

### Mass Times

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



### Baptism

**Liam Connor Hannigan.**  
**Zoey Grace Longan.**  
Welcome to the Christian Family.



**November Novena for the Dead** will continue until Sunday 10th November. Novena Mass on Mon – Friday this coming week @ 9.30am. November Lists and Envelopes remain available in the church.

**Blessing of Graves** in St. Michael's Cemetery on this Sunday 3rd November @ 3pm.

**Sacrament of Confirmation 2025** – Friday 28th March in St. Michael's - May God bless the young people, their families, their teachers, schools and our Parish as we prepare with them to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit into their lives.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** will resume in Holy Cross Church each Monday morning after 9.30am Mass until 11am commencing on this Monday 4th November. If a funeral occurs on Monday morning in Holy Cross, this Exposition will not take place.

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 Christian Meditation Group** has been formed in our parish and Family of Parishes. Details of arrangements will be available here soon.

### Mahon Parish Presentations



On Sunday 27th October, Mahon Parish made presentations to **Jean O'Driscoll** and **Mary Fay** for their involvement in the parish. Jean O'Driscoll recently retired as volunteer sacristan having fulfilled that role for 40 years. Mary Fay has been involved in Mahon Parish for thirty eight years and worked as parish secretary for the last seventeen years. Both have made an enormous contribution to the growth and development of the parish. Presentations to both were made by Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP and Fr. Rafal Zielonka CC. Fr. JP O'Riordan returned to Mahon Parish for the presentations.

### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6**  
Our short reading today contains the central prayer of Judaism: "Listen, Israel." It is read today because Jesus quotes it approvingly in the Gospel.

**Second Reading Hebrews 7:23-28**  
The Letter to the Hebrews wants to show that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Old Testament priesthood and so the ideal priest for us.

**Gospel Mark 12:28-34**  
It is not often that someone in the Gospels received pure praise from Jesus. It happens, however, today to the scribe who spontaneously approves of what Jesus says. The Gospel takes us to the heart of the matter: love of God (the first five commandments) and love of neighbour (the second five).

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1). David Quinn: Simplistic to present the 1980s as a dark and repressive time. (2). A view from Rome -- The ship has sailed - No turning back for a Synodal Church: a conversation with Fr. Eamonn Conway. (3). John L. Allen Jr. : In the end, Pope Francis steered his synod toward a soft landing. (4). Fr. Billy Swan: Halloween and the worship of false gods.

**Tablet of 26/10.** (1). Medjugorje in limbo -- There is rejoicing that the Vatican has recognised the spiritual fruits of the alleged apparitions of Mary in a small town in Bosnia Herzegovina, but confusion over whether or not her messages can now be trusted as genuine. (2) The number of cases of anti-Christian violence in Pakistan is rapidly increasing. (3). Church and State in Russia. -- Putin's culture wars. (4). Top Israelis and Palestinians present peace plan to Pope Francis.

**Tablet of 19/10.** (1). US Presidential Election -- In the first of a short series of reflections by Catholics preparing to vote in the election, an academic is poised between two deeply uninspiring options. (2). Bishops urge Irish people to acknowledge need for migration.

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.

**Anam Cara Cork**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold it's monthly Face to Face Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 6th November 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.

We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)



**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 3rd November for tea and refreshments and more chat! Cheaper than the Village!! Everyone welcome!**



### Observations

This desire to identify what is at the very heart of faith is relevant to us today, as we undertake the synodal pathway. What's at the very core of our faith? What do we want to keep as we go forward? What do we need to develop to be faithful into the future?

Today's Gospel is a great help in several ways. Already in Jesus' day, some of his fellow Jews had identified love of God and love of neighbour as the key markers of how we live. Jesus is the first to unite the great prayer of Judaism, the Shema Yisrael, from Deuteronomy 6:4-5, with the commandment to love your neighbour as yourself from Leviticus 19:18. It is a good reminder that the roots of the Christian way are firmly planted in Judaism. Here is something magnificent that we Christians share with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

### Reflections

1. Today's gospel brings us right to the heart of what a Christian life involves: love of God and of neighbour. Jesus tells us that having life both now and in the future is the fruit of living in a spirit of love. How have you experienced the power of love given, and received, as a source of life and vitality?  
2. If you were asked what is most important in life, what would your answer be? Recall the experiences and relationships you have had. Which are the ones that you treasure most? What has particularly enriched your life? How would you encourage another person who asked you how s/he could live a full life?  
3. Jesus praises the questioner as one who had answered wisely. Recall some of the wise people you have known, people who in their words and actions impressed you with their capacity to see and treasure what is important in life.

**PRAYER**  
*Lord our God, you are the one God and there is no other. Give us grace to hear and heed the great commandment of your kingdom, that we may love you with all our heart and our neighbour as ourselves. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Youth Ministry Collection:** - The collection to support Youth Ministry will take place on the weekend of November 9th and 10th. It is not easy to be a young person of faith today. It is important for us to support and encourage our young people in every way we can and encourage them to take part in their local Parish. Sheila Kelleher has begun working as our Diocesan Coordinator for Youth Ministry and there are many youth ministry events planned for the year including **Connect 5** (for young adults), **Maranatha March 2025** (a faith-based high-energy music event for Post-Primary school students), the launch of the new **Youth Alpha** (for teenagers), **Altar Server** training videos and gatherings to support local Parish ministry. In order for this to happen we need to be able to fund this. Please be as generous as you can as we cannot do this without your support. Investing in our young people is vital for the future of the Church. You may also wish to donate online by scanning the QR Code which takes you directly to our secure donation page.

### Thought for the day

There is a story told about an elderly Cistercian, who on being asked what he believed at that point in his life replied, "I believe more and more in less and less"! It is not as paradoxical as it seems. As we go on, the core dimension of the faith should stand out for us. As Erasmus wrote, the essentials are few but essential.

### Prayer

*God, your love is always there ahead of us, even before we are aware of it. Help us, therefore, to love you by letting you love us first. May we love you in our neighbour in need. Amen.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### ENTRANCE – Hail Queen of Heaven

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean Star:  
Guide of the wand'rer here below,  
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care;  
Save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea,  
Pray for the wand'rer, pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,  
We sinners make our prayers through thee;  
Remind thy Son that He has paid  
The price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,  
Pray for the sinner, pray for me.

### RECESSIONAL - How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.

*CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee etc.*

**CONNECT 5** – an invitation to young adults (18 to 35 years): - Do you want to know more about your faith? There will be a special event for young adults in Devere Hall in UCC on Sunday November 17th, CONNECT 5. It begins at 9.30am and Katie Ascough (Founder of 'Called to More'), and Fr Columba Jordan CFR will present at this event. The theme is 'In a troubled world, Dare to Hope'. There will be Mass, quiet time for prayer, confessions, and lunch will be provided. There is a €10 registration fee, search Eventbrite.ie for CONNECT 5 or scan the QR code on posters and flyers.

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on  
**Week ending 2/3 November 2024**  
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.