

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

Baptisms

Luke Thomas Purcell-Sisk.

Cathal Patrick Noonan.

Noah Peter Hickey.

Welcome to the Christian Family.



Christ is Risen -

We are now well into the season of Easter. We look forward to warmer days ahead in late April and early May, particularly as children, families and schools are preparing for the celebration of First Holy Communion. Easter shines a bright light into a dark world. Easter scatters the clouds of darkness so that we can see the bright light of hope. This year, more than ever, we need to see the light of hope in a world surrounded by the clouds of uncertainty and war. More than ever, we need hope, life and joy. May these Easter days lift our hearts and spirits. May the sun shine warmly on the children and families of our parish and Family of Parishes. May hope always prevail. Christ is risen.

Fr. Michael



Celebration of Baptism during Easter – Congratulations to *Baby Noah Peter Hickey*, his parents Aoife and James, his godparents, Mary and Tom for a beautiful celebration at 11am Mass last Sunday. Many people present remarked that it was a special celebration and very helpful to understand the Sacrament of Baptism in a very practical way.

Cork Light Orchestra Concert – well done to all involved in this on last Sunday afternoon. SMA Parish are very grateful to all who attended and especially to our own church for accommodating the event.

Trocáire Boxes – please return these to the church so that we can forward them to Trocáire very soon.

Annual Cemetery Mass on Wednesday 24th June @ 7.30pm in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Children's Adoration – Friday 1st May from 3 - 3.30pm in St Michael's Church, Blackrock. Join us for guided meditation, songs and time with Jesus. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For more information contact: Katie (087 7798175)

Fr. Michael
085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 10th May for tea, bikkies and more chat!

Please note the change of date because of the Church Choir Interchange.

Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today, we hear a typical example of early Christian preaching. It illustrates an important question: if this is so, what should we do?

Second reading 1 Peter 2:20b-25

Is there a link between Jesus' action and behaviour and our action and behaviour today? This reading says a firm "yes." Towards the end of the reading, we hear of Jesus, our shepherd.

Gospel John 10:1-10

The shepherd theme is picked up warmly and richly in the well-loved passage.

The Papers Say.....

Tablet. (1) Papal legacy -- In the year before his death on 21 April 2025, Pope Francis reflected deeply on what is distinctive and worth defending about human beings amid the AI revolution.

(2). The last institution standing -- The Catholic Church in Kenya is increasingly filling the gaps left by a broken healthcare and welfare system (3). Morality and ethics -- A liberal Christian's apology. (4) What is wrong with our universities -- Newman's peripheral vision.

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1) Fr. Brendan McManus: Tackling our Demons. (2) Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon: Pentecost -- The Birthday of the Church (3). St. Joseph -- A Quiet Strength.

Irish Catholic. (1) Breda O'Brien: Moyà Brennan's trajectory back to faith remains an inspiration after her death. (2) Bishop Tom Deenihan: Ideological groups promoting 'ill informed and false' campaign against Catholic schools. (3) Martina Purdy: Pope Leo, Islam and the call to love. 'It is very important to learn to live together with respect for the dignity of every human person'.

(4) Nuns in the midst of violence in Northern Ireland -- New book tells the stories of religious sisters during the 'Troubles'. (5) TVRadio: Trump, the Pope and the peril of mixing faith with politics.

Easter Creed

Do you believe in God, Source and incarnating power of the immense cosmic space and time, who personally knows and cares about each person in the small and most intimate moments of our lives? **I do.**

Do you believe in God who is intensely personal, Taking flesh in fathers, but is much more than fathers, Taking flesh in mothers, but is much more than mothers, who is ultimately MYSTERY and before whom we must stand wordless and in awe? **I do.**

Do you believe in the divinely human Jesus, born of Mary, Who emerged from among us to open our eyes to the presence of God working in all creation? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus as the special revelation of our knowledge of God, Who sometimes used images of women and men, birds and trees, seeds and weeds to help us sense the incredible power and earthy intimacy of God's love? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus who from the cross in agony found the strength to love and forgive those who betrayed, tortured, reviled and executed him, And who rose to offer comfort, love, forgiveness and hope And to entrust his mission to us? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit of God working in and through creation to forgive and comfort, heal and rebuild Communities of hope and love in universal solidarity? **I do.**

Do you believe that you are a part of this community in Christ's Spirit, called every day to spread this hope and comfort in rebuilding our communities, our Church, our nation, our world? **I do.**

We, in and of your immense universe of cosmic time and space, give you our deepest thanks, our Loving God, through Christ our Lord and in the Living Spirit. Amen.

