

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm
Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am
Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP



Baptism

Amelie Anne Lyons.
Welcome to the Christian Family.



Recently Deceased

Megan Haugh. Willowbank.
William Murphy, Blackrock
May the light of God surround them forever



Jesus is the First

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. In the gospels, Jesus is the first to take on the Cross and suffering so that we need not be afraid or destroyed by our suffering.



He is the first to be raised from the dead so that we can have life, optimism, hope, joy etc. At the Ascension, He is the first to enter into heaven. Why? So that you and I can have the same experience.

He says somewhere else, 'I will go before you into Galilee' as an image of our suffering. He goes before us into Heaven so that we can have peace, contentment, serenity in our life. Why not? All these are possible. So we don't stand looking into the sky but say, yes, I want to follow and I know that I can have true happiness and peace.

Fr. Michael

frmichael@corkandross.org

Collection for Mission and Ministry.

Collection for Mission and Ministry - The Annual Collection for the Office of Mission and Ministry takes place this weekend. This office provides supports to develop the faith life of parishes. It will be taken up after Mass as you leave the church.

First Holy Communions 2024

Sat. 18th May Scoil Barra Naofa Cailiní
Sat. 25th May Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's
Sat. 25th May Gaelscoil Mhachan (Holy Cross Church)

The Remembrance Mass in St. Michael's Cemetery will be celebrated on Wednesday 26th June @ 7.30pm.

Mission Awareness - this year the Spiritan Order are speaking at Masses throughout the Diocese. They will speak at Masses in Blackrock Parish next weekend 18th & 19th May.

98th Cork Eucharistic Procession

98th Cork Eucharistic Procession will take place on Sunday 26th May beginning from the North Cathedral at 3pm. The Procession will cross the river over Christy Ring Bridge and conclude with Rosary and Benediction in St. Peter and Paul's Church. The theme this year is 'Communities of Faith' with a special emphasis on bringing so many new faith communities together.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Acts 1:1-11
Luke and the Acts of the Apostles are a two-volume work as the introduction makes plain. The ascension—a symbol of transcendence—both closes the earthly Jesus story and prepares for the time of the church.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23
The whole reading is a beautiful, inspiring prayer. Let us pray too that God may "en-lighten our minds so that we can see what hope his call holds for us."

Gospel Mark 16:15-20
What is our role as followers of Jesus, as disciples? Using startling illustrations, this Gospel puts it up to us.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Fr. Billy Swan: Wanted — Catholic politicians. (2). The curious case of Pope, Rome and Rupnik. (3) Michael Kelly: The remarkable untold story of the growth of the Church —. Despite the challenges facing Christians in many countries we need to keep hope alive. (4). Does the devil exist? Belief in the devil is persistent in the bible, writes Fr. Fintan Lyons OSB.

Messenger. (1). Pope's intention for June — For migrants fleeing their homes (2). The Synodal Consultation. Archbishop Francis Duffy of Tuam reflects on the synod. (3). The Sacred Heart Novena from 30 May to 7 June. (4). Children's pages and crossword.

Cursillo walk: Cork to Knock route

Tue July 16th - 21st. Approx 23 miles (37kms) per day. Mass daily, rosary, divine mercy chaplet & fellowship each day. Contact corktoknock@gmail.com to sign up for the full walk, a day or a stage. Walks also leaving from Dublin, Belfast & Derry: all converging to arrive in Knock.

If you would like to receive a weekly commentary on the Weekly Scripture Readings, both in AUDIO, VIDEO and in PDF, please log on to www.tarsus.ie and register to receive the emails.

