

Mass Times

Vigil Saturday: 6pm
Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Saturday: 10 am
Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem



Baptism

Megan Molly & Lauren Paige Cummins
Orla Mary O'Leary
Darcy-Jean Amy O'Donnagháin
We welcome them into the Christian Family



Recently Deceased

Jack Crowley, Castle Road
Marie Ronan, Beaumont Drive
May the light of heaven surround them always.



FIRST FRIDAY VISITS TO THE HOUSEBOUND

Please contact Fr Colin Doocey at 086-8136877, if you or a relative would like to receive the Blessed Sacrament in your home on First Fridays.



Scoil Ursula
6pm. Vigil Mass on Sat 14th.
Beaumont Boys & Girls
Sunday 11.00am. Mass on 15th.

Carols by Candlelight in St Michael's, Church Road on Sunday, 22nd December at 7pm. Congregational carols and music by the St Nicholas Brass Band, the Dundanion Singers and the St Michael's Parish Folk Group. All welcome.

Rockies News

Annual General Meeting
The AGM of the Blackrock National Hurling Club will take place at the Club Pavilion, Church Road, on Monday, 16th December @ 7:30pm. All members and intending members are requested to attend.

Annual Mass for GAA Clubs

The 11am Mass on Sunday, 12th January 2020, will be celebrated for the living and deceased members of Blackrock National Hurling Club, St Michael's Gaelic Football Club, Blackrock Camogie Club and St Michael's Ladies Football Club. Refreshments will be served at the Rockies Club after Mass and everyone is welcome to come along and join us.



Some Inspiration

The note of joy struck on this 3rd Sunday of Advent is very much in tune with the teaching of Pope Francis. He is well aware of the current context of faith — the global pressure is enormous. To us, the call to joy may seem counter-intuitive but is, in reality, authentically prophetic. Challenging times call for a new energy and the source of that energy lies not in natural optimism but in the realities of the faith.

It is not accidental that the great teachers of joy in the New Testament (Paul, John, Luke-Acts) are also the very ones who also have the best teaching on prayer and on the Holy Spirit. St Paul invites us today: Rejoice in the Lord, always, again I say rejoice.

Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on 17th December at 7:20pm in the Munster Arms Hotel, Bandon. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents.



Christmas 2019
Ceremony of Reconciliation
at 7.30pm. Wednesday 18th. December.



Mass on Christmas Eve: 6.00pm. and 9.00pm.
Christmas morning: 9.00am. & 11.00am.
CHRISTMAS DUES ENVELOPES
Are available for collection in the Sacristy.

BLACKROCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Coffee Morning & Christmas Raffle will take place at the Community Centre on Monday, 16th December from 10-12. Everybody welcome.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS
There are now 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is 2017

St Michael's Parish Christmas Party
Will take place on Thursday, 19th December @ 2:30pm in the Parish Centre. All are very welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS MEETING OF BLACKROCK ST PIO PRAYER GROUP
Next meeting of the Blackrock St Pio Prayer Group will take place on Wednesday, 18th December 2019 @ Ardfoyle Convent, Blackrock. Rosary 19:45hrs & Mass 20:00hrs. All welcome.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Christmas Collection
Thanks to all who contributed to the December collection. The amount collected was €5485 - an increase on last year. This means that more families can be helped this year.
Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Reflections

1. Jesus let his actions speak for him. Some people show by the way they live what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Who has given you such an example? Perhaps there have been times when you have done the same for others.
2. John made a journey of faith from an incomplete knowledge of Jesus to a deeper understanding of who he was. Recall similar steps in your journey of faith.
3. Faith is not primarily about answering abstract theological questions but about living the gospel. What in your life has helped you to get that sense of perspective?
4. John marked the end of an era, Jesus the beginning of a new one. In our lives how do we honour the past and yet be free to move on into a new era?

PRAYER
God of glory and compassion, at your touch the wilderness blossoms, broken lives are made whole, and fearful hearts grow strong in faith. Open our eyes to your presence and awaken our hearts to sing your praise. To all who long for your Son's return grant perseverance and patience, that we may announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic (1) For the vitality of our parishes we need the courage, wisdom & right judgement to forge a new path, writes Bairbre Cahill.
(2) Sr. Consilio hailed for belief in 'inherent dignity' of each person.
Catholic Voice Thousands protest radical new abortion laws in Northern Ireland.
Catholic Herald Catholic of the Year -- Mellissa Villalobos, the Chicago women pulled back from the brink of death at the intercession of St. John Henry Newman.
Catholic Times (1) Journey in Faith -- Isiah, the prophet of the Nativity.
(2) Fr. Marsden: John the Baptist: The hinge between the two Testaments.
Universe (1) You do have a guardian angel - but it's not an 'article of faith' to believe in it.
(2) Advent: time to eradicate the doubts.

We would ask parishioners to be good enough to switch off mobile phones during Mass. Thank you



Reminder SVDP box for Christmas Donations is in the centre of the Church. Your support is very much appreciated. Please see list of suggested items.
Christmas Donation Wish List
Nappies and Nappy wipes, Razors and shaving sets, Male and Female Hygiene Sets, Clothes washing products, Cleaning products, Washing up liquid, brushes, sponges, gloves, Christmas biscuits, sweets, cakes. Selection Boxes Honey, jam, marmalade, Tomato ketchup and other sauces Soups and packet sauces - and any non-perishable foods... THANK YOU!

Thought for the day

Joy in believing might seem an "extra" in today's challenging climate for faith. Many of us struggle simply to hold on, not to mention being exuberant about it all. And yet, of course there is deep happiness in faith. First of all, everything around is a gift and behind all the gifts stands a giver. Secondly, love is at the heart of it all and, in the faith, nothing is ever "lost" or "wasted." Faith, hope and love endure and the greatest of these is love. Finally, why not "permit" ourselves true joy in all that God has done for us and still does for us in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit?
Prayer
We believe, loving God, that you take delight in all you have made. Open up in us again the springs of joy, that we may delight in you, our true joy.

K O'Mahony OSA



2020 Parish Calendars are available on the tables in the church.