

### Mass Times

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



### Baptism

**Emily Anne MacHale.**  
**Mya Morgan Downey.**  
**James Thomas O'Reilly**  
Welcome to the Christian Family.



### Recently Deceased

**Margaret O'Halloran, Rosegreen Avenue**  
May the light of God surround her forever.



### Family of Parishes

Representatives from Blackrock Parish will participate in a series of three forthcoming meetings with representatives from the Parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock Road and Mahon on Tuesdays 11th, 18th & 25th February in Blackrock Parish Centre. These meetings form part of the Diocesan Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment throughout Cork and Ross. We are grateful for the generosity of those who will represent the Parish in these vital meetings.



Parishes meeting and working together as Families of Parishes is the 'direction of travel' as we all endeavour to pass on the great gift and blessing of our faith in God. The faith context of our parishes and society is rapidly evolving. Taking this into account, parishes now need to work together to develop parish ministries as well as intentionally reaching out to families and young people.

We continue to pray for our parish, our Family of Parishes and our Diocese.

Fr. Michael  
085 9735905

[frmichael@corkandross.org](mailto: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

**Sunday of the Word of God** – will be celebrated on Sunday 26th January as we enthrone the Word at the start of Masses on that morning. The 'Sunday of the Word of God' celebrates the gift of Scripture, encouraging us to listen to and live by God's word.

**Do This in Memory Mass** – welcome to the First Holy Communion children and their families to the Vigil Mass this weekend.

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

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.

### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading** **Isaiah 62:1-5**  
How can we talk about God? Our human experience of love provide the basis in experience for talking about God as love.

**Second reading** **Corinthians 12:4-11**  
Today, we start reading from 1 Corinthians, beginning with chapter 12. Paul uses the image of the physical body to meditate on the gifts in the Christian community.

**Gospel** **John 2:1-11**  
This reading calls for special attention. Even if we read it literally, the meaning is at another level, because the writing is contrasting the mother religion, Judaism, and the offspring, Christianity.

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1)Fr. Aquinas Duffy: Great expectations and endless demands on priests (2) Nuns tell Vatican they feel like Ireland's 'scapegoats'. (3). The Vatican under Pope Francis: Promoting women to leadership positions. (4). David Quinn: How the American Church should adjust to President Trump.

**Sacred Heart Messenger.** (1). Spiritual Accompaniment of the Sick. (2). Fr. Gerard Condon of Cloyne: St. Gobnait's Day. (3). Pope's Intention for February -- For Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life.

**Tablet of 4/1.** (1). School shootings. -- How a shooting at his daughter's high school transformed the life of moral theologian Tobias Winright and his attitude to gun policy in the US. (2)Pope Francis urges Catholics to embrace hope 'with haste' as the 2025 Jubilee Year begins. (3). Archbishop Eamon Martin says vocations crisis can be responded to by igniting new life in the Church. *Support the Catholic press and Keep in touch with the Church Buy and read a Catholic publication weekly!*

**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](http://tinyurl.com/mission-ministry)

### 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."



### Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment

**Family of Parish Gatherings** – Next Steps: Over the next four months all the Parishes and Families of Parishes of our Diocese will be involved in the next stage of our Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment. This will involve representatives of each Parish Leadership Team participating in 3 meetings over 3 weeks reflecting on the questions posed in Bishop Fintan's invitation in September. Since September, people individually and in Parishes, have been praying the Diocesan Prayer from the Boat. As we continue to pray this prayer together, we pray for the success of these gatherings and we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us as together we try to pray, listen, and discern God's future for our Church.

### Observations

The **Wedding feast at Cana**, found only in John's Gospel, is presented as the first action in the life of Jesus, again, only in the fourth Gospel. It is a wedding celebration, so it is marked by love, joy and abundance. As can be seen from the first reading, it picks up the marriage symbolism of the Old Testament. Across the Old Testament, the metaphor of marriage is used to describe God's relationship with the people of Israel — a relationship of love and faithfulness, joy and fruitfulness. In the remarkable words of the first reading,

*As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,  
So will your God rejoice in you.*

In these days when we struggle to believe in God at all, perhaps we do not often think of God rejoicing in us!

### Reflections

1. The marriage imagery puts all the emphasis on love, an emphasis found richly in this Gospel, in St Paul and, of course, in Jesus' own teaching. Go back to significant experiences of being loved and how these have opened your own heart to receive and to give in love.

2. The wine symbolises true joy in believing—a bit of a challenge these days, but central nevertheless and even lifegiving. Where do you find your springs of joy?

3. "Do whatever he tells you" is a strong invitation to conformity to Christ on the path of discipleship. What have been the important points on that path? And where am I now?

### PRAYER

*God of wonders, at Cana in Galilee, you revealed your glory in Jesus Christ and summoned all humanity to life in him. Show to your people gathered on this day your transforming power and give us a foretaste of the wine you keep for the age to come. Amen.*



Picture shows the victorious U16 P2 Rebel Og Championship and League winners who were presented with their medals at a function in The Club last weekend. Blackrock and Cork Hurling Star Alan Connolly was the guest speaker and presented the medals Pic George Hatchell

### Ministers for the Eucharist 2025 rota is available in the sacristy.

The next meeting of Cork Regional Pioneer Council will take place in the S.M.A. Parish Centre Wilton at 8 p.m on Wednesday 22nd January 2025

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](mailto: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.

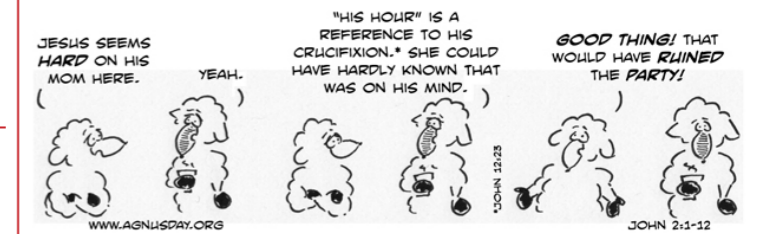
### Thought for the day

The (extra)ordinary experience of "everyday" love is itself a sacrament. As such, it mediates the love of God and gives us both an experience and a language by which we make speak of God, God who is love itself.

### Prayer

*Open our eyes to recognise you at the heart of the "everyday" love which sustains and inspires us: whoever lives in love, lives in God and God in them!*

K O'Mahony OSA



**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](http://prioryinstitute.com)  
Click to see a 2 minute introductory film [Prioryinstitute.com](http://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](mailto: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/](http://www.orchardfostering.ie/cork/)

### Foundations in Theology and Sycamore Programmes for Young Adults

The Diocese of Cork and Ross, in collaboration with UCC Chaplaincy and the Presentation Brothers LEAF Project, is offering two exciting programmes for young adults (18-35 years), starting on Wednesday 29th January from 6-8pm in Mardyke House, Cork, T12 W8RP

Both programmes will run concurrently over the next 10 weeks:

- **Foundations in Theology:** This introductory programme explores the fundamentals of our Christian faith. Sessions will be presented by various experts, including some of our own priests.
- **Sycamore Formation Series:** A welcoming and accessible starting point for young adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. Each session will begin with food and refreshments, and provide participants with an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion.

To sign up or for more information, please email Sheila at [youthministry@corkandross.org](mailto:youthministry@corkandross.org)

### 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