Cork Diocesan Pioneer Mass

Thursday 30th May 7.30 p.m.
St. Mary and St. John's Church Ballincollig
If you or a member of your family are due to receive an emblem for your Pioneer membership as Diamond, Golden or Silver Jubilarian or if you would like to join the Pioneers as an Adult or a Young Pioneer, please contact Sorcha Uí Laoghaire at 086 36 42619 / email sorchaol@gmail.com or Aislinn Cogan 087 969 9488 / Aislinncogan@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Impact: By Alpha Youth

Join the conversation on how you and your team can make an impact for Christ in the lives of young people today. Impact is designed to bring those interested in the faith of young people together for a conversation on youth ministry. All who are interested are welcome to attend. To register or to ask any questions please email gerard@alphaireland.org or call 083-0112560.
Date & Time:
18th May 2024, 9.30am (beginning with tea/coffee and light refreshments) to 12noon.
Venue:
St. Columba's Church, Church Road, Douglas, Cork, T12 YN83.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection last weekend came to €2280
Many thanks for your generous continued support.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

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

Observations

Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. As you know, we are in the year of Mark and, accordingly, the Gospel comes from the final chapter of Mark's Gospel. Except that the evangelist did not write the final verses found today in our bibles, Mark 16:9-20. If you look in your Bible, you will find two or more potential endings, none by Mark himself.

Nevertheless, even if these closing verses are late additions, they can still inform us, encourage us and inspire us today. We have good news to proclaim, the gospel; it will be effective in people's lives precisely because the Lord is with us, working alongside us, confirming what we say by his gifts and grace.

Reflections

1. In the preceding verse Jesus had rebuked the apostles for their lack of faith. Despite this he commissioned them to bring the Good News to the whole world. Witnesses to the Good News do not have to be perfect. There is encouragement for us in this. To whom have you brought good news? Who has been a messenger of good news to you?

2. Jesus then tells them that their witness will have quite dramatic effects, helping people to overcome demons, bring them peace and healing. Things happen when we have belief in God and in ourselves. Strong faith can enable us to meet and overcome difficulties, in ways that waverers cannot do. Perhaps you have had experience of this?

3. The ascension marked the end of the visible presence of Jesus with the disciples, but he was with them in other ways. 'The Lord worked with them'. Sometimes we can experience that death is not the end of the presence of someone significant to us. We can experience the unseen presence and influence of a parent, a friend, or an inspiring leader, after they have died. Has this happened for you? Have you also experienced the hidden presence of the Lord working with you?

PRAYER

*God of power and might, in the mystery of the ascension you have raised up and glorified your Son, and exalted our humanity at his right hand.
Confirm the good news your Church proclaims, so that when Christ returns in glory all nations may be gathered into the kingdom where he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God for ever and ever. Amen.*



Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on **Tuesday 21st May at 7:20pm in the Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty, P85 X322.** This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. We also offer a free online monthly support meeting. For further information please contact us on 085 288 8888 or info@anamcara.ie

Thought for the day

When is an ending not an ending? Mark takes the huge risk of an apparently negative ending to the story which began resoundingly in 1:1. The ending does not satisfy and never did...and that is Mark's very point. To have a neat narrative ending would close the story in the past, whereas Mark forces us to realise that the story goes on the lives of all disciples, then and now. We are the bearers of the Good News, we are the continuation of the story, a story which in truth will never really end, thanks be to God.

Prayer

Give us the courage, God of the Good News, to take that message into our hearts and lives, into every time and place. Even when we cannot feel it, we know that the Lord is working with us and so we do not lose heart
K O'Mahony OSA

Entrance - Bring Flowers of the Rarest

Bring flowers of the rarest, Bring blossoms the fairest
From garden and woodland and hillside and dale;
Our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling
The praise of the loveliest flower of the vale

[Chorus]

*O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today
Queen of the Angels, And Queen of the May
O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today
Queen of the Angels, And Queen of the May*

Their lady, they name thee, Their mistress, proclaim thee
Ah, grant that thy children on earth be as true
As long as the bowers are radiant with flowers
As long as the azure shall keep its bright hue

(Chorus)

Recessional - How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.
CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee etc.

Christ is Risen, He is Truly Risen! Alleluia!



LOUGH DERG - 4 day Pilgrimage 2024

Leaves Cork Friday 7th June at 9am. Returning Monday 10th June.
Booking & Information Ph. Paddy 021 4502572