

### Mass Times

**Sundays:** 9 am & 11 am

**Saturday Vigil:** 6.00 pm

**Tuesday & Friday:** 9.30 am

**Baptisms are held on the 2nd and 4th**

**Saturdays of each month at 4pm.**

**Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP**

Please note the change of Parish email address :

[parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie](mailto:parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie)



### Recently Deceased

**Kieran Punch, Cork City**

**Denis (Dinny) Barry, Dundanion Lodge.**

**Frank O'Flaherty, Skehard Road**

**Angela Andrews, Marian Park**

**Austin Canty, Beaumont**

*Rest in Peace*



### Baptisms

**Emily Sadhbh Daly.**

**Andie May Gabriel.**

**Mark Philip James Williamson.**

Welcome to the Christian Family.



### Celebrating our Faith

Many people have remarked on the large attendances at Masses on Ash Wednesday morning in both St. Michael's and Holy Cross. It's interesting that many also remarked on excellent Mass attendances in both churches over Christmas and the New Year. In St. Michael's, we have also been blessed with a great response from families as part of the First Holy Communion and Confirmation parish programmes on many Saturday evenings. It's important to highlight these things as we can become so easily caught up in a narrative of decline. The late Pope Francis always spoke of the 'joy of the Gospel'. He did so conscious of the fact that we live in an increasingly secular landscape. However, the joy of faith and belief cannot keep itself private and within. It has an urge to be announced and proclaimed.



May the Lord continue to bless us all as we share our faith with families and in our parishes. While the landscape is increasingly challenging, we celebrate the response of so many people and families and ensure that this is the narrative. - Fr. Michael

**New Ministers of the Word & Eucharist** – training for new ministers in Mahon parish and our Family of Parishes will take place in Blackrock Parish Centre on 10th & 19th March provided by the Office of Mission & Ministry in the Diocese.

**Trócaire Lenten Appeal 2026** - Trócaire Boxes available in the church.

**Gaelscoil Mhachan Concartú** – best wishes to Rang a Sé who will celebrate their Confirmation on this Monday 23rd February @ 10.30am in Holy Cross Church. Mons. Aidan O'Driscoll Co-PP, VG will be the celebrant. Morning Mass will be at 9am in Holy Cross on that morning to facilitate the Confirmation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will not take place.

**Holy Cross Church** will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year and a number of events being arranged to mark this. The Redemptorist Fathers will lead a Triduum of prayer from 21st – 23rd September in Holy Cross. A celebration is also envisaged for Sunday 20th September beginning at 12.15pm Mass and a reception afterwards which will be open to everyone.

Fr. Michael  
085 8735905

[fmichael@corkandross.org](mailto:fmichael@corkandross.org)

**Maranatha** is a full-day faith-based, high energy music event for young people from parishes across the diocese attending post-primary schools. Students from over half of our post-primary schools have been preparing for Maranatha 2026. This cumulates in a concert in Cork City Hall on **Thursday 26th February** with over 500 young people singing together. Maranatha was created to bring young people together to celebrate their faith through music and have fun at the same time. Please support our young people by coming to this event. Tickets are €15 (plus booking fee) and are available to book on [eventbrite.ie](http://eventbrite.ie), search Maranatha. Doors open 7pm, with concert beginning at 7.30pm

### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading** **Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

This "story of origins" is really the story of every human being and it is we who are portrayed in this story.

**Second reading** **Romans 5:12-19**

If you listen carefully, you will notice that this is a very positive reading, contrasting our human condition before Christ with our state of grace, given so freely and so graciously.

**Gospel** **Matthew 4:1-11**

The temptation story is not really about moral choices but about life-choices. As we read in Hebrews: Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. (Hebrews 2:18)

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic** (1)Vatican extends olive branch to breakaway SSPX society. (2). Looking across the Irish Sea -- What Ireland can learn from Scotland about Catholic school governance. (3). Fr. Kieran O'Mahony: Lectio Divina -- Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (4). Martina Purdy: Ash Wednesday -- a welcome relief in a world of sin. (5). David Quinn: Getting a clearer picture of the Magdalene Laundries.

**Sacred Heart Messenger.** (1). Pray with the Pope -- An invitation from the Holy. Father to pray for the challenges facing humanity. (2). Fr. Donal Neary: Women giants of the Irish Church. (3). Under the influence. -- John Scally writes about the people who influence our lives for the better.

