

Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Margaret Callanan. Avonlea Court.
Paudie Hurley. Maryville.
Jerry Lucey. Rope Walk.
Jim Slattery. Menloe Gardens.
 May the light of God surround them forever



Baptism

Danny James Archer.
 Welcome to the Christian Family.



Parish Life – A good few parish and diocesan activities either have resumed or will resume during these weeks. We are also looking into 2025 in arranging First Holy Communion dates. The cycle of life and parish life rolls on. We look forward to another pastoral year in our parish and Family of Parishes as we all work together to build up the faith community. May God bless the children, their families, our schools and treasured parish. St. Michael, pray for us.

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.

First Holy Communions 2025

Sat. 3rd May	Gaelscoil Mhachan in Holy Cross Church
Sat. 10th May	Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí
Sat. 17th May	Scoil Barra Naofa Cailiní
Sat. 24th May	Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's NS
Sat. 24th May	Scoil na Croise Naofa in Holy Cross Church

Gougane Sunday

You are invited to Gougane Barra on **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 year of prayer, listening and discernment as we plan for the future. *Bishop Fintan looks forward to seeing you in Gougane Barra.*

A Prayer Service to celebrate the **Season of Creation** 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 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
 In this reading, the opponents of the people of faith mock the convictions of the faithful. It illustrates something in our experience of human nature: sometimes good people simply upset bad people. Usually, though, such people are not as frank and open as here.

Second Reading James 3:16-4:3
 Being honest with yourself and about yourself is an important step towards personal freedom and happiness with others. The Letter of James is always direct and, in the end, really helpful.

Gospel Mark 9:30-37
 As we know, ambition in itself is not a bad thing...but there is another kind of ambition which can lead us, even as disciples, astray. There may be some consolation in recalling that it all started fairly early on!?

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1) David Quinn: The dilemma facing Catholics in the American presidential election. (2). 'Great sign of hope' as numbers entering seminary rise again. (3). Exploring the vibrant Indian Catholic community in Ireland. (4). Fr. Bernard Cotter: What is a Co-PP -- Part two. (5). Reflecting with St. Edith Stein on the nature of women

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 27th September - Next Meeting
 Art with Gillian & Inga from the Crawford Art Gallery

Collection for fund which supports seminarians and deacons

The annual collection for the Priesthood Education Fund in the Diocese will be taken up on the weekend of **21st / 22nd September.** One seminarian continues his studies for the priesthood in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, and another man is continuing his studies for the Permanent Diaconate. The Priesthood Education Fund finances their studies as well as costs for ongoing training and education for priests. Thank you for last year's collection which came to €64,903. In the same year, the Fund spent €82,500. Appreciating that these are difficult times financially, you are asked to be as generous as you can to the Priesthood Education Fund annual collection.

SMA NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST. THÉRÉSE:

The SMA Novena in honour of St. Thérèse will begin on **Monday 23rd. September, 2024 in St. Joseph's SMA Church, Blackrock Road, Cork City and will close on Tuesday 1st. October, 2024.** The Novena Mass will be celebrated each evening at 7.30p.m. (except Saturday 28th. September @ 7.00p.m. Mass). There will be a guest choir and singer each evening.

Mass Cards

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

Observations

Costly discipleship: **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** remembered

As we listen to Mark's teaching on being a follower of Jesus in Mark 8-10, you could be tempted to think of a handbook on how to loose friends and not influence people. He makes it all sound so tough, so costly, in a word so unattractive really. You might think, if it's going to be like that, why bother?

In Germany, during WWII, there was small but significant Christian opposition to the barbarity of the Nazis. One figure was outstanding: a Lutheran pastor called Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was against the Nazi regime from the very start. At one point, the official German Christians wanted to remove not only all pastors of Jewish descent but also the Old Testament from the Bible. A Bonhoeffer himself wrote: *to do nothing is to act.* Under extreme pressure, a church union called the Confessing Church was established, supported at great personal risk by Bonhoeffer. That risk took the form of underground seminaries, preaching and publishing. From his experience he wrote a Christian classic: *The Cost of Discipleship.* He knew what he was talking about.

Reflections

1. Jesus uses the time they are travelling along the road to teach his disciples what it means to be one of his followers. Think of the wisdom you have acquired about life, about faith, about what it means to be a Christian. Who have been your teachers? Remember them and give thanks for them.
2. One of the lessons Jesus gives them is that there is a dying to be endured as we move to a fuller life. That was the road he would travel. It is also our journey, not only at the end of this earthly life, but also in small ways through life. When have you found that by dying in some way you came to a fuller life?
3. Achievement, affirmation, recognition and status are attractive and enjoyable when they come our way. Yet we can be in trouble if, like the disciples, we become caught up in pursuit of them. Jesus tells them that true greatness lies in service of others. What has helped you to appreciate the value of loving service of others? When have you experienced the service of others to you?

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

Thought for the day

Jeremiah, who knew a thing or two about the human condition, wrote: The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? (Jer 17:9) A healthy introspection (it need not be introversion!) is essential, if we are to become free from inherited drives and free for service. Prayer
Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know you, and desire nothing except you alone. Let me hate myself and love you. Let me do everything for your sake. Let me humble myself and exalt you. Let me think of nothing except you. Let me die to myself and live in you. Let me accept whatever happens as from you. Let me banish self and follow you, And ever desire to follow you.
 from St Augustine

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.

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.



SECOND COLLECTION 21st/22nd. SEPTEMBER, 2024. PRIESTHOOD EDUCATION.