

Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Marguerite Buckley, Glasnevin, Dublin
May the light of God surround her forever.



Our Lady of Lourdes

Next Tuesday is the beautiful Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On Tuesday morning, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Healing and Anointing at 9.30am Mass in the church to celebrate 33rd World Day of the Sick in this Jubilee Year.



In his words for this day, Pope Francis speaks of God's closeness to people who are sick in three particular ways. He speaks of Encounter in that 'God does not abandon us and often amazes us by granting us a strength that we never expected and would never have found on our own'. Secondly, he speaks of Gift in that 'suffering makes us aware that hope comes from the Lord'.

Thirdly he eloquently speaks of Sharing so that 'We need to learn how to cherish the gentle smile of a nurse, the gratitude and trust of a patient, the caring face of a doctor or volunteer, or the anxious and expectant look of a spouse, a child, a grandchild or a dear friend. All these are rays of light to be treasured; even amid the dark night of adversity, they give us strength, while at the same time teaching us the deeper meaning of life, in love and closeness (cf. Lk 10:25-37). Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. St. Bernadette, pray for us.

Fr. Michael

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

Family of Parish Meetings – as part of the Diocesan Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment, representatives from Blackrock Parish will join with representatives from the Parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock Road and Mahon on 11th, 18th & 25th February in Blackrock Parish Centre. The purpose of these meetings is for our parishes to work together to reflect on the Eucharist, the centrality of the Sacrament of Baptism and to review our Family of Parishes.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

Oh, ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Healer of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comforter of the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Look upon me with mercy. When you appeared in the grotto of Lourdes, you made it a privileged sanctuary where you dispense your favours, and where many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. My loving Mother, obtain my request. I will try to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading **Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8**
You will recognise in this scene words we use every day in the Mass: holy, holy, holy. The words come from the written account of the call of Isaiah the prophet. It might help to ask, how is God calling me today? Am I hearing his call?

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**
The people of Corinth believe in Jesus risen from the dead, but can't believe the dead will rise in Christ. Paul begins his teaching by reminding them of the earliest Christian tradition and creed. At the centre of it all is the conviction that Jesus is risen from the dead, as the earliest believers bore witness.

Gospel **Luke 5:1-11**
This account—unique to Luke—invites different kinds of reaction. Not only "call" but also courage and "awe" before God.

The Papers Say.....

Tablet. (1)England, Wales & Scotland -- Sunday Mass-goer numbers increase by 50,000 in a year. (2). Starmer's choice -- Britain must decide: Europe or the US. (3) The covenant with God -- Celebrating Jesus the Jew. (4). The early Church. -- The ancient account of Saint Brigid tells us something about the part that women played in the early centuries of Christianity in Ireland, and offer a hint of how women can change the Church today!

Irish Catholic. (1). Fr. Bernard Cotter of Cork: The unspoken reality of appointments. (2). Elise Ann Allen: Pope leads global summit on defending children's rights. (3). Michael Kelly: Lament for Melleray. -- 'Trappist', the very word cries out prayer, work and focus on the things that endure. (4). Polka dancing, Hershey's Kisses and novenas for World Marriage Day in US. (5). Breda O'Brien: Anger can be good. -- it is the work of a lifetime to become virtuous enough to be angry at the right time.

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SECOND CHURCH COLLECTION W/E 8th & 9th FEBRUARY
DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE.

Welcome – Witamy – there was a great attendance from the Polish Community in Holy Cross Church last Sunday afternoon for Mass at 3pm. Everyone present really appreciated the church and the warm welcome which they received. We look forward to great days ahead for the Polish Chaplaincy, for Mahon Parish and our Family of Parishes. *Fr. Michael*

Sunday 9th February, 2025, is World Day of the Sick. On that day we are holding a special Mass at 12.15 p.m. in our church in Mahon.

WIN A TRIP TO MEDJUGORJE

Medjugorje Irish Centre Free Prize draw taking place on 1st April. Prize for one person includes 7 nights B&B, return airport transfer and flights up to €300.

To enter go to prize draw page on website www.med-irishcentre.com
Tel. 01 443 4510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com



Officers elected at the AGM of Blackrock Hurling Club

Back row L-R Dan Cronin Chairman Underage, Sean Coakley Equipment Officer, Con O Shea Irish Officer, Jane Lenihan County Board Rep, John Green Treasurer. Seated L-R David Coakley Coaching Officer, Fergal Coakley Secretary, Ger Coughlan Vice Chairman, Fergal Ryan Chairman, Roger Ryan President. Missing from picture are Justin Quirke Registrar and Paul Dollyery PRO *PIC George Hatchell*

Observations

What happens in death?
What was going on in Corinth? It was a recently found Christian community in the large and beautiful city of Corinth, on the Gulf of Corinth in Greece. The community was full of energy and gifts, tensions and problems. In other words, they were alive and normal! Paul addresses many of the problems in his first letter to them. Specifically on the resurrection, it seems that while all in the community really did believe Jesus was risen from the dead there were some who simply couldn't go on to believe that the dead would rise in Christ. The problem was partly one of imagination: they took their corpses seriously — and they just couldn't see or imagine how a dead body could come back to life. You can see their point — death does involve a departure, a destruction and a kind of defeat.

How did Paul go about helping them? In the course of 1 Cor 15, he takes three steps. The first step in our reading today: the founding experience of those who first encountered the risen Christ. He was reminding them, as he says, of their faith in Christ risen. This was the faith they received and in which they stood.

For the next two Sundays, we have a chance to reflect on these mysterious things.



Reflections

1. The invitation from Jesus to put out the net again, with surprising results. Have there been times when you had little hope of results, but decided to try once again and were pleasantly surprised by what happened?
2. "Put out into the deep water". When have you found that blessings, or progress, came when you had the courage to venture into unfamiliar waters, where you felt uneasy and insecure? What, or who, helped to give you that courage?
3. Simon had a profound sense of a power at work that he could not understand. When have you had a sense of the divine breaking into everyday experience?
4. The disciples "left everything and followed Jesus". This step was preceded by their experience of the concern of Jesus for them, the attraction of his work, teaching and actions. Recall the story of key decisions or turning points in your life. Who was Jesus for you in those situations?

PRAYER

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory and in your presence angels stand in awe. Enlarge our vision, that we may recognise your power at work in your Son and join the apostles and prophets as heralds of your saving word.

The death took place on 31st January of Fr John Byrne OSA. Fr John wrote the Reflections in our newsletter each week and was a very close co-worker with Fr Kieran O'Mahony OSA. He will be missed by all his Augustinian brothers and extended family. May he rest in peace.

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

Thought for the day

We tend to think of the first disciples as somehow "clergy" with a call special to them. But that is not adequate. Jesus is first of all calling disciples, that is ordinary people, including ourselves. Discipleship includes experience, learning and risk. What experiences have brought me this far? What have I learned and am I still learning? How about the call to "put out into the deep"? Is the Lord asking of me a deeper following, both costly and lifegiving? How am I responding? Is there something in me hesitating and holding back? Do I need to hear again the words, "Do not be afraid"?

Prayer

God of surprises, help us to take the risk of following Jesus on a path of discipleship costing "not less than everything." Help us to let go, that we may live the Gospel fully and richly

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE

Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here. Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found. We stand on holy ground. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

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.*

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on **Tuesday 18th February 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. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie We are keen to grow this peer support group and are grateful for your help in raising awareness of this free support for bereaved parents in your parish community.

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.