The sense of God's guiding hand in his life only increased when he came to live at the Cathedral presbytery and serve in both the Cathedral and also St Michael's. During this time, he often found himself walking the same corridors in St John's Hospital where his father Leo and grandfather Charlie both worked for many years. Leo had a profound sense of continuing in their ministry of service in his duties as chaplain. It was also here in the Cathedral pastoral unit that he conducted very many funerals and found time for every family.

From his catering days, Leo developed many skills, organisational and culinary which he put to use in his various postings. He was a great host. He had a very understated manner, never boasting of achievement but always seeking to recognise the good in others. He took such great joy when he learned of a parishioner's recovery from illness or of a young person who turned their life around. He was a true pastor.

Split the Pot

Congratulations to

Terri Bannon

winner of last weekend's draw. Envelopes available at the back of the church.

Priests of the Parish

Canon Gerard Garrett

Canon John Daly

Fr Peter Claver Emeka Eze

Fr Daniel Tomasik

Mass Times

Mon—Fri 10am, 5.45pm

Sat 10am & 6pm Vigil

Sun 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon

Holy Days

Vigil Weekdays 5.45pm

Weekdays 10am, 5.45pm

Confessions

Saturday 10.30am

Baptisms

Saturday 4.30pm

Recently Baptised

Welcome to the Christian

Community

J. J. Ryan,

Paddy Gully,

Vienna McNamara

We wish them and their families every blessing and happiness.

Recently Deceased

We pray for the happy repose of the soul of

Rita Murphy RIP,

Fr Leo McDonnell RIP,

Margaret McNamara RIP,

Gordon Manning RIP

who's funeral mass took place during the week.

Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays 4pm—5.30pm

In the adoration chapel.

He took great joy in the recent restoration and illumination of the St Michael the Archangel statue on the roof of St Michael's church. This is more than the repair of a statue - it links Limerick city with a series of prominent sites linked with St Michael, running from Skellig Michael through St Michael's mount in Cornwall, Mont Saint Michel off Normandy through others in Italy and Greece to Mount Carmel in the Holy Land. This line represents the sword of St Michael which provides protection and places of prayer where God is felt to be close.

This protection and patronage of St Michael now extends to Limerick city.

Fr Leo was profoundly thankful for the prayers of so many in his final illness, especially Bishop Brendan, his brother priests, parishioners, family, and many friends. He was convinced that the fruit of those prayers bestowed upon him peace and acceptance. He died peacefully in the presence of family members at Milford Hospice on Saturday 12th April, the eve of Palm Sunday. The prayers of this Holy week remind us of God's great love for us - in which Leo trusted to the end.

We, the people and priests of St. John's and St. Michael's will miss his self-effacing, mischievous sense of humour and profound holiness. **May God grant rest to his gentle soul.**



Divine
Mercy Sunday



FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY
Sunday April 27th 2025

LOCATION:

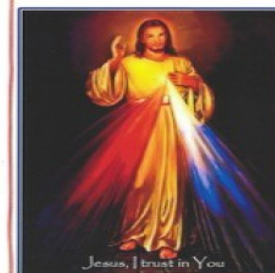
MT. ST. ALPHONSUS
REDEMPTORIST CHURCH

TIME:

Devotions 2.30-5.45pm

Holy Mass 4.45pm

Celebrant: Fr John Walsh P.P.



*"The soul who will go to
Confession and receive
Holy Communion
on that day shall obtain complete
forgiveness of sin and punishment"*
(Jesus to St. Faustina)

ALL WELCOME

Devotions Include:
Confessions - Veneration of Image of Mercy.
Veneration of Relics of St Faustina.



Saint Faustina