

### Mass Times

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



### Baptism

**Charli Kearney.**  
**Tadhg Eddie Walsh.**  
Welcome to the Christian Family.



### Recently Deceased

**Sr. Colombiere O'Driscoll.**  
**Ardfoyle Convent.**



May the light of God surround her forever

### Year of Listening, Prayer and Discernment –

Representatives from Blackrock Parish will join representatives from Ballinlough, Blackrock Road and Mahon Parishes at a diocesan meeting in the Rochestown Park Hotel on this Sunday afternoon. Meetings about the Year of Listening, Prayer and Discernment locally in our Family of Parishes will take place in Spring 2025.

### Do This in Memory Parish Programme –

Mass on next Saturday 7th December @ 6pm.

**Christmas Offering Envelopes** - are available in the church this weekend and are also to be delivered to homes in the course of the coming week.

**St. Vincent DePaul** – welcome to representatives of the Blackrock Conference who will speak at all Masses this weekend about the Christmas Appeal Collection which will take place next weekend 7th/8th December.

**Family of Parishes** – Christian Meditation Group meets each Friday morning at 11am in Blackrock Parish Centre – Contact 087 6477841 for information

**Calendar 2025** – This year we are publishing a calendar across all four parishes in our Family of Parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road and Mahon. Copies are available in all churches this weekend. Please take copies for a neighbour or family member as well.

**St. Michael's Church Christmas Cards 2024** – available at the entrance to the church this weekend. Suggested donation of €5 for a pack of 6 Christmas Cards with beautiful images of our beloved church.

**Al Anon Group Meetings** in our area – please contact 01 8732699 for details.

**First Friday Visits** – to the sick and housebound. If you know of someone who would welcome a visit please contact Fr. Michael (085 8735905)

**Family of Parishes** - Children's Adoration on First Friday of each month from 3-3.30pm in St Michael's Church, Blackrock. Join us for guided meditation, songs and time with Jesus. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For more information contact: Katie (087 7798175)

### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading** **Jeremiah 33:14-16**  
Our first reading today was written at a time of tremendous difficulty, not unlike our own. Nevertheless, Jeremiah offers a vision of hope which points us towards Christmas and the birth of Jesus.

**Second reading** **1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**  
Although short, this first reading offers not only a prayer but also some advice on how to live. Like ourselves, the people in Thessalonica were wondering about living as believers in a hostile world.

**Gospel** **Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**  
Gospel readings which talk about the end of the world can be disconcerting to us. What are we to make of them? The real purpose of such warnings lies in the second part of the Gospel: if this is how things are, how should we now live?

**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 1st December for tea and minced pies and more chat! Cheaper than the Village!! Everyone welcome!**



### Afternoon of Reflection

On Sunday 8th December from 3pm – 5.30pm there will be an afternoon of reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist from the Family of Parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road, Mahon in Blackrock Parish Centre. Fr. Colm O'Shea SMA will guide the reflection. All involved in parish ministries such as Ministers of the Word of Eucharist and others are invited to attend to join in prayer and take the opportunity to meet together

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Marina Purdy: The Mother of Christ gets a new movie - 'Mary'. (2). Fr. Bernard Cotter: Simple tips on how to not say Mass. (3). Final Synod document is magisterial, must be accepted, Pope says. (4). Mary Kenny: Eamon de Valera, the political figure who has been erased?

**Tablet.** (1). Assisted Dying – The bill to allow assisted suicide being debated in the UK parliament comes with restrictions and safeguards. The experience of similar legislation introduced eight years ago in Canada is that these protections prove impossible to maintain. (2). The glory of Rome -- on a recent visit, our arts editor uncovers the city's layer on layer of meaning (3). Gaza -- Pope Francis says that genocide allegations must be carefully investigated.

Mahon Parish Assembly are holding their **'Bring and Sing' Christmas Carol Service** in Holy Cross Church, at 7.30 p.m. telling the Story of Christmas in Readings, Reflections and Carols. We also invite those attending to bring some non-perishable foodstuffs, toys and/or donations to the event as your personal/family Christmas gifts to the needy – which will be given again to the Vincent de Paul Society. A 'cuppa' will be available in the Parish Room afterwards.

**BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**Christmas Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 7/8 December 2024**  
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.  
**THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND**

### Observations

Today is the first Sunday of a new church year and it marks several beginnings. We begin the countdown to Christmas; we start reading from the Gospel of Luke; 2025 is a Holy Year, as we continue on our synodal pathway in the Irish church.

For the next year or so, we will be hearing from the Gospel of Luke, a beautiful and rich presentation of the Jesus story. If we did a vox pop in the church right now, the best remembered Gospel stories would be from Luke — he alone has the Annunciation, the shepherds at Christmas, the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, Zacchaeus and the Good thief, the disciples on the road to Emmaus. If this Gospel had somehow not survived, we would be missing a rich inspiration for Christian imagination and living and encouragement.

2025 is a Holy Year. These are held every 25 years and represent an opportunity to engage more deeply with the faith. This is particularly true for 2025 which marks the 17th centenary of the creed we recited every Sunday, the Nicene creed. It was the fruit of a church council in 325 in Nicaea (modern Turkey). In the next two years, 2025 and 2026, the Irish church will embark on a National Synod. Our Synod follows on the two year assembly, completed recently in Rome. In itself that was a vast consultation of the entire membership of the Catholic world, a huge venture, an adventure never undertaken before. It also bore fruit. The question before us in Ireland is a good one: What is God asking of his church at this moment in our shared history? In a word, how can we as a community of faith offer the word of life, the Gospel, in our time? And accordingly, how should we be, how should we live our faith as individual and as church, so we can serve that greater vision?

### Reflections

1. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seemed that your world was collapsing around you: plans thwarted, deep disappointment, something out of your control altering the course of your life, etc. When have such experiences been a prelude to something new? Allow the dramatic language of the passage remind you of this experience, making sure that you recognise the double movement of collapse and liberation.

2. Jesus himself is the model in this gospel story as he taught his disciples the spirituality of "waiting in joyful hope." What difference has watchfulness (in the sense of being watchful in prayer) made to you in facing difficult situations?

3. Advent is a time that calls us to be alert to the signs of the hidden presence of God in our world. What reminds you of this presence of God? Have there been occasions when something woke you up in an unexpected way to the presence of God in the world, for example, through love, beauty, nature and so forth?

### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 6th December

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.



### Thought for the day

If you were to wish people a happy new year today, they would in all probability find it awkward. Nevertheless, we do start a new Christian year with theseason of Advent. The different seasons reminds of important aspects of being Christian, one of which is the conviction that we may always begin again and start new. Last Sunday, we looked back and today we look forward: what are my hopes for the coming Christian year? How am I now? How would I like to be, as a believer, this time next year? What steps will I take to make that a reality?

### Prayer

*O God, we believe that your mercies are new every morning and that your faithfulness is abundant. Come to our help as we start afresh our path of discipleship in this season of longing.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### ENTRANCE - Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded,  
for, with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the Presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, Lord Most High!"

### RECESSIONAL – O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
To free your captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel,  
To you shall come Emmanuel.*

O royal branch of Jesse's tree,  
Redeem us all from tyranny;  
From pain of hell your people free,  
And over death win victory.  
*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel,*

### Novena of Masses for Peace in the World in Honour of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

All Masses at 7pm except Saturday Dec 7th at 5pm.  
Sunday Dec 1st- St. Peter & Pauls: Preacher: Bishop Fintan Gavin  
Monday Dec 2nd-St. Patrick's- Lower Rd: Preacher: Fr Jaison Mathew  
Tuesday Dec 3rd-St Finbarr's South Parish:  
Preacher: Fr. Eamon McCarthy  
Wed Dec 4th- St Patrick's -Preacher:-Fr Eamon Roche  
Thurs Dec 5th - South Parish-Preacher: Fr Colm Mannion OP  
Fri Dec 6th - St Patrick's-Preacher: Fr Philip Mulryne OP  
Sat Dec 7th- South Parish-at 5pm-Preacher: Fr Dwayne Gavin  
Sun Dec 8th- SS Peter & Paul's- Preacher: Fr Ger Dunne OP  
Mon Dec 9th- SS Peter & Paul's-Preacher: Fr Con Doherty MSC...  
finishing with a Marian Procession through the streets of Cork after Mass!