

## Mass Times

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



## Recently Deceased

**Ann Johnson, Clifton Estate**  
**Teresa O'Keeffe, Blackrock**

May the light of God surround them forever.



## Happy Jubilee

We have crossed the threshold from the old year into the new one this week. The new year is a time of hope and a fresh start. 2025 is also a Jubilee Year in the Church, a time of celebration and gratitude for the great gift of the Incarnation and of our precious faith in God.



Pope Francis is asking us all to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' this year. He has constantly put before us his vision of the Church and the world as a people on a pilgrimage through time. In the coming days, Pope Francis asks us to meditate on the 'journey of the Magi to Bethlehem,' At other times such as in his addresses at the World Youth Days, 'the image of 'pilgrimage' has been a constant theme. As pilgrims, we find ourselves facing great questions that have no simple or immediate answers, but challenge us to continue the journey, to rise above ourselves and to press beyond the here and now.

So we look forward to this coming Jubilee Year with hope because our faith in God is always a 'new start', every new day is a gift from God and we are all part of this in our parish and Family of Parishes. Everything that we will do in parish life is not just routine but something new. *St. Michael, pray for us and bless us in 2025.*

*Fr. Michael*  
085 9735905

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## Monday 6th January – Feast of the Epiphany – Mass @ 9.30am.

**Christmas Offering Envelopes** – Sincere thanks to people who have been so generous in their Christmas Dues this year and in the offertory collection at Christmas Masses. Some Dues envelopes are still available in the church. Fr. Michael

**Do This in Memory Mass** – for the children preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 18th January @ 6pm

**Confirmation Enrolment** - for young people in our local schools will take place on Saturday 25th January @ 6pm.

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  
Sun. 25th May Gathering for all the First Holy Communion and their families.

**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 5th January 2025 for tea and bikkies and more chat!**

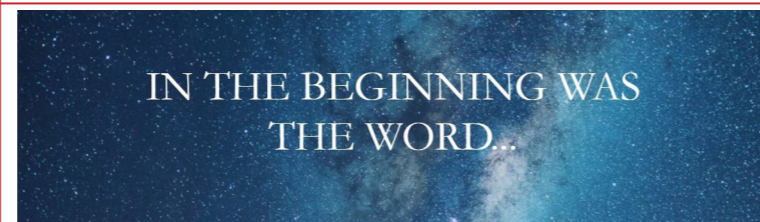
**Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!**

*Everyone welcome!*



## A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**FIRST READING** Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12  
Our first reading is both mystical and poetic. It is poetry — elevated speech. It is mystical because it talks of God present in creation.  
**SECOND READING** Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18  
While the Gospel will reflect again on the Word made flesh, the reading from Ephesians takes this for granted and goes on to ask: if that is so, then who are we? An inspirational prayer closes the reading.  
**GOSPEL** John 1:1-18  
You may wonder how it is we are hearing this reading again! After the fuss and rush of Christmas, we have a second opportunity to listen and take to heart this wonderful passage.



## The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic** (1). 'Echoes of the past from the National Archives 2024. -- (a) The curious case of Gerry Adam's tickets and (b) The origins of our present culture left a Pope with 'worries'. (2). Fr. Bernard Cotter: Open to Mass suggestions. (3). Senator Ronan Mullen: A view from the Seanad including 'don't let the Government steal your vote'. (4). David Quinn: Why a growing number of intellectuals are increasingly embracing Christianity. (5). Mary Kenny: France's reputation is certainly dented by Pelicot.



**Speed Dating Evening for Catholics** aged 20-45 in aid of Mary's Meals on Saturday 18th January at 7pm at the Kingsley Hotel, Cork. Meet other single Catholics who share your faith in a fun and relaxed environment. This in-person event is the perfect opportunity to meet like-minded individuals while raising money for the amazing charity Mary's Meals. Tickets €23, available on [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie), search for 'Speed Dating Evening for Catholics' and put Cork as the location.



A large crowd gathered at Blackrock village on St Stephens Day for an afternoon of Music and Dance provided by people of all ages from Douglas Comhaltas group including many Blackrock locals. Such was the enthusiasm of the audience that hopefully this will become an annual event. The Simon Community were the beneficiaries of the money raised  
*pic George Hatchell*

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.

## Observations

*A very happy Jubilee New Year to all!*

On the 25th of December, we marked the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. In the carols and in the readings, we listened again to the stories which surround the birth of Jesus and there is more to come on the 6th of January. The nativity stories are highly pictorial and very appealing. The stay in the imagination, certainly in the imagination of children but also of adults.

As you will have noticed, the readings for today are different, poetic and, to be honest, more abstract, more philosophical. These extraordinary readings offer us the opportunity to reflect, in tranquillity, on significance of Jesus' birth. And not only his birth, but also his life, ministry, teaching, death and resurrection. The previous translation of the Roman missal put it poetically as follows:

*In the wonder of the incarnation,  
your eternal Word has brought to the eye of faith  
a new and radiant vision of your glory.  
In him, we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in love of the God we cannot see.*

## Reflections

- John opens his Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation, of life and of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that led you with gratitude to God for creation and the beauty and wonder of the world: 'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.'
  - We hear the gospel message frequently. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, like a light that shines in the darkness. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety or sadness and helped you to see what action would be most life giving for you and for others
  - Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world - speaking the truth for the world to hear, like as a witness to testify to the light. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by the witness of their own lives and words.
  - "No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." Jesus came to us to teach us about God and put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day, and for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God and to believe in a God who is a God of love. Recall how the life and ministry of Jesus have changed your picture of God.
- PRAYER**  
*God most high, your only Son embraced the weakness of our flesh to give us the power to become your children; your eternal Word chose to dwell among us, that we might live in your presence. Grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory you have made our own, and how great the hope to which we are called in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit in the splendour of eternal light God forever and ever.*

**BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**January Church Gate collection will take place on**  
**Week ending 4/5 January 2025**  
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.  
**THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND**

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

## Thought for the day

We are at the start of the new civil year and beginning again is an invitation to look in two directions. What happened for me in the last year, both in my ordinary life and in my life as a believer, a person of faith? For what do I ask forgiveness? For what do I give thanks? We also look forward and the new beginning gives us a chance to start again on the Way of discipleship. Both thanksgiving and renewal are to be found in today's readings. The Gospel is in invitation to wake up, to keep watch, to live fully the present moment under God, in whom we live and move and have our being.  
*Prayer*  
*Wake us up, O God, at the start of a new year and rouse us from the slumber of the everyday that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person every day of our lives.*  
*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

K O'Mahony OSA

## ENTRANCE - Hark! the Herald Angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;

2  
Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord:  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus our Immanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;

## RECESSIONAL – The First Nowell.

1 The first nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

2 They lookèd up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, ...

3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, ...

**Anam Cara** - supporting parents after bereavement, are hosting their first Online Bereavement Information Evening of 2025 on Tuesday 7th of January 2025. This online talk is for bereaved parents only.

**Date: Tuesday 7th of January 2025**

**Time: 7pm - 8:30pm**

**Guest Speaker: Níamh Finucane**

