

### Mass Times

**Sundays:** 9 am & 11 am

**Saturday Vigil:** 6.00 pm

**Tuesday & Friday:** 9.30 am

Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP



### Wedding

Congratulations to **Majella Dennehy and Brian Meany** who were married in our Church on 31st. August, 2024.



Fr. Michael Keohane officiated.

### Recently Deceased

**Frank Barry, McGrath Park.**

May the light of God surround him forever



**Funerals** – many funeral Masses are celebrated in Blackrock and Mahon Parishes. During the past week, we gathered in the church for the Requiem Mass of the late Frank Barry. A huge congregation gathered to be of support and to join in the Mass. Most certainly, many joined as well via the church livestream.

In times of sadness we gather in the church in solidarity and prayer. Our parish and community is a tapestry of interconnections and community. Families and people get great comfort and strength from the gathering and above all from the Mass.

May the Lord always comfort the bereaved and may the eternal light of Heaven shine on those who have died. May they rest in peace.

**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

**Anam Cara West Cork** the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on **Tuesday 17th September at 7:20pm in the Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty, P85 X322.** This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. We also offer a free online monthly support meeting. For further information please contact us on 085 288 8888 or [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)



### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading** Isaiah 35:4-7

We are all deaf at times—even to the people we love, to God's word, and to our inner hungers. This reading is an invitation to hear again words of life and encouragement.

**Second reading** James 2:1-5

Do we or do I favour people according to social class and wealth? The straight-talking reading from James should put us straight on that one!

**Gospel** Mark 7:31-37

This Gospel story—unique to Mark—is evoked at Baptism, when the minister touches the ears and mouth of the newly baptised and even says the word Ephphatha (be opened). We are in the story and we are invited to see ourselves in the man who was cured.

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1) Fr. Martin Delaney: RTE and a distortion of our nation's history. (2) St. Juan Diego and The Virgin of Guadalupe's miracle. (3) Martina Purdy: Scorning the past in a dark present. -- 'We do indeed suffer from a dark past but the present is even darker: an estimated 40,000 unborn boys and girls have been deliberately killed'. (4) St. Bernadette's relics -- A source of great hope and joy. (5) A Mass a day keeps the blues away.

**Sacred Heart Mksessenger.** (1) Meeting God in Hammer and Chisel. (2) Fr. Eugene Duffy: Preparing for a funeral. (3) To fly or no fly? (4) Childrens Pages and Crossword  
**Tablet of 31/8.** (1) Pope warns against Kyiv ban on Churches linked to Russia. (2). Thomas Merton ruined my honeymoon. (3). AI and Ethics. -- What is a human being anyway?

### Cork Scripture Group

"So that you may know the truth"

*Luke 1:4 New Perspectives on Luke's Gospel*  
7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. over four Monday nights in the Scala Centre, Blackrock starting on 30th September 2024  
Total Cost of Module: €50 [Workshop by itself: € 10]  
All are welcome. No previous experience of Bible Study required! See posters for further details.  
To book email: [corkscripturegroup@gmail.com](mailto:corkscripturegroup@gmail.com)



### 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 15 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.

### Observations

**'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.'**

If you have been to a baptism recently you may remember a gesture and short prayer just after the pouring of the water. The minister touches the ears and the mouth of the baby and says the following words:

*The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

*May he soon touch your ears to receive his word,*

*and your mouth to proclaim his faith,*

*to the praise and glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The name of the prayer is taken from today's Gospel: it is called the Ephphatha Prayer, the "Be opened" Prayer, so to speak.

When Mark retold the story of the deaf man who could not speak, he had in mind more than an individual, fortunate healing. He was not concerned about the past but about the present. We are all to some degree deaf, with an impediment in our speech. At another level, we are all called to become hearers of the Word and proclaimers. Then the prayer said over us at our baptism will begin to take effect.

### Consoling and Being Consolated:

*A Journey of Hope and Renewal for Funeral Ministry Teams*

The Office for Mission and Ministry is offering an opportunity to gather for new and existing Funeral Ministry Teams in two venues: **Wednesday, 11 September 2024 (Visitors' Centre of the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne, Cork) and Tuesday, 17 September (The Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway).** Both events take place from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Our guest speaker is Rev. Bruce Pierce who has written and spoken extensively on caring for the carer, and on loss, death, dying and bereavement. Please register your interest if you wish to attend as we will be providing light hospitality: <https://corkandross.org/mission-and-ministry/consoling-and-being-consolated>

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.

### 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)

### 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.

### 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

The five senses enable us to engage with others, with the world and with reality in general. We realise their significance when for whatever reason our senses no longer "work" as well as before.

The senses are also used in a transferred meaning, especially hearing and seeing, to point to faith.

Hence it is that at Baptism a special and quite beautiful prayer is said over the newly baptised. It is prayer we can use again and again all our lives.

*Prayer (from the rite of Baptism)*

*The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father. Amen.*  
K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. The healing of the deaf mute provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of communication in our lives. The healing touch of Jesus brought the man from isolation into community. Who have been the people who touched you when you felt isolated and alone and helped you to come out of painful aloneness? For whom have you done this?

2. Deafness is symbolic of being unable to hear what is being said to us. What a difference when our ears are opened! Perhaps you can recall a time when your ears were opened and you heard in a new way that you were loved — by God or by another person.

3. Words are not the only form of communication. Actions can speak louder than words. Recall times when this was brought home to you.

4. Being able to say what is in you is the other side of communication. Perhaps there have been occasions when you have struggled to find words to express what is deepest in you—your faith, your values, your love. Then something changed and you found the words. What was it like to be able to express your deepest self?

### PRAYER

*Open our ears to your redeeming word and move our hearts by the strength of your love, so that our every word and work may proclaim as Messiah, Jesus the Lord, 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)

### Mass Cards

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

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection last weekend came to €1527

Many thanks for your generous continued support.