

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am

Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm

Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am

Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP



A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading 1Kings 19:4-8

Where you ever tempted to give up and yet your kept going? This reading mirrors this experience. Queen Jezebel had set her heart on killing Elijah, so he "relocates" in the desert (reasonably!). There, under pressure, he has a special experience of God's care for him.

Second reading Ephesians 4:30-5:2

Once again, we hear two contrasting ways of living in response to the Gospel. The idea that we could grieve the Holy Spirit is startling but it is also a very human way of putting it.

Gospel John 6:41-51

Where do you find nourishment for the journey of life and of faith? What or who is it that keeps you going? The Gospel uses the image of bread—a good image, as we all eat bread as a staple in our diet.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Breda O'Brien: Faith needs community to blossom. (2). Unwanted babies remembered at Mass. (3). The legionary mission of the Miraculous Medal. (4) Extraordinary demand for Miraculous Medal in Dublin. (5). Letter of Pope Francis on the role of literature in formation.

Messenger. (1). Celebrating funerals in the absence of a priest (2). Extracts from address given by Bishop Fintan Gavin at the inaugural 'Intentional Young Adult Ministry'. (3). Fr. John Cullen: Elder versus older.

Tablet of 3/8. (1). The pride of Wigan -- Catholics in Wigan are fighting plans to close a historic church, amid dismay that a lifeline offered by traditionalist group has been rejected. (2). Sr. Mary Frederick, Mother Teresa's twin pillar, died in May at the age of 107. She was one of the most influential British Catholics of her era. (3). Anne Booth: As a Catholic, I have been brought up to pray, to talk to and listen to God.



Observations

I am the bread of life

The Fourth Gospel was written about the end of the first century. Already by then there were some people taking part in the Eucharist, without an adequate grasp of who Jesus is and what happened for us in his death and resurrection. Into that concrete situation, the evangelist shaped his writing in order to challenge and enrich.

The writer "takes on" the situation in two ways. In chapter 13, he takes the radical step of removing the story of the Lord's Supper with the bread and wine and replaces it with the washing of feet. In this way, he shows that the Eucharist is supposed to have an effect on how we live...

Earlier, in chapter 6, while the Eucharist is certainly in view, each story "lands" on a teaching about the identity of Jesus. Again, he teaches that the Eucharist presupposes a deep faith in Jesus, the word made flesh, the saviour of the world. Without such faith and without such consequences, our taking part in Eucharist would make little sense. The two issues faced by the evangelist have never really gone away...

Peter McVerry Trust

For years, I've undertaken one charity cycle each year for the homeless. This year, there is no official McVerry or Wexford Cycle. However, homelessness is still a huge issue and the McVerry Trust still needs our support.

Accordingly, this year, I undertake to cycle **100km in September**. If you would like to lend your support, then click on www.tarsus.ie and follow the link
 Thanks Kieran OSA

Special Annual Mass to celebrate St. Pio's ordination to the Priesthood will take place on Sunday August 11th at 3pm in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross, Cork. Bishop Fintan Gavin will be the chief Celebrant at the Mass which will include anointing of the sick. Confessions, Rosary and other devotions from 1.30pm. Priests will bless people with Padre Pio Mitten and heart bandage after Mass.

Feast of the Assumption –

Thursday 15th August – Mass @ 9.30am in St. Michael's.

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.

Thought for the day

For us eternal life usually means the next life and it can sound remote and unreal. The Fourth Gospel, where the expression occurs seventeen times, can be of help. The last occurrence (17:2) teaches that eternal life is a quality of relationship which begins now in the present moment and which is indestructible (Heb 7:16).
 Prayer

Lord, we struggle to believe at all and we struggle to hold on to eternal life. Help us to hear your call in the present moment. Help to know you and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. Help us to respond with full and trusting hearts, now and into the future.
 K O'Mahony OSA

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. Jesus gave the disciples a share in his Faith is reasonable but we cannot reason our way into faith. We have to be 'drawn by the Father'. We have to be 'taught by God'. What opens your mind and heart to God's message?
2. One thing which closes our minds to what another is saying is when we label them disparagingly, as the Jews did to Jesus. Have you ever had the experience of being surprised by the wisdom of another when you laid aside your prejudices about her/him to listen to what s/ he was saying?
3. 'No one has ever seen the Father except the one who is from God'. As Jesus put a human face on God and God's love, so God's love for us today is mediated through one another. How have other people been sacraments of God's love for you?
4. The way in which Jesus became a source of life for us was by giving himself. It is when we truly give ourselves that we can be life-giving to one another. If we do not give of ourselves, what do we have to offer? How have you discovered the importance of self-giving, in yourself or in others?

PRAYER

God our Father and provider, whose Son has given his flesh for the life of the world, sustain your pilgrim Church on its journey with the word of life and the bread of heaven. Draw us nearer to him in whose name we gather, that, following his way of sacrificial love, we may come to the banquet of eternal life. Grant this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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 last weekend came to €2060
 Many thanks for your generous continued support.

Reflections

It is challenging to go against the status quo and do something different. This can be too much for some.

Lord, may we not be defined by the dictates of this world but have

the courage to live our lives as followers of Jesus.

Many people are limited by their human thinking. Jesus revealed another reality, one that is divine, transcendent and which requires faith. We pray for openness to the deeper mysteries and the surprising ways God works in our lives and in the world.

'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"? The crowd let their prejudices get the better of them: assuming they knew everything about Jesus they had a good excuse not to take his words seriously. We pray for the ability to realise where my prejudices lie. We ask for an open heart and mind.
I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' Another huge claim by Jesus about himself: We stay with these words, asking for understanding, for faith in the great gift we are being offered in the Eucharist.

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.

The Priory Institute two week on-line Summer School is reflective, informative and interactive and will run from 19 August. The course includes eight recorded presentations and three on-line zoom discussions and is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online. Find out more and register click prioryinstitute.com