

Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Maureen Dineen, Rockboro Road
May the light of God surround her forever.



CELEBRATE BAPTISM

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord as Jesus is baptised in the River Jordan by John. Jesus enters into the waters of baptism in the same way that we celebrate the baptism of so many children in our own parishes. He 'joins the line' with others to show to that his humanity is like ours. Jesus puts a spark of eternal life and a new spirit into us. He makes it possible for us to do extraordinary things, such as forgiveness and mercy, the miracles of normal life that make us truly special as people.



As a parish and Family of Parishes community we celebrate the baptisms that take place each week. We never take for granted the sacred decision that parents and families make as they arrange themselves to bring babies and children for baptism. Every time, I celebrate baptism in St. Michael's and other churches, it is a special moment. Life is increasingly complicated and we don't know the future but we can put the fundamentals of Christian life in place as we choose and celebrate baptism.

May the Lord bless the newly baptised, their parents and families, proud grandparents, godparents and our beloved church and parish.

Fr. Michael
085 9735905
frmichael@corkandross.org

Christmas Offering Envelopes – Sincere thanks to so many people who have been wonderfully generous in their Christmas Dues this year and in the offertory collection at Christmas Masses. Some Dues envelopes remain available in the church. Dues can also be offered online via the Donate button on the parish website. Fr. Michael

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

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

foilte – welcome to representatives of the Diocesan Perpetual Adoration Committee who will speak at Masses in St. Michael's and in our Family of Parishes after Communion this weekend inviting support for perpetual adoration in Cork city centre based in the Cathedral Family of Parishes. May the Lord bless their ministry.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**
The first generation of Christians went back again and again to the prophet Isaiah. Given today's feast, you can see why. It points not only to the role of John the Baptist but also to the message of Jesus himself.
Second Reading **Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7**
The breadth of vision here, taking in all humanity, offers a deeply encouraging message. It also goes some way to answering a nagging question: why would God bother?
Gospel **Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**
Jesus' baptism in the Jordan is a solid historical fact. It is reported, however, with symbols, so that we get a window on to what it meant for Jesus himself.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). In the Dublin archdiocese, Archbishop Farrell is planning for a future full of hope with an innovative Pastoral Strategic Planning Resource, writes Fr. Gareth Byrne. (2). Maria Steen: Catholic children should not be bullied for being Catholic in Catholic school. (3) David Quinn: Is the State turning a blind eye to an immense new child abuse scandal. (4) Notes in haste -- An Irish Pastor writes in a new monthly series detailing the busy lives of Irish parish priests. (5). Kiltegan priests go on mission to Co. Wicklow.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
January collection came to €1,575
Many thanks for your generous continued support.

Diocesan Needs Quarterly Collection - The next quarterly collection will take place on this weekend of 11th/12th January. This quarterly collection allows the Diocese to provide ongoing supports to parishes in many areas. It contributes to the day-to-day running costs of the Diocese including the cost of personnel, utilities (light & heat, phone, postage & stationery, repairs & maintenance, insurance), professional fees, primary and secondary school religious advisory costs, safeguarding, data protection, mission and ministry and levies paid by the Diocese for national hierarchy costs in Maynooth. People continue to be very generous to these quarterly collections over the years and we are grateful.

The Jubilee Year 2025 – a Holy Year of Hope
This year on Christmas Eve, 2024, Pope Francis, like Pope John Paul II in 1999, opened the Holy Door to begin a Jubilee Year in 2025. It will be an ordinary holy year — in accordance with the tradition of the Church to celebrate such a year every 25 years, to give every generation a chance to experience that special time of grace and mercy in their life. Those who participate in a Holy Year pilgrimage are granted a plenary indulgence; those who are unable to attend in person for concrete reasons are invited to participate spiritually, "offering up the sufferings of their daily lives, and participating in the Eucharistic celebration."



Come and Discover Alpha: Would your Parish or Family of Parishes like to find out more about Alpha? We are hosting a 'Come and Discover Alpha' day from **10am to 4pm in the Visitor Centre of the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne on Saturday, January 18th from 10am to 4pm.** In the morning, you will have the opportunity to experience a full Alpha session, and we will be offering workshops in the afternoon on how to run Alpha. Registration is essential: tinyurl.com/mission-ministry

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.

Observations

We are still at the start of a new year and we find ourselves looking ahead, perhaps with trepidation, given the way things are around the world. We may well wonder what will the new year hold for us as it unfolds — for myself, my family and my work and so on. We may also wonder what will the year hold for us a people of faith, as disciples of Jesus Christ.

