



Sunday 19th Sept 2021

Parish Newsletter

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

Parish Communion takes place next Saturday 25th September so there will be **no Public 10am Mass**. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Congratulations to the boys and girls who are receiving their First Holy Communion. We wish them every blessing on their special day.



Confessions: Take place each Saturday after 10am.



Baptisms

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

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



**'Strengthening & Caring
for our community'**

List of Classes & details starting in the community

Craftwork Classes Knitting and Crochet

Starting Thursday 16th September until 25th November. Time 1.45pm - 3.45 pm

Location: St Johns Band Hall (Opposite St John's Girls School) €3 per Session Contact Us on 061 310690.

Mindfulness, Meditation and Movement

To register, contact (061) 310 690 pls code: 307833 10 week duration

Tuesday, September 28th, 2021 Location: St. John's Band Hall, 2 Garryowen Road

Beauty and Skin Care

2 x 5 week classes Starting Thursday September 23rd Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Location: 23 Johns St. To register, contact (061) 310-690

Drama Classes

Learn through Fun and Self expression! Starting Tuesday 28th September for 6 weeks.

Time - 7 - 9 pm every Tuesday. Location: St. Johns Band Hall, 2 Garryowen Road.

Contact John at 061 - 310 - 690 Plss code 314475

Parent and Toddler Group

Tuesday, September 28th, 2021 Time - 09:30-11:00 am

Location: 23 John's St (Clare St Park Weather Permitting) Term Time.

Contact Sue on (089) 608 5304

Split the Pot

Congratulations to **Richard Kelly** the winner of last weekend's draw (Sun 12th Sept). Draw envelopes are available at the back of the church



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

Snip of Parish History - St John's Cathedral Limerick Part 9

In Parts 7 and 8 of our look at St John's we discussed some of the internal decorations of the cathedral, but I think it is important that we look at two very important elements of the cathedral that we have not mentioned so far. The first is the wonderful cathedral organ. It is said that when we sing, we pray twice and the wonderful acoustic generated by the cavernous high wide space of the cathedral allows this magnificent instrument to show the full range of its immense pipework. The organ was donated in 1863 by Lord Dunraven and is a full-sized cathedral organ.

One of the most striking and curious elements on view in the cathedral is the beautifully carved depiction of the crucifixion on a beam over the entrance to the sanctuary area. As a young altar boy in the cathedral what fascinated me most about that beam was that there was a series of hooks attached to the bottom of it. That piqued my curiosity as to its potential use.

On investigation I discovered it is what is called a "Rood Screen" and this one was carved by Phyffers, the Belgian specialist. Apparently, the rood screen had several functions. Its primary role was to demarcate spaces of lesser and greater holiness (a liturgical division stipulated by the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215). The already potent sense of mystery associated with this part of the church was further intensified at key points in the religious calendar, such as during Easter week, when a shroud (or 'rood-cloth') was draped over the rood; or during Lent, when a Lenten veil would be hung before the high altar. More prosaically, the rood screen formed a legal demarcation between the nave, which was the responsibility of the parishioners, and the chancel, which was reserved for the clergy.

Whether it was ever used in this manner in St John's has not been recorded but, at the time of the building of the cathedral they were included in many churches because they had been removed or desecrated during the reformation and they were an interesting addition to all significant church buildings.

While we mentioned the sponsors of many of the windows in the cathedral in a previous piece it is interesting to note that they were manufactured in Munich Germany by a company called Meyer and Company who were also responsible for most of the statues in the cathedral.

It is interesting that some of the principal characters involved in the building of the cathedral are included in the depictions on the stained-glass including Dr Butler, Fr McCoy and Fr Carroll (two priests intimately involved with the later part of the building project and in the great chancel window (behind the high altar can be seen representations of Dr Ryan (the bishop who began the building) and Pope Pius IX under whose pontificate the cathedral was built.

Another local reference can be seen in the carving under the altar table in the side altar dedicated to St Vincent De Paul where the old tower of St Marys and some of the friars that worshipped there.

Of all of those buried in the cathedral the oldest grave is that of Fr Fitzgibbon. He was a priest that ministered to the faithful of St John's in the late 1700's and gave great comfort to those suffering from the plague when it was at its height in the city. He, too, contracted the disease and died from it. His remains were interred in the old St John's Penal Church and were exhumed and reinterred in the cathedral when the original building was demolished. It was said that the remains were incorrupt when exhumed and reinterred and this led to many of the local people praying to this saintly man to intercede for them. While the plaque to his memory is now situated next to the 13th station of the cross, it is thought that his actual grave is in the main aisle of the cathedral.

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