

Mass Times

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



Corcaighabú –

We are all delighted to see Cork back in another All Ireland Final. Our faith is renewed! Keep up the prayers.



Holidays –

Hopefully all the children are enjoying their school holidays. Equally, we hope that families and grandparents can appreciate these days as well.

Sound System –

Some of the church microphones have been upgraded during the past week. Many thanks for your ongoing generosity in both the weekly offertory collections and scheduled church repairs and maintenance collections which enable these upgrades to be completed.

Fr. Michael

frmichael@corkandross.org
085 8735905

CESSATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY. BLACKROCK CORK BRANCH.

The Blackrock branch of this Association was set up in 1986. It is a lay organisation established to help students on their journey to the priesthood.

The Society arranged prayer meetings, Vigils, Pilgrimages, Seminars and Retreats and encouraged regular prayers for Vocations. We ran pilgrimages to Fatima, Lourdes every 2 years or so and one to Knock every year. Originally our meetings were held at 7.30pm on First Friday each month then later were changed to day time.

Our Society was working away quietly in the background of the Parish up to the outbreak of COVID when all our lives changed forever.

When we were allowed to hold meetings it became clear quite a number of our members did not show interest in returning and, unfortunately, some members had died. With such a reduction in membership it was becoming more difficult to continue holding monthly meetings.

Our President and Committee members decided after much thought and prayer to wind up the Branch and forwarded the remaining Cash on hand to Head Office in Dublin along with our apologies at having to take this step.

SECOND COLLECTION W/E 20/21 July for DIOCESAN NEEDS.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Amos 7:12-15
 Two figures clash in this story. One represents a powerful religious institution and the other is called by God to bear his word. The reaction of Amos is full of courage.

Second reading Ephesians 1:3-14
 Our next reading is really not a reading but a prayer, a very poetic prayer. The prayer tells the story of all God has done for us in Jesus...as a result, we too are portrayed in the prayer!

Gospel Mark 6:7-13
 As Jesus shares his vocation with the Twelve, why does he give such surprisingly detailed instructions about what to bring and what to wear? Could it be that the followers (and their leaders!) are meant to resemble the master?

Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart - Pilgrimage to Knock Sunday 21 July 2024:

The Pioneer Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Sunday 21 July. Mass at 3pm will be followed by Eucharistic Blessing and Procession to the Shrine. Pioneers along with friends and relations of people who are living "one day at a time" with addiction are welcome.



The Papers Say.....

Tablet of 6/7. (1). Ukraine —. Priests walk free thanks to Holy See. (2) The bishops of the province of Abuja welcome the rise in vocations and Mass attendance despite the threats faced by Christians in Nigeria. (3). Dementia and Alzheimer's — when dealing with someone with dementia, love means making tough decisions and accepting the reality of the situation. (4). Holy Land —. Peace in Palestine must be a 'priority'

Tablet of 29/6. (1). Kids — Who needs them? We do. Without a dramatic change in our attitude to parenthood, humanity is on the road to catastrophe. (2). Down's Syndrome in Guatemala —. Lives with a purpose. (3) China/Vatican —. Rome builds new bridges to Beijing. (4) Catholic Youth Ministry in Ireland continued to rise —. Bishop Fintan Gavin speaks at the inaugural 'Intentional Young Adult Ministry'

Irish Catholic (1). Fr. Bernard Cotter: 'Tears and broken hearts when a parish church closes'. (2). Catholic youth groups collaborate to bring the 'Way of Wonder' to Dublin. (3). Bishop Phonsie Cullinan: Politicians must have the courage to revisit the abortion law in Ireland. (4). Mary Kenny: The strange attraction of a nun's cloister. (5). Cork councillors oppose motion to remove prayer and crucifix from meetings.

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.

Observations

Starry, starry night

Once, I spent a week camping in a desert, in the Negev, south of Jerusalem down as far as the Red Sea. It was all very simple for us as students: we slept on the ground, without tents (it was warm) and we spent the days exploring archaeological sites and geological wonders. One night, I woke up about 2 a.m. and the sky was brilliant with stars — many more than you can see from here, because in the desert there is no pollution of light or moisture, much less industry. Even though I knew in my head that the universe is beyond calculating, somehow everything felt near, as if could just reach up and touch a star. To use a word not always used with precision: it was awesome.