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS TRULY RISEN, ALLELUIA!!

A blessed and happy Eastertide to all!

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. As you know, parishes around the country are being gathered into larger, co-ordinated units. The immediate cause is the shortage of people coming forward for ministry. However, such re-organisation is not at all new across the wider Catholic world. Already in France and Germany, Nigeria and Brazil, the United States and Canada, parishes are looking at new ways of working together. Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, a good day to reflect on the future of the faith community in any one place.

The easy temptation is to simplify the project and turn it into a merely managerial problem: how will Mass be made available, let us imagine, across a number of communities of a particular parish partnership or "family". But would be a mistake to let the Mass schedule or the number of priests in full-time work determine how we see the future and what steps to take.

A bigger vision is called for. The temptation is always there to go into management crisis or survival mode. But something bigger is at stake, which can be summed up in one word "evangelisation", the handing on of a living faith, alive in the community of believers. The crisis could become a great opportunity to re-set the whole faith project. As we struggle to imagine our future and struggle with painful adjustments, it might help to ask three basic questions;

What do we believe?

What are the greatest needs in this area?

How can those needs be met?

Instead of fighting our own corner — how much of what is good in each place can we hold on to — we need to work towards a shared assessment and shared vision. This means have the courage to lift our sights beyond my parish, my needs, my own routines and begin to imagine something larger, something more visionary.

Reflections

1. "Care" seems the fundamental image here. It invites a reflection on our own experience of being cared for, in all sorts of ways. It opens us to the experience of being cared for by God in Jesus. *Prayer of being loved.*

2. Guidance is part of the metaphor. In what ways have I found myself lost in the labyrinth life and in need of direction? Where did I find guidance? Does the word of God guide me today? *Prayer of being accompanied.*

3. In looking for meaning, when did I realise the Gospel is really not a teaching but a person? *Prayer of relationship.*

4. We all want to live and be alive, to have life in abundance. How am I at this point in my life? Where does faith in the Jesus as the gate come in? *Prayer of being alive.*

PRAYER

O God, you never cease to call even those far away, for it is your will that all be drawn into one fold. Attune our ears to the voice of the Good Shepherd, who leads us always to you, that we may find under your tender protection life in all its fullness. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

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



Thought for the day

What is distinctive about our faith as Christians? We do not believe in a system of ideas or even in a higher ethics: we believe in a person, who gives life "a new horizon and a decisive direction" (Benedict XVI). John's Gospel makes this clear with its great I am sentences, one of which we hear today: "I am the gate." Naturally, we think the gate to what? The gate to life to the full. The risk today is to set our expectations low, to be happy with less. But the Gospel calls not to be half alive, but to be fully alive. Let us enter by the gate himself, because the gate to life is always open.

Prayer

Often, loving Lord, we find ourselves astray and defenceless.

Let us recognise your voice, calling us one by one as you call us to follow you.

K O'Mahony OSA

Choral Festival and Church Choir Interchange

Sunday 26 April

This morning we welcome Gaudete, the choir of St. Patrick's Church, Rochestown, Conductor Pat Sheehan Corbett, to sing at our 11:00 am Sunday Mass. This initiative is part of the Church Choir Interchange organised by Cork International Choral Festival. St Michael's Church Choir is singing this morning in the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross.

Next Sunday at our 11:00am mass we welcome the Kammerchor der Hochschule fur Musik und Theater Hamburg, GERMANY, Conductor Prof. Cornelius Trantow to the church. Their participation is part of the festival's Sacred Trail where visiting choirs sing in many of the city's churches.

Full information on the Festival's wide range of concerts and related activities, as well as ticket details, are available on www.corkchoral.ie

Sunday 03 May

At our 11:00 am Mass we are delighted to welcome the Kammerchor der Hochschule fur Musik und Theater Hamburg, GERMANY, Conductor Prof. Cornelius Trantow to the church. They are one of the excellent choirs selected for the Cork International Choral Festival's Fleischmann International Trophy Competition. Their participation is part of the festival's Sacred Trail where visiting choirs sing in many of the city's churches. Céad Míle Fáilte romhaibh.

Full information on the Festival's weekend concerts and public performances, as well as ticket details, are available on www.corkchoral.ie

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 3rd May 2026
 Your support as always is greatly appreciated.
 THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

