

### Mass Times

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



### Recently Deceased

**Denise (Denny) Foulkes, Menloe Gardens**  
**Lil McCullagh, McGrath Park**  
 May the light of God surround them forever



**Parish Life** – during the past week, we have celebrated a large number of requiem Masses here in the church. While there is a prevailing sense of bereavement and loss, there is an accompanying sense of hope rooted in our faith. There is also a sense that our parish community gathers together to support bereaved families and to pray together and to be together.

This year we will celebrate our November Novena for those who have died from Saturday 2nd November – Sunday 10th November. On those days, Mass will be celebrated each morning in the church. Our Annual Parish Remembrance Mass will be celebrated on Monday 4th November @ 7pm here in the church. Please let people know well in advance so that families can gather to remember and pray on that evening.

**Altar Servers** – we are working 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.

**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.

**Season of Creation** - A Prayer Service to celebrate this will take place in Holy Cross Church, Mahon on Thursday 3rd October @ 9.30am. The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all of creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. The season starts on 1st September, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

*Fr. Michael*

**Ballinlough Meals on Wheels:** To ensure the continuity of this valuable service, kitchen assistants and drivers are needed. Please contact Kay 086 8769660.

### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 4th October

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 Numbers 11:25-29**  
 This unfamiliar story should nevertheless sound familiar: the powers that be sometimes try to limit the work of God's Spirit in the wider community.

**Second Reading James 5:1-6**  
 James is quite the prophet and, like the prophets of old, he does not mince his words when it comes to injustice towards the poor and the exploitation of the powerless. We ought all to feel a bit uncomfortable!

**Gospel Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48**  
 The incident recounted here is very like the one in the first reading. The desire to control religious experience and expression is always present, especially in highly institutionalised religions such as ours. Jesus' mind on the matter is quite different and refreshing.

### The Papers Say.....

**Tablet of 21/9.** (1). Philosophy and religion -- Why believe in God? Making sense of religious faith requires richer resources than can be supplied by the 'analytic' approach. (2). The US Election -- Choose the Greater Good. (3) Adventures in sustainable gardening -- Too soon to prune. (4). US presidential candidates are both 'against life' says Pope Francis.

**Tablet of 14/9.** (1). Mary Kenny: Ireland's literary scene 2024. -- Irish literary fiction has become explosively popular, and its authors are feeding in part on the decline of the Catholic Church. (2). A sanctuary Church in a turbulent world -- In a forthcoming biography of the Pope, Michael W. Higgins portrays him as both a disrupter and a healer and unifier.

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Synodality? Stifle that yawn! We can 'church' in a new way in our own parishes. (2). Elise Ann Allen's Letter from Rome: Vatican offers cautious green light to Medjugorje devotion. (3). Pope Francis says the Catholic Church is 'more alive' outside of Europe. (4). Breda O'Brien: Surrogacy's flaws continue to be buried. (5). The chaplaincy drawing young people closer to Christ.

**Blackrock Community Association** are holding a SOCIAL FOR MARYMOUNT at the Community Centre on FRIDAY 11th October from 2.30-5 pm. Come along and support this great cause while enjoying a great afternoon with music by Pat Hurley and guests. Refreshments will be served. Cost €5.

**Gougane Sunday** - You are invited to Gougane Barra on this Sunday 29th September to mark the Feast of St Finbarr. Mass at 3pm preceded by the Rosary at 2.30 pm. This year in Gougane Barra, the Diocese of Cork and Ross will be launching the diocesan year of prayer, listening and discernment as we plan for the future. Bishop Fintan looks forward to seeing you in Gougane Barra.

**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 6th October 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 5/6 October 2024**  
 Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

### Observations

#### September: the month of Creation

The whole of September has become the month when Christians are called to reflect on creation. You can hardly look at a news source and you will be informed about the rise in temperatures, the obliteration of habitat, the disappearance of species. Very immediately the astronomical rise in energy costs will bring the crisis literally into the homes of everyone. It would be easy to fall into some combination of anxiety, guilt and powerlessness, a disempowering and unholy "trinity." Somehow, we have to find the inspiration and vision to take the necessary steps as individuals, families, communities, not to mention nationally and internationally.

As believers, we can also ask: what is the role of faith as we face this enormous crisis? Here, Pope Francis is a sure guide. His original and still inspiring appeal was called *Laudato Si'*. His evolved thinking, shorter and well supported by up-to-date science, *Laudate Deum*, was published on the eighth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*.

### Reflections

1. John objected to a person who was not in their group, casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus himself had no problems with this. Jealousy can poison our outlook even when what is done by another is good. "S/he is invading my patch." Perhaps you have seen, in yourself or in others, the negative effect of jealousy and the contrasting positive effect of being able to rejoice that good is being done, irrespective of who is the person doing it.

2. In strong terms Jesus condemns those who are destructive of the life of others, particularly the "little ones." Just as Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full, we likewise are here to make a positive difference to others. What was it like for you when you were able to do something that was helpful to another?

3. Rather dramatically Jesus tells us to cut off a hand, or tear out an eye, rather than harm another. It is not to be taken literally but it does mean that we should not be casual about our efforts to live a good life. When have you experienced the benefits of an element of seriousness in your approach to life?

### PRAYER

*Pour out your Spirit, O God, over all the world to inspire every heart with knowledge and love of you. Grant that we who confess Jesus as Lord may shun whatever is contrary to this faith and give witness to your love that has saved us in Christ, for he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Diocese of Cork and Ross, working together with UCC Chaplaincy and the Presentation Brothers LEAF Project, are organizing a new 10-week introductory course *exploring the fundamentals of our Christian faith*, which is called '**Foundations in Theology**'. This is an exciting opportunity to delve more deeply into the foundations of Christian Theology. This 10-week introductory course is designed for young adults aged 18-35 years and will be led by local theologians. It will take place in Mardyke House, Cork, T12W8P, beginning on Wednesday 2nd October 2024, from 6 – 8pm, and will run for 10 consecutive weeks. Each session will begin with food and refreshments. To sign up or for more information, please email [youthministry@corkandross.org](mailto:youthministry@corkandross.org)

### Thought for the day

Jesus knows, of course, that it is not our hands or our feet or our eyes which cause us to sin (cf. Mark 7:14-23). There is a certain sarcastic, even caustic wit in telling us to lop off extremities, as if it were that simple. Sometimes, humour is more effective—more disarming at any rate—than blunt exhortation (hence, dictators always fear the comedians). The point is not lost however: we need to get to the root of the matter and undergo conversion of heart, then of life and then of the whole person, limbs and all!

### Prayer

*Loving God, help us to continue on the path of conversion of heart and life. Help us to make those choices which will reflect our faith in you, loving, just and faithful God. Help us to see ourselves as you would wish us to be, in your own image and likeness.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### ENTRANCE

*Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord*

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here. Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found. We stand on holy ground. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

### RECESSIONAL

*Christ be beside me*

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me, Christ be on all tongues telling of me. Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, In ears that hear me Christ ever be.

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

**Anam Cara Cork** the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly **Face to Face Parent Support Evening** for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 2nd October 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 how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance.