This takes us to our second reading for this Sunday:

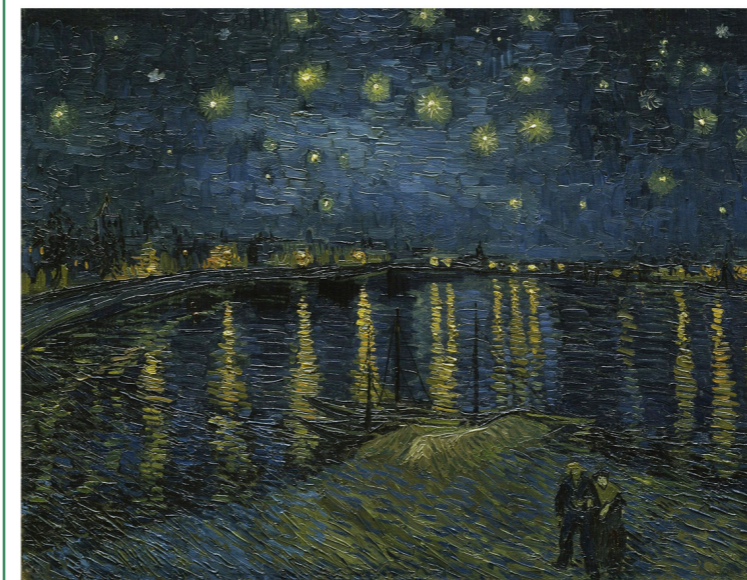
Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning. etc.

The reading invites us to a grander, more ample and thrilling vision, bringing together our Christian faith and how we understand the world today.

Furthermore, our faith does not ask us to live in two worlds. On the contrary, faith and reason go together. We all have different narratives in our heads, including a scientific narrative. What we know about the birth of the cosmos and the evolution of Homo sapiens will indeed challenge the biblical narrative but not ultimately contradict our faith.

To go back briefly to the desert and that night of wonder in the Negev. My lasting memory was a feeling of awe and a feeling of being held. Awe before the awe-inspiring cosmos and the ever more awesome creator. But at the same time, a feeling that this God was holding me and all of us in being as well.

Kieran OSA



Vincent Van Gogh: Starry Night over the Rhône (Arles)

Thought for the day

The handing on of the faith—evangelisation to use a technical term—is the task of everyone in the church today: family members, catechists, pastoral workers, the ordained. It is our great challenge and the one thing necessary. And yet, who dares today to take up such a role? Our Gospel portrays key dimensions: the sense of being sent or called, the choice of life-style based on that of Jesus, the confidence to face not being made welcome and yet to continue for the sake of the joy of the Gospel.

Prayer

God of the Good News, you spoke your word and disclosed your heart in Jesus of Nazareth. Help us who are called to take to heart the word of truth, the Gospel of salvation. May we know the action of the Spirit, and so inspired may we inspire others as well.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. Jesus gave the disciples a share in his mission by sending them out ahead of him. It was a gesture of trust and confidence on his part, even though they did not fully understand his mission. Have you ever been surprised by the trust shown to you by others to speak or act on their behalf?

2. Jesus sent the disciples out two by two. Perhaps your experience gives you examples of the value of having another with you when engaged in an important task.

3. The instructions given by Jesus may seem strange. They were intended to counteract practices by bogus preachers who used preaching as a mask for moneymaking. The disciples of Jesus were to focus on the mission given to them, not on their own comforts. Is it your experience that vested interests can impede a task, whereas having the right motives makes your mission more effective?

4. The task of the disciples was to call people to repent, (metanoia = conversion, change the way we look at God and at other people). The core of the mission of Jesus was to change the attitude of people towards God from fear to trust. He also wanted people to see that life was a gift from God who loved them and wanted them to live it in all its fullness and abundance, despite its difficulties. Who have been the disciples, the people in your life who have called you to be more trusting in God? To whom have you given this call?

PRAYER

God of justice, God of salvation, from every land you call a people to yourself. Yours in the work we do, yours the message we carry.

Keep your Church single-minded and faithful to you. Let failure not discourage us nor success beguile our hearts, as you send us to proclaim the gospel.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, 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, VIDEO and in PDF, please log on to www.tarsus.ie and register to receive the emails.