

### Mass Times

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



### Baptism

**Kyra Mae McIntyre**  
 Welcome to the Christian Family.



### Recently Deceased

**Patrick Griffen. Mahon/Midleton.**  
**Chris Aherne, Ringmahon Road. Blackrock.**  
 May the light of God surround them forever



### Remembrance Mass

There was a very large gathering for the Annual Mass of Remembrance in St. Michael's Cemetery on last Wednesday evening. Thankfully we were blessed with a dry evening enabling people to comfortably gather for the Mass. People come from many different parishes to be present for the Mass as well as so many local people from Blackrock and Mahon parishes, our Family of Parishes with Ballinlough and Blackrock Road Parishes.

This Remembrance Mass is a place where people and families gather together in faith and hope taking into account that they have been there before in sadness and heartbreak at the time of a funeral. It's such a joyful and positive gathering in this way.

We always remember those who have died. This weekend we remember Canon Kieran Twomey, our late beloved Parish Priest. It's hard to imagine that Canon Kieran's fifth anniversary took place on last Thursday 27th June. May Canon Kieran and all those who have died now rest in the peace of the Lord.

Fr. Michael  
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### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 5th July 2024

There are sheets on the tables in the Church where Parishioners can indicate the times most suitable for them to be present. We would like that there would be at least 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.



### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading** Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24  
 All of us face the brute fact of death, first of all through people close to us and then we face our own. We have many questions, of course. This reading offers a reflection on death from the point of view of God's intentions.

**Second reading** 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15  
 For once, St Paul is looking for money. He knows that the people he is asking are poor, so he has to be careful. His main argument is very powerful and his request is very moderate.

**Gospel** Mark 5:21-43  
 There are two stories today, one "sandwiched" inside another. Both concern women, an older woman and a very young girl. Both are concerned with the spring of life.

### Observations

Talitha, kum!  
 There is a late mediaeval morality play called Everyman. Quite early in the drama, Death appears and summons our hero, Everyman, and the reaction is full of pathos and humour. The first thing Everyman says is,

*"O death, thou comest when I had thee least in mind."*

Then Everyman attempts to bribe Death with a thousand pounds, with words full of false confidence,

*In thy power it lieth me to save:  
 Yet of my good will I give thee, if thou will be kind;  
 Yea, a thousand pound shalt thou have,  
 and defer this matter till another day.*

Of course, there is no deferring! Because of our recent experience of the pandemic, we need no wake-up call: we have become familiar with unpredictability and mortality and we know about untimely death and chronic illness, as seen in today's Gospel. And we do wonder what does faith have to say in the face of death, the possibility of life and the hope for life hereafter?

### Reflections

1. We are all challenged by the brute fact of death and yet we hope in God. How have you made the discovery of God "who loves humanity" and whose will for us is "life in abundance"?

2. God's relationship with us (= righteousness, in biblical terms) is the real ground for hope beyond the destruction of death. As we seek good, we sow the seeds of our own immortality.

### 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.

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](http://www.tarsus.ie) and register to receive the emails.

### Commentary

Here we find situations where human solutions fail. 'She is at the point of death'... 'She grew worse'... 'She is dead.' But Jesus confronts human hopelessness. The needs of the sick and the faith of those concerned evoke a compassionate response from him. He is tender to the two women. He calls one, 'Daughter!' and the other, 'Little girl' (literally 'Little lamb').

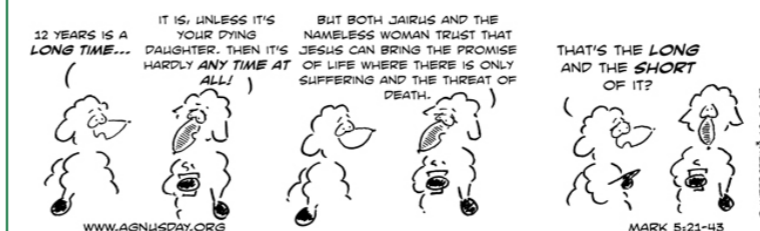
In our need we too can turn to him and find healing. That healing will focus on our heart – our negativity, bad moods, hurtful responses, hardness. He is always trying to help us grow in love. Then we can in turn become a tender and healing presence to those around us.

### Reflections

1. Like this woman, have you had the experience of a cure, an improvement, a success, after a long period of nothing happening? What was that like for you? What made the difference? On that occasion was there anything different in you, in others, in the circumstances – something that paved the way for the change or improvement?
2. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. It seems a strange request with crowds milling around. Many people brushed against him but the woman made contact in a different way. The same can happen in our relationships. We brush against many people but make real contact only with a few. Who are the people you have touched, and who has touched you? What difference has this made to you and to them?
3. It can happen that there are many occasions when we brush against Jesus, and other occasions when we have a sense that we are in contact with him. What deepens your contact with Jesus?
4. Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has made you well'. What difference does it make to you that you have faith? In what ways does your faith make you well?
5. When Jairus asked Jesus to come and cure his daughter, some thought there was no point. Sometimes a situation can look like a lost cause. Has it ever happened to you that subsequent events showed there was hope where you thought there was none?

### PRAYER

*God of the living, in whose image we have been formed with imperishable life as our destiny, dispel from your people the fear of death and awaken within us the faith that saves. Bid us rise from the death of sin to take our place in the new creation.  
 This prayer we make through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



### Thought for the day

We may miss the shock factor in both stories today. Given the strict rules surrounding ritual purity, it was unprecedented that a woman with some kind of gynaecological complaint should actually touch a man. Conversely, Jesus touched a corpse, also strictly forbidden and entailing ritual impurity. Both acted courageously and against the established tradition for the sake of something greater.

### Prayer

*Help us, Lord, to know when to reach out, when to touch and welcome the excluded. Help us to know when to set aside received practices which hinder the Gospel in our day. May this woman's example gives us courage!*

K O'Mahony OSA



Monreale Cathedral, Sicily

### PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

There are 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

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on **Week ending 13/14 July 2024**  
 Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 7th July for tea and refreshments and more chat! Cheaper than the Village!!  
 Everyone welcome!

