

### Mass Times

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



### Reflection

It is not easy to follow Jesus. Sometimes, we can follow not Him, but our own desires and channel them through a thin but insubstantial veil of Christianity. The Jesus we follow is relentlessly loving, not least towards those who hate him, those who spurn him. Can we say the same of ourselves? Jesus was full of empathy towards those in distress. He had a way of connecting with those who were hurting, with the outsiders, those whom society loved to spurn. Do we follow his example? Indeed, despite Christ's constant command to love one another, we can still choose not to do so, or too easily fall when trying.

We may want to follow him because we love him beyond all else. But it is not always easy. Even the disciples who shared his life on earth had a very sobering answer to his question in today's Gospel. Jesus asked them: "What about you, do you want to go away also?" And Peter replied: "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God."

### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**On Friday 6th September 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.

**Children's Pet Exhibition** on Saturday 31st August 2024, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, at the front lawn of St. Joseph's SMA Parish Church. All children and all adult parishioners are invited to exhibit their pets, just to simply "show them" in their summer coats and plumage! Pets and owners will be blessed on this day too. Refreshments will be served: tea and coffee for parents and snacks for children.

**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](http://prioryinstitute.com)

### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First Reading** Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

Life is often a matter of choice and so is faith. Today, a stark choice is placed before the chosen people: will they stick with God as they always did or will they just give up? It's a choice we face too.

**Second Reading** Ephesians 5:2, 25-32

In the words of the song, "the greatest thing you'll ever learn is to love and be loved in return." There's more to it: any deep experience of love points us to God, who is love pure and simple.

**Gospel** John 6:60-69

You will know friends and relations who have given up on the faith, for a variety of reasons. You may also have felt, either in yourself or directly from them, the question in today's Gospel: "Do you also wish to go away?" The answer in the story may help us in our own answer.

### The Papers Say.....


**Irish Catholic.** (1) New Film immortalises legacy of Irish born activist priest, Fr. Edward Flanagan. (2) David Quinn: The ostrich like response to attack on Fr Murphy (3). Michael Kelly: Peace, even if not perfect, is precious (4). Mary Kenny: Why did the English riot? (5). Fr. Billy Swan: Is evolution compatible with faith in God? (6). Fr. Rolheiser: Celibacy. What's to be said?

**Tablet.** (1) Minorities and myths. The knot of unbelonging (2) Austin Ivereigh: The Sacred Heart of Jesus. Gods flaming heart. (3). How do I love thee? There was a wedding in the city. (4) Mary McAleese describes Synod in October as 'dead letter'.

**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 31 Aug/1 Sep 2024**  
 Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

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**  
 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.

### Observations

*"We know that you are the Holy One of God"*

As we all know, the faith is in crisis in our times. By faith, I mean not just the "church" but the Christian project as such. People have indeed walked away, a process accelerated by the pandemic of just a few years ago. Cultural Catholicism remains in place — fragile and in many ways an empty shell. Much of this is understandable, given the recent and not so recent history, at least in Ireland. For us, however, as "remainers", the Gospel today is very direct: will you also go away? A second question is implied: and if not, why not?



### Mass Cards

Mass cards are available in the sacristy after every mass both at weekend and weekdays.

**Anam Cara Cork**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's 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).

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.

### Thought for the day

"Do you also wish to go away" has a very contemporary feel to it, as so many have indeed gone away. It does raise questions: Why am I still here? What still draws me? Our personal response very likely takes some form of "we have come to believe and we know." We should not be afraid to name the experiences which ground our convictions and so make sense of our continued faithfulness.

### Prayer

*Mysterious God, your Word to us in Christ reaches deeply into the human heart, drawing us towards you. May we never lose heart and continue on the great pilgrimage of the Gospel.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. In this chapter Jesus teaches that the meaning of his life, and the meaning of all human life, lies in being prepared to give of oneself. When have you learned that life was more worthwhile when you were prepared to do that?
2. "This teaching is difficult", complained his hearers, including some of his own followers. Perhaps at times you also have wondered if you could go along with it. What helped you to overcome your resistance?
3. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life." In the midst of your doubts perhaps you have held on to belief because, like Peter, Jesus offered you a more hopeful message than you could find anywhere else. How has the gospel message been more attractive to you than any other?
4. "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life". Recall the teachings of Jesus have particularly spoken to you.

### PRAYER

*In every age, O God, you give your people freedom to walk in faith or turn away. Grant us grace to remain faithful to your Holy One, whose words are spirit and life, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### Cork Alzheimers Café

a safe place for people with Alzheimers and other dementias, their carers, family and friends along with social and health professionals to meet. Last Friday of each month 11- 12.30 pm in St Finbarrs Hospital, Douglas Road. Light refreshments provided free of charge. All welcome



**Friday 30th August - Next Meeting**  
**Exercise for Older People with Sandra Rice Physio in St Finbarr's Hospital**