

Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Pat O'Sullivan, Ringmahon

May the light of God surround him forever



Year of Listening, Prayer and Discernment

Representatives from our parish participated in a diocesan gathering last Sunday in the Rochestown Park Hotel. Representatives of Blackrock Parish and the other three parishes in our Family of Parishes will meet in the Spring to reflect on the central questions as to how can we make baptism the gateway into life in our community, how can priests and parishioners prepare for and celebrate the Sunday Eucharist so that we are nourished and strengthened to tell others about Christ and at the local level and how can we engage and invite young people to participate in our communities?



Christmas Arrangements in St. Michael's –
Masses on Christmas Eve @ 6pm & 8pm.
Christmas Morning Masses @ 9am & 11am.

Sacrament of Confession – after Masses on 21st/22nd December on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Do This in Memory Parish Programme – Welcome to the children and their families to our Vigil Mass this Saturday evening. The next Do This in Memory Mass will be on Saturday 18th January @ 6pm.

Christmas Offering Envelopes – have been delivered to homes during the past week and are also available in the church. Thank you all for your generosity and support. It's deeply appreciated. Fr. Michael

St. Vincent DePaul – the Annual Christmas Collection/Appeal takes place this weekend.

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

Calendar 2025 – Family of Parishes Calendar for the coming year available in the church. Please take one to your home and kindly bring copies to neighbours and those who would appreciate one.

Christmas Bouquet Shared Mass – available from the Sacristy after Masses.

Afternoon of Reflection - on this Sunday 8th December from 3pm – 5.30pm for Ministers of the Word and 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.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Baruch 5:1-9
Like many of the prophets, Baruch wrote at a time of religious oppression, when the people were truly disheartened. It may be that we today need his message of encouragement as never before.
Second Reading Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
How should we live so as to be ready to meet our maker? In this prayer, St Paul explores how we may go on growing in the faith.
Gospel Luke 3:1-6
The contrast between the grand opening and the actual humble beginnings of Christianity is clearly intended by Luke. From the very start, the reign of God was very different from the kingdoms of this world. In a remote corner of the Empire, something was stirring which would definitively change world history.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Maria Steen, Ronan Mullen & David Quinn comment on the election including 'FF and FG will hopefully go back into government with independents (DQ)' (2). What is true in the Conclave film and what is nonsense? A fact check for the cinema release. (3). Outgoing Australian ambassador notes growing momentum of women leadership in the Vatican. (4). Fr. Billy Swan: Heart warming. -- 'it is this raging fire of God's passionate love that Pope Francis wants everyone to experience in the heart'

Tablet. (1). Assisted Dying -- The proposal to allow assisted suicide strikes at the core of the Christian understanding of the sanctity of the human person, argues Fr. Tom Hiney. (2). Baku -- Less developed countries stage COP29 walkout. (3). Cafod disappointed with 'lamentable' COP29 outcome. (4). International justice -- The case against Netanyahu.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS
There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish,
one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K
PetrolStation. The code to operate both is 2017



Large gatherings of players, Mentors and supporters continue to attend the Monthly Coffee Mornings held on the last Friday of the month at the club premises on Church Road. The most recent gathering took place on 29th November. This meeting also hosted the Launch of a Christmas Charity event which will take place in the club on **Friday December 20th**. The Charities to benefit this year are The School of the Divine Child (Lavanagh Centre) and the Cork Branch of Parkinsons Ireland. Final Coffee morning of the year will take place on 27th December Everybody 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.
THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

Observations

Luke commences the story of John the Baptist, using the Roman Emperor and various rulers to locate him in time and place. By means of these resonant names and seemingly important people, Luke is saying that something of world significance happened in that year in a backwater of the Roman Empire, unbeknownst to the powers of the day, both civil and religious. Because of what happened over the next thirty-three years, we are here today. Later, in the Acts of the Apostles, Paul is defending himself in front of King Agrippa and Queen Bernice in Caesarea Maritima, and he says, Indeed the king knows about these things, and to him I speak freely; for I am certain that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this was not done in a corner. (Acts 26:26 NRSV)

Truth be told, it kind of was done in a corner. Nazareth is not mentioned once in the Old Testament. Jesus was a carpenter, in Greek a tektōn, meaning a builder's labourer. Who this Jesus became, what he said and did, and his final destiny changed the face of world history. While affirming universality, Luke was contrasting the strikingly modest origins of our faith. The beginnings were really on the edge.

Reflections

- The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall in detail the time and the circumstances of particularly significant moments in your life?
- John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g., burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.
- Behind the quotation from Isaiah lies the practice of preparing festival routes for religious celebrations. Isaiah visualises such a celebration to celebrate the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem. Can you recall a particularly memorable Advent? What happened? Think of how you can do it this year.

PRAYER

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Make our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Trócaire Christmas Gifts of Change bring real hope and opportunity to families and communities living with poverty and injustice across our world, and a chance to create lasting and positive change from Somalia to Guatemala, from Sudan to Palestine. There are gifts for everyone starting at €5 for the Gift of Soap. You can support the gifts by buying them online at trocaire.org/gifts; by phone 1800 408 408/021-4275622; by post or in person to Trócaire, 9, Cook Street, Cork. T12 F583.

Mahon Parish Assembly are holding their **'Bring and Sing' Christmas Carol Service** in Holy Cross Church, on Wednesday 11th December 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.

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

Thought for the day

The feats of engineering hinted at in the citations from Isaiah may seem physically daunting but are even more of a challenge on the intended spiritual level. The highway is for our God—and we could ask what in me impedes his way, how do I block the arrival of the Lord in my life? More positively, I could ask myself what do I do so that the Gospel may come alive in my life? With such cooperation from me, the Lord can and will bring to completion what he has begun.
Prayer
O God, you search me and you know me. Help me to know myself better; help me acknowledge and set aside the blocks to your coming. You have indeed begun a good work in me and, in spite of my hesitations and resistance, I too want it to be brought to completion under your graceful care. Amen.

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,
To you shall come Emmanuel.*

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on **Tuesday 17th December at 7.30pm in the Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty.**



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.

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.