

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021**

**Parish Newsletter**



**Reflection**

September is celebrated by many Christians as the Season of Creation, an opportunity to pray and care for God's creation. As world leaders prepare to meet in November at Glasgow to deliberate on the future of our planet, we pray for them and consider what the choices we must all make. Accordingly, as leaders of our Churches, we call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us. May we not waste this moment. We must decide what kind of world we want to leave to future generations.

**Parish News**

**Pennywell Day Care Centre** – is returning shortly.

If you are interested in attending please phone Geraldine @ 061 414150 for further details.



**Craftwork Classes Knitting and Crochet**

Starting Thursday 16th September until 25th November

Time 1.45 - 3.45 p.m

@ St Johns Band Hall (Opposite St John's Girls School)

€3 per Session

Contact Us on 061 310690 to register \*LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE



St John's Community Employment Scheme currently has a number of vacancies available. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested please contact the Parish Office at 061 414624 for further details.

**Culture Night 2021 - FRIDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER**

Culture Night invites everyone, everywhere on one joyful night to discover and celebrate all that our culture is today, and offers the perfect opportunity for us as a region to showcase the wealth of culture that Limerick has to offer.

More Info [www.culturenight.ie/](http://www.culturenight.ie/)



**Split the Pot** Congratulations Sean Dean the winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Sept).  
Draw envelopes are available at the back of the church.



**Mass times:** **Monday - Friday** 10am & 5.45pm, **Saturday** 10am & 6pm (vigil),  
**Sunday** 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon & 7pm

**Confessions:** each Saturday at 10.30am or at 5.30pm before 6pm vigil Mass.

**Baptisms** can be booked through the Parish Office at 061 414624 or email [admin@stjohnscathedrallimerick.com](mailto:admin@stjohnscathedrallimerick.com)  
Please ensure to have a copy of baby's birth certificate when booking.

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### **Snip of Parish History - St John's Cathedral Part 8 .... Foundation Stones, First Mass, & Dedication to Duty**

As we have previously seen the Foundation Stone of the new Cathedral was laid on Friday May 1st 1856 and it was a memorable day for all the people of Limerick with a religious procession that transversed the entire city from Boherbuoy to Patricks Street with the Corporation and citizenry joining at various points before all descending on the building site that was the Cathedral. The laying of the stone by the bishop was witnessed by the clergy of the diocese and the corporation as well as the public.

In what was a very interesting aside that day the stone itself was placed deep in the foundations of the church where the pillar and the arch rise over the High Altar. The great Limerick historian Maurice Lenihan tells us that "In a cavity in the stone coins and records were placed with an inscription in Irish, English, Latin Greek, Italian, French, German and Flemish, written on Vellum and enclosed in a phial"

The Munster News, a paper of the time records that Br Walsh of CBS "hermetically sealed" the bottle after including coins of the day in the receptacle. Br Walsh was recognised as the man who did most over his 40 years as Superior in Sexton Street to progress the cause of education of the poor of the city and county. It is interesting to see how less than 30 years later those relationships between the Diocese and the brothers had deteriorated so much that the Brothers departed Bruff never to return.

The laying of the stone was the PR boost that the fundraising campaign needed, and the bishop set to his task around the diocese on a fundraising campaign speaking in every parish and encouraging the faithful to contribute. This fundraising was highly successful and the building work, once started never stopped for lack of funds. Funds came from every part of society and even Irish America responded with a fundraising campaign in the USA spearheaded by Patrick Lynch.

While it was the bishop was that was the figure head, much of the project management on a day-to-day basis fell to Fr William Bourke who was the Administrator of the Parish. By 1859 the project was developing at a pace much faster than was expected and when in March

1859 the Parish Priest in Bruree died, bishop Ryan decided to appoint Fr Bourke as Parish Priest. The Munster News tells us that amongst the new PP of Bruree's duties was to continue oversight of the cathedral project.

Such was the esteem that he was held in that the mayor organised a testimonial fund for him and he was given the privilege of saying the first ever mass in the new cathedral on March 7th 1859. But providence was to deal a deadly hand soon after as shortly after his departure to South Limerick Fr Bourke became unwell and died.

He now holds the honour of being the first Priest to say a mass in the cathedral and the first priest to be buried inside its walls. His body was laid to rest in the partially finished building on front of what is now the pillar that holds the Statue of the Blessed Virgin. **George Lee** [drombanna@gmail.com](mailto:drombanna@gmail.com)

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