

### Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am

Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm

Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am

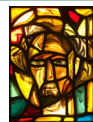
Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP



### Recently Deceased

Anne Honohan, Templevale

May the light of God surround her forever



### Baptism

Harley Blake Lyons Brennan.

Ella Bridget Maher.

Welcome to the Christian Family.



**Welcome** - Schools in the parish re-opened during the past week and normality has returned for families. Best wishes to all the children, their families, teachers, schools and so many grandparents who are 'back on duty'. It's a lovely time of the year filled with excitement and energy.



**Parish Life** - will return to normal in the coming days and weeks as different ministries, organisations and representative groups reconvene after the summer. May God bless our parish and all those who give their time and talents to it. In the coming year we will continue to work more closely with the other parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock Road and Mahon in our Family of Parishes.

**Altar Servers** - in the coming weeks we will work towards introducing a number of altar servers in the parish. We are blessed that good few families are with us each weekend for Mass and if a family would like to support their child in becoming an altar server in Blackrock Parish, please let us know.

**Do This in Memory Programme** - This parish programme for the children preparing for First Holy Communion in 2025 and their families will take place again this year. Arrangements will be finalised in the coming weeks for this wonderful programme.

**Prayer and reflection** - a few people have come forward to say that they would like to gather a small group for this along the lines of centring prayer and Christian meditation. If you are interested in this, please let us know. The vision here is a small group who might gather once a week for prayer and reflection.

Fr. Michael

### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 6th September

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 Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8**

Did you ever feel gratitude for guidance given or for a presence in your life? That's exactly how the Jews felt and still feel today about the gift of God's word and God's presence.

**Second Reading James 1:17-18,21-22,27**

The letter of James is marked by its direct simplicity, being close to experience. But it can also touch a nerve. After all, what is "pure religion"? Do I live it?

**Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Our reading reflects issues of religious law at the time of Jesus. Exaggerated traditionalism was sapping the life out of religion. Of course, this has not "gone away" at all and the critique of Jesus speaks directly to church today.

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Mary Kenny: The contradictions of Nell ..... (2) St. Bernadette's timeless appeal. Bernadette said that it was faith and prayer that cured the sick: 'One must have faith and prayer --the water will have no virtue without faith.'(3). Catholic archbishop supports Ukrainian ban on Russian Orthodox Church activities. (4). Fr. Vincent Sherlock: 'Social' media can all too easily lead us astray. (5) Euthanasia advocates only have to be lucky once .... A new booklet released by the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life offers a clear 'no' to euthanasia and assisted suicide.

### Study Theology Online, is this for you?

The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before September 17. Find out more on our website, [prioryinstitute.com](http://prioryinstitute.com) Click to see a 2 minute introductory film [Prioryinstitute.com](http://Prioryinstitute.com)

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.

### St Michael's Church Choir

Our choir sings at the 11:00am Sunday Mass and other important occasions during the church year. Pre-mass rehearsals and participation at mass resumes on **Sunday 16 September**. Maybe you are new to the Parish, or have always wanted to join? We are a female choir and presently number 13 singers. We are actively seeking new members and you will be made very welcome. Prior knowledge of musical notation is not required but you should be able to sing in tune and be open to becoming part of a special and dedicated group of existing members. If interested why not meet us on the balcony before or after mass. See separate handout for fuller information.

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 1st September for tea and refreshments and more chat! Cheaper than the Village!! Everyone welcome!



### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on **Week ending 31 Aug/1 Sept 2024**  
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

### Observations

The Gospel today makes for uncomfortable listening, especially the line, "the doctrines they teach are nothing but human commandments." (Mark 7:7) In a tradition as old, as rich and as broad as the Catholic Church, there are bound to be some "only human regulations." A clear example would be the traditional teaching about Limbo, where the unbaptised babies supposedly went. It caused a great deal of pain and distress, as parents concluded their deceased babies would never, ever enjoy the presence of God. St Augustine believed in it. Pope Benedict XVI set it firmly aside. Still, it took fifteen centuries...

As I said at the start, the Gospel is uncomfortable — but at least it makes us ask open questions. Perhaps we can learn from the courage of the earliest Christians. Perhaps today we should reflect not only on letting go of traditions that are merely human regulations but also embracing the challenge of today by innovating, as they did.

### Blackrock Community Association-

Registration for members will take place at the Community Centre, Convent Road on MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2-4. Cost remains at €15. New members very welcome-we hold weekly classes in Dance and exercise for seniors, Arts and Crafts, Crochet, knitting; Christmas lunch, coffee morning, socials, outings etc. all outings etc are subsidised.



Coughlan Family members present the Al Coughlan perpetual trophy to Cloughdub Captain Tom Phelan after Cloughdubs victory in the Annual Hurling Tournament at Church Rd. The late Al Coughlan was a stalwart at all level from underage to Senior Level and this tournament is a fitting tribute to his memory pic Georg Hatchell

**Anam Cara Cork**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 4th September at 7:15pm in the Maryborough Hotel, Maryborough Hill, Douglas, T12 XR12**. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 01 4045378



### Dante Alighieri Society

Italian Language Classes & Cultural Lectures in Cork Enrolment: Monday 9th Sept.@7.30pm in Ursuline College, Blackrock or Online from 1st Sept. by email to [dantecork@gmail.com](mailto:dantecork@gmail.com) Conversation Classes on Zoom for Distance Students. €200 per annum for Full Membership. €75 per annum 'Associate Membership' (Cultural Lectures only).

### Thought for the day

As disciples, we all need a kind of personal "rule of life" and we are supported by the community of faith and its practices. But the externals of religions—the very supports we need— risk becoming merely cultural, an empty shell, if our heart is not in it. All three readings this Sunday underline the point: Pure, unspoiled religion is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, you know the human heart, that most devious thing of all (Sir 42:18; Jer 17:9). Help us to know ourselves. Help us to grow in integrity, rooted in purity of heart. Help to serve our neighbour in need with undivided hearts that we may come before you in heartfelt praise and thanksgiving. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. Certain sections of the Jewish people put great store on the importance of rules and conventions as a measure of the goodness of a person. Jesus challenges this view. How have you found that getting appearances right did not necessarily make you a good person?

2. Even fidelity in religious practice is not enough. "This people honours me with their lips, but their heart is far from me". How have you experienced the importance of carrying your faith beyond attendance on Sundays? When have you seen that in others? What brought this home to you?

3. What Jesus seeks are followers whose faith is whole-hearted and warm, people whose religion is not primarily in dutiful observance but in their enthusiasm for life and their care for one another. It is good to be with them. Think of the contrast between a dinner party at which everything is just right but very formal, and another party which is rather haphazard and casual but full of great warmth.

4. "It is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come." It is also from within that good intentions come. We do have choices. When have you been faced with the choice between good and evil? When did you realise the importance of accepting responsibility for your own life and choices? How has this helped your growth as a person?

### PRAYER

Father of light, giver of every good and perfect gift, bring to fruition the word of truth sown in our hearts by your Son, that we may rightly understand your commandments, live your law of love, and so offer you worship that is pure and undefiled. Grant this 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.

### MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES

APRIL - OCT 2024:

7 Nights Apartment B&B from €273 per person sharing. Airport transfer available on request. Contact us for details and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 01 4434510 or website [www.med-irishcentre.com](http://www.med-irishcentre.com) MEDJUGORJE: 00387 36 651 518 IRELAND: 00353 1 443 4510 Email: [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com) Website: [www.med-irishcentre.com](http://www.med-irishcentre.com)