

### Mass Times

**Sundays:** 9 am & 11 am  
**Working Holy Days:** 10 am & 7.30 pm  
**Monday to Friday:** 10 am  
**Saturday Vigil:** 6.00 pm  
**Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem**



### Baptisms

**Clodagh Elizabeth O'Leary.**  
We welcome her into the Christian Family



### Recently Deceased

**Timmy Harrington,** Clanmornin House, Boreenmanna Road  
**James Dineen,** Avonlea, Church Road  
May the light of heaven surround them always.



### Christmas 2021

Christmas Mass times:

**Christmas Eve**  
4.00 pm, 6.00 pm and Vigil 8.00 pm  
**Christmas Day**  
9.00 am and 11.00am



Masses will be all ticket, similar to last year. We must limit the numbers and 250 tickets will be available for each Mass. Tickets available after Masses on 11th and 12th December. All subject to ongoing government guidelines which may change weekly!

### Sacrament of Confession

Christmas week **Mon, Tue Wed after 10am Mass**

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Monthly Church Gate collection will take place on **w/e 11/12th December**  
Your support as always, is greatly appreciated.



When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

**DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE**

You may be using your mobile phone for Mass, if so, please ensure it is on silent. If not, please switch it off. Thank you



### Annual Christmas Appeal 2021 runs from November 22nd through to December 23rd

For us in the SVP Blackrock conference this has been a strange year. We too have had to adjust to new ways of working and meeting. Our visits to clients are conducted remotely; our conference meetings are conducted via email, WhatsApp, zoom and phone calls. St Michael's Conference SVP wishes to thank most sincerely the parishioners of Blackrock Parish for their wonderful continued and most generous support throughout 2021. Despite having no collections for the first four months of the year between the months of April to November, parishioners donated €5,600, a most generous amount indeed. We have one final collection this year on the weekend of December 11/12. This is our annual Christmas Collection which has been so successful year on year. This year will be different as Mass numbers will be restricted. In light of this, I would appeal that if you cannot contribute at the church that you avail of one of the following options to support this year's SVP Christmas appeal. Please also encourage your friends and family to consider supporting SVP St Michael's Conference, Blackrock this year.

The many safe ways to donate are as follows:

1. On Saturday/Sunday at the church or in the SVP box at the back of the church.
2. Online at SVP.ie
3. Phone Donations at: 0818 176 176 Available 24/7
4. Blue Envelopes: Available via: Irish Times, Irish News, Irish Independent, Door drop, RTE Guide Freepost address so no stamp required. Available in the church.
5. Voucher first strategy for toys. Donor goes to SVP.ie Goes to a link to Me2You website, buys a voucher. Conferences then distribute them to beneficiaries. Beneficiaries then can use them in certain shops in person or online.
6. Donate on the St Michael's Parish Web site or in person in church on the weekend of **11/12 December**
7. New tap to donate – Smart Tap. Donors use their smart phone. Wave camera over the smart tag, which enables donors to donate via credit card (enter details) or by using Apple / Google Pay
8. Direct Debits  
Donors can now donate via a direct debit to a local Conference:  
Go to Website SVP.ie Conference will also have direct debit forms.
9. CHY Revenue scheme  
Revenue scheme available to PAYE and self-assessed tax payers. It can be used for multiple charities and each charity receives up to 45% rebate  
The annual donation must be a minimum of €250 and be receipted. It can be used for multiple charities and each charity receives up to 45% rebate hence for a €250 donation SVP receives €363, for €500 we get €726 and for €1000 we receive €1452.

Keep safe everyone  
John McAdoo  
President  
St Michael's Conference SVP Blackrock

### Thoughts

Even though it is only the second Sunday of Advent, a resounding note of joy is struck. Advent, after all, is a season of hope, longing and also joy.

It is not at all coincidental that the great teachers of joy in the New Testament (Paul, John and Luke) are also the great teachers of prayer and of the Holy Spirit, in their world an inseparable triad. If we find ourselves hesitant about or even resistant to Christian joyfulness, perhaps we can learn from these great spiritual guides: joy comes with prayer and through the Holy Spirit.

### Legion of Mary Centenary:

The Irish Catholic celebrates 100 years of the Legion of Mary next weekend. That issue will include articles about the Legion works at home and abroad, reflections on Frank Duff's revolutionary spirituality, analysis of the long term social legacy of the Legion and much more. As we hope that auxiliary members and former active members etc. will be interested in this issue, extra copies will be available. It will be available in the church from Thursday 9th December.



### Parish Finance – Thank You

Many people now use the Donate Button on the Parish website to support the parish and priests. This is really appreciated in these challenging times for everyone.

### Welcome and Thank You

We are so grateful to our volunteer stewards, church collectors, parish ministries and parish volunteers who continue to make sure that we can gather confidently and safely for Mass. Go raibh maith agaibh

### WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

**Irish Catholic.** (1) Michael Kelly: If the data is correct the post Coronavirus Church in Ireland will be a depleted force, but creative thinking can arrest decline. (2) Jason Osborne: Circus scenes as Ireland appears before UN Human Rights Council (3) French youth acknowledged for restoring wayside crucifixes.

**Catholic Voice.** (1) Matt Walsh: Christians, Our True Battle is Spiritual, not Political. (2) The Role of Women – Nun takes charge at the Vatican. (3) Footage of Dublin church demolition symbolises collapse of modernist Faith in Ireland.

**Tablet of 4/12** (1) Pope Francis says it is not too late to save the environment. (2) Pharmaceutical Copyright – The right to Covid vaccines for all. (3) Anglo-Irish Treaty, 1921 – Peace by ordeal.

**Messenger.** (1) Fr. Tom Layden SJ.: Positive signs in Ecumenism today (2) Fr. Peter McVerry SJ.: Housing for All. (3) Anne-Marie Lee: Creating space to explore Faith.

### Thought for the day

The feats of engineering hinted at in the citations from Isaiah may seem physically daunting but are even more of a challenge on the intended spiritual level. The highway is for our God— and we could ask what in me impedes his way, how do I block the arrival of the Lord in my life? More positively, I could ask myself what do I do so that the Gospel may come alive in my life? With such cooperation from me, the Lord can and will bring to completion what he has begun.

### Prayer

*O God, you search me and you know me. Help me to know myself better; help me acknowledge and set aside the blocks to your coming. You have indeed begun a good work in me and, in spite of my hesitations and resistance, I too want it to be brought to completion under your graceful care. Amen.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall in detail the time and the circumstances of particularly significant moments in your life?

2. John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g., burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.

3. Behind the quotation from Isaiah lies the practice of preparing festival routes for religious celebrations. Isaiah visualises such a celebration to celebrate the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem. Can you recall a particularly memorable Advent? What happened? Think of how you can do it this year.

### PRAYER

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Make our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

If you would like to receive a weekly commentary on the Weekly Scripture Readings, both in AUDIO and in PDF, please log on to [www.tarsus.ie](http://www.tarsus.ie) and register to receive the emails.