

Sunday 8th August 2021

Parish Newsletter



Reflection: The language of the gospel is very graphic. Jesus speaks of himself as the bread that comes down from heaven and calls on us to eat this bread. When we hear that kind of language we probably think instinctively of the Eucharist. Yet, it might be better not to jump to the Eucharist too quickly. The Lord invites us come to him and to feed on his presence, and in particular to feed on his word. In the Jewish Scriptures bread is often a symbol of the word of God. We may be familiar with the quotation from the Jewish Scriptures, 'we do not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of

God.' We need physical bread, but we also need the spiritual bread of God's word. We come to Jesus to be nourished by his word. The Father draws us to his Son to be fed by his word. The food of his word will sustain us on our journey through life, just as, in the first reading, the baked scones sustained Elijah, until he reached his destination, the mountain of God. When we keep coming to Jesus and feeding on his word, that word will shape our lives. It empowers us to live the kind of life that Saint Paul puts before us in the second reading, a life of love essentially, a life in which we love one another as Christ has loved us, forgive one another as readily as God forgives us. That, in essence, is our baptismal calling.

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'Tour of Holy Island' Bookings need to be made in advance via 0851086497
The tour starts with a mini-bus leaving the Ring of Lough Derg Tourist Office in Killaloe (County Clare) at 12.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This mini-bus brings people to Mountshannon pier where Ger Madden (a very experienced local guide) drives a boat to and from Holy Island. The tour concludes with a lunch at 'Flanagans On The Lake' (a bar and restaurant near Killaloe) around 3pm following the mini-bus trip back from a Mountshannon pier.



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Snip of Parish History - St John's Cathedral Part 3 ...

The site occupied by the Cathedral now is substantially larger than the one that facilitated the previous church that stood on the spot.

The acquisition of the land started in 1796 when a Quaker gentleman Mr. William Hill (a forebear of the Fitt auctioneering family) purchased the land and held it in a secret trust, as under the penal laws of the time no Catholic could own or purchase a property. He added to the parcel of land in 1803 purchasing a piece known at the time as the Ramparts and Gorts Collop. This is the land that we now know as bordering on the main gate and back towards the road and St John's Hospital. In fact, it is probably fair to say that the boundary fence of the Cathedral up to where the Pedestrian crossing now exists followed the line of the ancient walls of Limerick and as such would have been the site of many battles and bloodshed, bordering as it does on the strategic Johns Gate where famously the women of Limerick took their stand during the siege of Limerick. As the penal laws eased the site passed into Catholic hands and in 1865 the site as we currently know it was completed when Limerick Market Trustees granted the remaining land to the Diocese of Limerick.

As with many great projects, the beginnings of the project were born out of necessity. As the city started to expand outside of the walls in the 18th and 19th centuries the population of the area increased almost exponentially and by the early 1850's the population of St John's Parish was estimated at between 12,000 and 15,000 souls.



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The movement of people into the cities during the Famine years probably added to that number. As a result, it was felt that the old St John’s Church was no longer suitable for the purpose.

Over the previous 100 years or so St John’s had begun to emerge as the home of the Cathedral Chapter (Decision-making forum) of the Diocese of Limerick and its importance could be seen by the decision to hold the Funeral Mass of Bishop Tuohy of Limerick and the installation of Bishop Ryan there in 1828. The scene was now set for the emergence of the process to build the Cathedral which would take the remainder of the 1800s to complete.

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The HSE is urging the public to be vigilant in light of reports of a text scam from criminals claiming to be offering a HSE vaccination appointment. The text messages provide a link to prebook a COVID-19 vaccination appointment and in order to complete the booking you are asked to enter your credit or debit card details in a payment section.

The HSE does not charge the public for Covid-19 related services, including vaccinations, and such texts should be ignored. You will NEVER be asked for your bank details or to pay for a vaccine by a member of HSE vaccination staff.

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Monday to Friday 10am & 5.45pm, Saturday 10am & 6pm (vigil),
Sunday 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon & 7pm

For the housebound you can join us online for mass through our website www.stjohnscathedrallimerick.com & press livestream option.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confessions each Saturday at 10.30am

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

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We are still adhering to all HSE & Government guidelines with regards COVID-19 by sanitising our hands on entering & exiting the Cathedral, wearing face masks and socially distancing. Thank you for your co-operation.

Church Gift Shop Gift Shop is open Monday - Saturday from 10.30am to 1.30pm. The shop stocks a range of religious items and gifts for special occasions and a full selection of Mass Cards.



St Anthony’s Novena each Tuesday at the 10am & 5.45pm Mass with a special blessing of the relic.

Split the Pot Congratulations to **Mary O’Donovan** the winner of last weekend’s draw (Sun 1st Aug). “Split the Pot” fund goes towards the upkeep of the Cathedral. Draw entry is €2, Envelopes are available at the back of the Cathedral and can be placed into the black box at the back of the Cathedral. Thank you for your support.



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