



BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office.
MARRIAGES: Minimum 3 months notice required by Church and State.
Pre-marriage course required.

Mass Times

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



Year of Listening, Prayer and Discernment

our Family of Parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road and Mahon will be represented at a diocesan meeting on Sunday 1st December in the Rochestown Park Hotel. This will be one of three such meetings where parishes will be updated on what is envisioned for this special year in our diocese and prepare the ground for a series of local meetings within our Family of Parishes in early 2025. We are grateful to those from our parish who will give their time to this meeting next Sunday to represent Blackrock Parish.



We will continue to pray our diocesan prayer at Masses in the church and throughout our Family of Parishes calling on the blessing of God and the Gift of the Holy Spirit for us all.

Fr. Michael
frmichael@corkandross.org

Do This in Memory Parish Programme – There was a great attendance at the Enrolment Mass last weekend. There was a great atmosphere in the church with the First Holy Communion children, their families and many grandparents in attendance. The next Do This in Memory mass will be on Saturday 7th December @ 6pm.

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.

Unfolding the Word

An Invitation to everyone in our family of parishes 'Unfolding the Word' provides a simple and accessible approach that helps people come together in their family of parishes to explore the Word of God and become more familiar with the life and values of Christ and of Christian living. Each session consists of sharing on a Bible passage, prayer and of course, a cuppa and chat. Why not join us in the parish room, Holy Cross Church, Mahon for the four Thursday nights of **November (7th, 14th, 21st, 28th) from 7.30-9.00 pm**. All welcome.

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.

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!



A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Daniel 7:13-14
The book of Daniel was written at a time of intense religious persecution against Jews. The natural question is, "Where is God?" The prophet speaks of a future kingdom, which will never end.

Second reading Revelation 1:5-8
The book of Revelation is always a bit of a challenge; nevertheless, the teaching within it is deep and rich. In this reading, listen out for all the different things it says about Jesus and ask yourself which of these metaphors or affirmations speaks to you today.

Gospel John 18:33-37
"Kingdom" suggests to us splendour and glory, power and authority. Is this what the Bible has in mind when it speaks of the Kingdom of God and Jesus as king of the Jews? Absolutely not, the very contrary in fact, as we hear in this remarkable reading.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Bishop Kevin Doran outlines issues for Catholic voters including the right to life, migrants & refugees and euthanasia (2) Breda O'Brien: Doing Advent right -- As the saying goes, if you are sick of Christmas by December 25 (the first day of Christmas) you are not doing Advent right. (3). David Quinn: A dire warning from Canada for us all -- Canada only introduced assisted suicide and euthanasia eight years ago and in 2022 alone, over 13,000 died in this way (4) Bishop Michael Router: of Armagh: Church will be more inclusive of women, young people and the marginalised after Synod.

Tablet of 16/11. (1). Trump victory. -- Era of globalisation reaches a crisis (2). The Sodalicio scandal. -- A Peruvian archbishop due to be made a cardinal next month has described a lay-led Catholic group whose members consider themselves elite soldiers in God's army as 'a machine for destroying people'. Now it may be thinking of relocating from Latin America to the United States. (3). US presidential election. -- What happened to the Catholic vote?

Tablet of 9/11. (1). Synod on Synodality. -- Michael W. Higgins argues that the Synod was a success - but not in the way that had been expected. (2). Assisted Dying. -- Church mobilises against UK bill.

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.

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

Cork Alzheimers Café Cork 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 29th November - Next Meeting
Join us for last café of 2024 for our Christmas Party



Observations

It is often said we live in changing times and of course we do. A hundred years ago, things were even more dramatic. As a result of WWI, great empires had crashed: the Romanov, Ottoman, Hohenzollern and Habsburg empires all disintegrated. The Bolsheviks had taken power in Russia while western Europe saw the rise of nationalism in the form of fascism and increasing secularisation triggered by the tragedy of the war. Inflation such as we could never imagine took hold in Germany. There was more to come: the great crash of 1929 and the grim rise of antisemitism and all that followed. Such was the broad context for the new feast of Christ the King, established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, not quite a hundred years ago.

The gesture was timely and can still speak to us today. Pius XI wanted to remind people that in the midst of destruction, tragedy, radical instability and despair, there is an utterly stable point of reference and a very different set of values to guide us: the person of Jesus and the visionary values of the Sermon on the Mount. In the words of Pius XI,

The faithful, moreover, by meditating upon these truths, will gain much strength and courage, enabling them to form their lives after the true Christian ideal.

Reflections

1. The feast we have today and the gospel give us an opportunity to reflect on the different ways in which we, and others, exercise influence and leadership. The authority of Pilate came from position and power. The authority of Jesus came from his integrity and what he stood for. Recall leaders you have known whose influence was like that of Jesus.
2. The values of the kingdom of God cannot be imposed. It is never a matter of fighting battles, or forcing others into compliance. Perhaps through experience you have learned the limitations of the use of force, as a parent, a teacher, a group leader. What has been the good news, the learnings for you, in this?
3. Jesus came to bear witness to the truth and we are all created for a purpose. What do you believe is the purpose of your life? Recall times when you have been able to bear witness to this. What fruit has this witness had for yourself and/or others?

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, to Jesus Christ, first-born from the dead, you have granted everlasting dominion and a kingship that shall not pass away. Remove from us every desire for privilege and power, that we may imitate the sacrificial love of Christ our King, and, as a royal and priestly people, serve you humbly in our brothers and sisters. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Thought for the day

It is possible to contrast the various philosophies and religions as systems of ideas and as ethical paradigms. What is distinctive of Christianity, however, is the centrality of the person of Jesus. In his own ministry, he proclaimed the Good News of the reign of God. The Good News for Paul is Jesus' death and resurrection. Christianity is different: we have not only a message but a person to proclaim.

Prayer

O Christ, you stand at the very centre of our existence as believers. Show yourself to us and help us to know you, love and serve you. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

How Great Thou Art - Entrance

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:*

Hail Redeemer King Divine – Recessional

Hail Redeemer, King divine!
Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine;
King, whose reign shall never cease,
Prince of everlasting peace.

Chorus: Angels, saints and nations sing : "Praise be Jesus Christ our King; Lord of life, earth, sky and sea, King of love on Calvary!"

2. Eucharistic King, what love draws thee daily from above, clad in signs of bread and wine : feed us, lead us, keep us thine!

Chorus: Angels, saints and nations sing ...

Christmas Coffee Morning in aid of Marymount Hospice on Sunday 1st December in Ballinlough Community Centre 9.30 onwards.

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

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 and register to receive the emails.

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

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