

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am

Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm

Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am

Baptisms are held on the 2nd and 4th

Saturdays of each month at 4pm.

Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP



Recently Deceased

John O'Keefe, Church Road
Sr Bernard O'Riordan, Ursulines Community,
Blackrock

May the light of God surround them forever.



Baptism

Lily Mary Walsh.

Welcome to the Christian Family.



First Confessions 2025

Celebration of the Sacrament of First Confession will commence this coming week. There remains a wonderful innocence about these. The joy of parents and families is evident too. While the faith landscape in our world is changing rapidly, the innocence of the children and the joy of parents endure. In our parish, the First Communion children and their families continue to gather for the Do This in Memory Masses. These have been a great success this year with very big attendances. Please pray for the children and their families this week.



Monday 3rd March: Scoil Barra Naofa Caillini
Tuesday 4th March Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí
Thursday 6th March Gaelscoil Mhachan (Holy Cross Church)
Monday 10th March Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's NS
Monday 7th April Scoil na Croise Naofa (Holy Cross Church)

Fr. Michael

085 8735905
frmichael@corkandross.org

Sacrament of Confirmation – Coneartú – Congratulation to the Sixth Class boys from St. Anthony's BNS who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Tuesday in our church. Best wishes and every blessing to Rang a Shé from Gaelscoil Mhachan who will receive their Confirmation in Holy Cross Church on next Tuesday. Fr. Tom Hayes, Vicar General, will be the celebrant.

Children's Adoration – Friday 7th March from 3 - 3.30pm in St Michael's Church, Blackrock. Join us for guided meditation, songs and time with Jesus. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For more information contact: Katie (0877798175)

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

Ash Wednesday - 5th March – Mass and Distribution of Ashes @ 9.30am. There will also be an evening Mass in Polish in Holy Cross at 7.30pm. Lenten Trocáire Boxes now available in the church.

Families of Parishes Meetings – Three meetings have now taken place on Tuesdays 11th, 18th & 25th February as part of the Diocesan Year of prayer, listening and discernment between representatives from the four parishes of Blackrock, Ballinlough, Blackrock Road & Mahon. Participants have been promised a summary of the discussions at these meetings by the Office of Mission and Ministry and we look forward to receiving and sharing this in the coming weeks.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Sirach 24:4-7

In this reading, three images are used: a sieve, a kiln and a tree. All three test things so that the true qualities stand out.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

After his long reaction on the resurrection of the body in chapter 15, Paul affirms his faith, in somewhat mysterious language. At the centre stands Paul's faith in Jesus, risen from the dead, the pattern of all our rising.

Gospel Luke 6:39-45

Jesus was a wisdom teacher and he really goes to the heart of the matter. The invitation in this Gospel is to inner transformation. The hope is that our outward living will be consistent without inward convictions. Nearly all religions teach something like this — but it is possible in the Christian vision because of the grace of God in Christ.

The Papers Say.....

Tablet. (1) Catholics still reluctant to join Police Service of Northern Ireland. (2) Brutality against India's Christian women escalates. (3) War of words between Washington and the Pope. (4) An American tragedy -- in the court of King Donald 'but the real danger lies with the favourites and flatterers who surround him, tycoons who seek only to enrich themselves and ideologues who seek to destroy the machinery of the state'.

Irish Catholic (1). Mary Kenny: Is 'Kneecap' really the best advert for the Irish language? (2). Breda O'Brien: New school schemes were the wrong move at the wrong time. (3). Divine Mercy Conference witnesses a growth in Catholic Faith. (4). Willie Walsh R.I.P. Of Carrigaline/Ballyphehane. -- The moving life of a man gone to God.

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1) Pope Francis on Confirmation (2). Fr. Gerard Condon: Day of the Relics. (3). Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon: On the wings of a dove. -- The Synodal Journey.

Cork Lions Club are holding our annual *Patrick's Hill Ball Run* in aid of Cork City Missing Persons Search and Recovery and Local Cork Charities at 2pm on Sunday March 16th. It is a fun family event and all are welcome. We will also be collecting old spectacles for recycling to the third world so bring along any old glasses and give them a new lease of life. Please support the fundraiser by buying balls on www.corklionsclub.ie

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 beginning on March 13th (13th, 20th, 27th March, 3rd April) from 7.30-9.00 pm. All welcome.

FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Rosary and Benediction will commence at 4pm each First Friday. There are time sheets on the tables in the Church where Parishioners can indicate the times most suitable for them to Attend. We would like, if possible, if there could be 2 people present for each period. If there are vacant periods we would appreciate volunteers to fill these times by putting their names on the list.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 2nd March 2025 for tea and bikkies and more chat!

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

Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



Observations

The great season of Lent — a *springtime of faith* — is upon us. Lent represents an opportunity for deepening our faith and putting our faith more richly into practice in our lives. If Lent is indeed to be a spiritual springtime, then we need to think about what to put in place so that we will arrive at Easter ready to celebrate the great events that give us new life in Christ. Here are some suggestions:

Over the period of Lent, read through the entire Gospel of Luke. You might even consider doing it twice — once to get the overview (perhaps in one sitting) and then a second time more slowly to reflect and pray.

Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, has just published a short book with an engaging title: *Discovering Christianity. A Guide for the Curious*. In just 94 pages, he gets to the heart of the matter. When the "great" are being simple, they are still great. It would make a good book for private reading or, even better, in a book club or group of friends.

If you haven't got it already, you might consider getting the *Lent-Holy Week Hearers of the Word* volume for year C. www.messenger.ie

Reflections

1. Can you remember an occasion when you were giving out about the behaviour of another person, and later realised you had some of the same fault yourself? Was that a wake-up call for you? Jesus tells us it is more constructive to correct our own faults, than complain about the faults of others.

2. If we want to help other people we need to have our feet on the ground, with a realistic awareness of our gifts and our limitations. Otherwise we will be impractical, like the blind leading the blind. What has helped you to be realistic about what you can and cannot do?

3. "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit." This parable invites us to examine the motivation behind what we do. If our basic motivation is love, then our lives will bear good fruit. If love is absent from our lives then the fruits will be conflict, disharmony and abuse of people for our own selfish ends.

Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Face to Face Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday**

5th March February at 7.30pm in the Maryborough Hotel, Maryborough Hill, Douglas, T12 XR12.

This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age of your child, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance.

We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie



SECOND COLLECTION W/E 9th. MARCH. IRISH BISHOPS COMMISSIONS.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
March Church Gate collection will take place on **Week ending 1/2 March 2025**
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.
THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

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 28th February - Next meeting
Joined by Sinéad O'Hallohan - Senior Language Therapist



Thought for the day

For many, it is seemingly possible to sleep-walk through life, to live on an entirely sentient level. Perhaps our current culture of distraction supports such superficial so-called living. Many, however, are dissatisfied and long for an awakening, a conversion, a transformation, for something more. Such a hunger of the heart is acknowledged in many religions and philosophies — Jesus' teaching here could just as easily be on the lips of the Gautama Buddha. The difference for Christians is the grace of God in Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, it is all grace, grace upon grace as the Prologue of John puts it.

Prayer

God of all our awakenings, we know that the journey inward is the journey home. Keep our hearts restless until we come to rest in you.

Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE – Hail Queen of Heaven
Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean Star:
Guide of the wand'rer here below,
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care;
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the wand'rer, pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,
We sinners make our prayers through thee;
Remind thy Son that He has paid
The price of our iniquity.
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,
Pray for the sinner, pray for me.

RECESSIONAL - How Great Thou Art

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: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee etc.

youth 2000 RETREAT

The spring Munster Youth 2000 retreat will take place at Knockadoon Camp, Co. Cork from Friday evening 7th - Sunday 9th March. Everyone aged 16 - 35 is welcome to attend for all or part of the weekend. Donation only, suggested donation €75 pp (includes accommodation and meals). Please see www.youth2000.ie

Maranatha is a full-day faith-based, high energy music event for young people from parishes across the diocese attending post-primary schools. Students from over half of the post primary schools have already been preparing for Maranatha 2025. This cumulates in a concert in **Cork City Hall on Thursday 6th March** with over 500 young people and musicians singing together. Maranatha was created to bring young people together to celebrate their faith and identity through music and have fun at the same time. Please support our young people by coming to this event. Tickets are €15 (plus booking fee) and are available to book on eventbrite.ie, search Maranatha. Doors open 6.45, with concert beginning at 7.30pm.