2025 is a Jubilee year with the motto "Pilgrims of Hope." This year, we have particular, practical reasons for hope and renewal. This Jubilee year is the year when the Synodal Pathways, started by Pope Francis, will become, please God, a practical reality in our local churches. The worldwide consultation of 1.2 billion Catholics undertaken two years ago had never, ever been done before. Such a consultation — better such a vast listening exercise — has revolutionary potential. Last October, the second gathering of the Synod in Rome brought the universal stage to a certain point of arrival and also a point of relaunch. The concluding discernments have been published and these are well worth reading carefully. One of proposals is a commitment to embed the synodal vision in the life of the church at every level: universal, national, diocesan, parochial and personal.

Reflections

1. The people were searching and John pointed them in the direction of Jesus. On your life's journey who have been the John the Baptist people for you, people who have pointed you in the right direction?
2. The Baptism of Jesus was a very special moment for him that affirmed him in his identity as Son of God and in his mission. Recall the experiences that affirmed you – either in your sense of who you are, or in relation to the direction you were taking in life.
3. The Baptism of Jesus marks a transition point in his life, and the start of his public ministry. Recall the transition points in your own life. Where did you see the grace of God at work in those times?
4. This experience of Jesus occurred when he was at prayer. What part has prayer played in opening you to being aware of God in your life? What part has prayer played in helping you through a transition point in your life?

PRAYER

Open the heavens, almighty Father, and pour out your Spirit upon your people gathered in prayer. Renew the power of our baptismal cleansing and fill us with zeal for good deeds. Let us hear your voice once again, that we may recognise in your beloved Son our hope of inheriting eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.



Have you ever dreamed of walking the **Camino de Santiago?** Breakthrough Cancer Research are taking on the 'Portuguese Way' from the **13th - 20th of June 2025.** Starting in the charming town of Baiona, experience camaraderie and reflection as you walk toward Santiago de Compostela, creating lasting memories on this historic pilgrimage. You can enjoy this amazing adventure with our experienced guide and help Make More Survivors. For more information, please contact edel@breakcancer.ie or phone 021 422 66 55 for more details.

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

Thought for the day

The great scenes in the Bible, precisely because of their greatness and indeed uniqueness, can be difficult to access personally. For the Baptism of Jesus, there are at least two potential approaches. Firstly, we could go back in our minds to a life-changing turning point in our own lives, so that we can speak of before and after. Secondly, we could also turn to our own experience when we felt deeply the affirmation of our identity and worth as "the beloved" of someone. In the case of Jesus, these are combined: his identity and life are one, something we would like to be able say about ourselves too.

Prayer

Abba, Father, let us hear again today your words of affirmation to Jesus and in Jesus to us all. As your beloved sons and daughters, draw us more closely into your own life of love. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

Medjugorje International Youth Festival

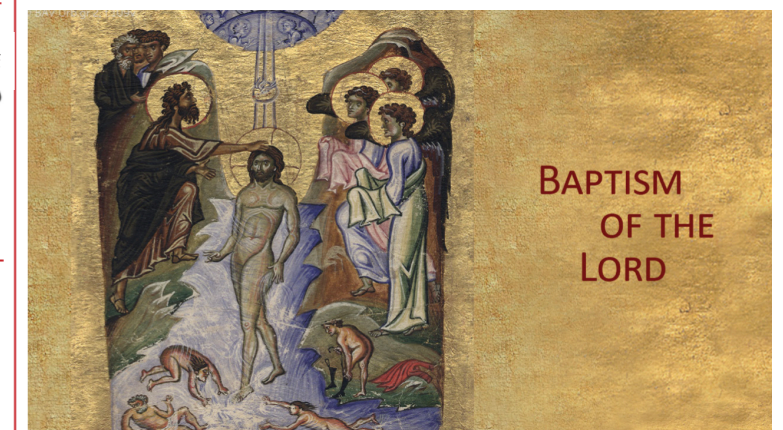
2nd to 9th August 2025. Spiritual Director Rev. David Lane. €799.00 half board including flights from Cork. €50 discount if deposit paid by 15th January. Travel with Joe Walsh Tours. Group Leader Anna O'Shaughnessy 089 4038650 / 0862959380 Only 25 places available for this group.

Study Theology Online, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before February 11. Find out more on our website, prioryinstitute.com Click to see a 2 minute introductory film Prioryinstitute.com

Foster Carers need in Cork

Right now there are almost 6,000 children and young people in care, with less than 5,000 foster carers. Fostering is one of the most fulfilling roles you can have because, as a foster parent, you have the opportunity to shape and improve a young person's life. By being a foster carer you can help a child or young person in countless ways, by making them feel safe, secure and valued. There is no greater joy than bringing happiness to a child, a sense of belonging and helping them to dream dreams.

If you feel you wish to find out more you can contact us by email: info@orchardfostering.ie; please include your name, phone number and a suitable time for a call. Or you can call us directly on (021) 203 8332 or visit our website www.orchardfostering.ie/cork/



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