Scoil Ursula are running the **4th Annual Golf Classic** in Lee Valley Golf club on April 17th. €250 for a Team of 3 or €75 for a Tee Box. Tee times available all day. Price includes a main course meal per golfer. Monies raised will go towards our proposed new state of the art AstroTurf Pitch. **Contact Dave McCarthy 086-0534979**  
**Brian Walsh 089-4795583**

Join the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart **Pilgrimage to Fatima from the 22nd to the 26th September 2026** ex Cork and Dublin. Spiritual Director : Fr Joe McGee, MSC. For more details ring Karen in Barters Travel or email [kcallaghan@travelnet.ie](mailto:kcallaghan@travelnet.ie)

### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*Rosary and Benediction will commence at 4pm. each First Friday.* There are time sheets on the tables in the Church where Parishioners can indicate the times most suitable for them to attend. We would like, if possible, if there could be 2 people present for each period. If there are vacant periods we would appreciate volunteers to fill these times by putting their names on the list. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION**

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Fr. Michael has generously offered the poor box near the exit as a collection point for SVP.

If you wish to contribute any time, it would be appreciated.

### Gentle reminder!!

For those attending with young children, if required, there is a Family Room available at the top left inside the church. Thanks.



### First Sunday of Lent 2026

The word "Lent" is an old English word for spring — the time when the days are lengthening. These six weeks are there to help us make the journey to the feast of the resurrection "with minds and hearts renewed." We are greatly helped by the brilliant choice of readings for the Sundays of Lent. In particular, the first readings give us a kind of large narrative arc — the story of the people of God — Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, David and the great Exile in Babylon.

The journey of Lent is a springtime of grace. All three readings are an invitation to look at ourselves honestly. With Adam and Eve, we can pray: have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned. In Christ, we know the abundant free gift of God — the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, given to us. Holding these two realities, we are invited to recognise the need for change in our lives, for conversion and growth. Whatever I choose to undertake for Lent should be part of that new growth, so I can arrive at the great festival of Easter, with mind and heart renewed.

**When Does Lent 2026 Start?**  
Key Dates, What It Means & Traditions Explained

**START DATE**  
Ash Wednesday  
February 18, 2026

**Key Dates for Lent 2026:**

- Shrove Tuesday: Feb 17, 2026
- Palm Sunday: March 29, 2026
- Good Friday: April 3, 2026
- Easter Sunday: April 5, 2026

**What is Lent?** Reflection & Fasting

**Lent Traditions** Prayer & Abstinence

**Holy Week** From Palm Sunday to Easter

### Reflections

1. In today's gospel Jesus is enticed to gratify his own needs, or to perform some spectacular act in public. He rejects the temptation because he chooses commitment to his mission and dependence on his Father over any immediate gratification. We can all be tempted to go for some immediate satisfaction...but is that where true happiness lies? Have you found that sometimes it can be more life-giving to say "no" to your immediate desires for the sake of some long-term goal? What are the goals, aims, values, which inspire you in this way?

2. One way of looking at this gospel is to say that Jesus went into the desert to face his demons. We all have demons we need to face—compulsions, fears, prejudices, anger, and urges that lurk within. It is in facing our demons that we find a way to live a fuller life. Can you recall a time when you grew through facing a "demon" in this way?

### PRAYER

Lord our God, in every age you call a people to hear your word and to do your will. Renew us in these Lenten days: washed clean of sin, sealed with the Spirit and sustained by your living bread, may we remain true to our calling and, with the elect, serve you alone. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 1st March 2026**

Your support as always is greatly appreciated.  
THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

### Thought for the day

The temptations of Jesus are not at all temptations to this or that sin but rather fundamental options which matter for the direction of his life. Jesus was tempted in the course of his ministry to choose other ways of being God's prophet, the Messiah or anointed one. In a less obvious way, we too can be attracted by choices which can shape the way our life unfolds. We ask ourselves, what do I live on? What's my true goal? Where is my nourishment? The human, no less than the Kingdom, is more than food and drink. Only the Word of God truly nourishes and illuminates.

### Prayer

Lord, in you we live and move and have our being and we thank you. Help us to place you and your Word at the heart of all we do and, even more, at the core of who we are.

K O'Mahony OSA

### ENTRANCE - God of Mercy and Compassion

God of mercy and compassion  
Look with pity upon me;  
Father, let me call thee Father,  
For I now return to thee.  
Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy,  
Let me not implore in vain;  
All my sins I now detest them,  
Never will I sin again.

By my sins I have abandoned  
Right and claim to Heaven above,  
Where the saints rejoice for ever  
In a boundless sea of love.  
Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy,  
Let me not implore in vain;  
All my sins I now detest them,  
Never will I sin again.



### RECESSIONAL - Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed  
Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come  
This grace that brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home



Mass Cards are available in the sacristy after every mass both at weekend and weekdays.

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 1st March 2026 for tea, bikkies and more chat!  
Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!  
Everyone welcome - Ah go on!

