

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

Marguerite Buckley, Glasnevin, Dublin

Pat (Patrick) Ruttledge, Ballinlough

May the light of God surround them forever.



Baptism

Elizabeth Mai Sisk.

Welcome to the Christian Family.



Welcome – Witamy – Fáilte –

The Polish Mass on last Sunday afternoon in Holy Cross Church was very well attended as was the Mass there on Friday evening at 7.30pm. The Polish Community have indicated that they are delighted to have the opportunity to gather in Holy Cross Church and in our Family of Parishes. People are more than welcome to attend any of these Masses and may find the times suitable to their needs. Furthermore, it is wonderful to witness the participation and singing at these Masses.



It is hoped that the Polish Community will become an integral part of our Family of Parishes and we appreciate the many blessings that they are already bringing to our parishes.

Fr. Michael
085 9735905

frmichael@corkandross.org

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

Do This in Memory Mass on this Saturday 15th February @ 6pm for all the First Holy Communion children and their families. The Sacrament of First Confession will be celebrated in the coming weeks in the church. Welcome to all and be assured that we are all praying for the children and their families.

Sacrament of Confirmation celebrations have commenced this year. We congratulate the children from Scoil na Croise Naofa who received their Confirmation in Holy Cross Church last Thursday 13th February. Rang a Shé from Gaelscoil Mhachan will receive their Confirmation on Tuesday 4th March in Holy Cross. Sixth Class from Scoil Ursula, Scoil Barra Naofa Caillini and Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí will receive their Confirmation in the church on Friday 28th March and they are working hard in preparation. This year the Confirmation for St. Anthony's Boys School in Ballinlough Parish will take place here in St. Michael's Church on Tuesday 25th February. (please note that weekday Mass will be at 9am on that morning to facilitate the Confirmation)

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-8

Using the imagery of both wilderness and oasis, Jeremiah puts before us two contrasting ways, the way of death and the way of life. Lets choose life!

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

At the time of writing, some people in Corinth believed fully in Jesus risen from the dead, but did not believe that the dead would experience resurrection (not unknown today!?) Paul puts them right by pointing out sharply the lack of logic in their thinking.

Gospel Luke 6:17, 20-26

The Sermon on the Plain in Luke corresponds to the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. Both being with "blessed" saying, beatitudes. Luke's four beatitudes are matched by four trenchant woes.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Fr. Tom Grufferty: Relentless Ministry-- They need a day off and we need the courage to tell our people what we can do and the issues we cannot cope with. (2). Mary Kenny: Study says. -- More immigration means more religious practice. (3). Matt Talbot -- The man who loved books. (4). Cardinal Koch renjects extreme traditionalist and progressive positions on Vatican II. (5). Remembering the Holocaust and asking - Why?

Tablet of 8/2. (1). Seamus Heaney, the courteous apostate -- Catholicism provided a bedrock of imagery and inspiration for he Nobel Prize winning poet, and his defection from it was without bitterness or reproach. (2). Germany -- Churches unite to oppose bill aiming to limit immigration. (3). Middle East peace -- Who won the Gaza war? (4). Solidarity and Subsidiarity -- Vance's priorities

Tablet of 1/2. (1). The Covenant with God -- Celebrating. Jesus the Jew. (1). The early Church -- The ancient account of St. 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!



Pictured at the presentation of cheques to Parkinsons Ireland Cork Branch and the School of the Divine Child Lavanagh Centre Ballintemple. The monies raised were the proceeds of a very successful fundraiser by Ballintemple friends held recently in Blackrock Hurling Club. Pictured seated l-r Tom Maher, Orla Clifford, Norma O Mahony, Sandra Slowey, Fiona Thomas, Back Row l-r Jerome Maume, Vincent O'Brien, Mark Slowey, Gearoid Duffy, Eamonn Kavanagh, Donal O Mahony. The presentations took place in the Lavanagh Centre Ballintemple. pic George Hatchell

Funeral Ministry Team Formation

The Office for Mission and Ministry will be offering three formation sessions for new teams and for new members of existing teams in the **Parish Room of St. Patrick's Church, Dunmanway, Co. Cork on Wednesdays, March 19th and 26th and April 2nd from 7.30pm to 9.00pm.**

To register please visit <https://tinyurl.com/mission-ministry> or by contacting the Office at 021-735517.

Observations

Would you like to flourish?

We are probably more familiar with the 8 or 9 Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. Luke locates this teaching in the Sermon on the Plain. In fact, Luke has shaped the Sermon on the Plain (6:17-49) into three sections, actually followed by the lectionary: Luke 6:20-26 (6C25), vv. 27-38 (7C25) and vv 39-49 (8C25). So these three Sundays are very focused. Each section is carefully indicated by Luke (vv. 20a, 27a and 39a).

Before plunging in, there is a question of how to translate the opening word of each Beatitude. Our readings are taken from the original Jerusalem Bible and there we find the word "happy", as in "How happy are the poor." The most recent version of the Jerusalem Bible has reverted to the traditional "Blessed are the poor." The challenge for translators is that both meanings are in the original Greek, makarios. Here are three modern efforts to come up with something fresh. One British writer, the Jesuit Nicholas King, came up with "congratulations to the poor" which captures the paradox but makes me just a bit uncomfortable. His compatriot, the Anglican bishop and scholar Tom Wright did much better. He rendered it thus: Blessings on the poor, which has a nice energy. But the best I came across comes an American evangelical scholar called Jonathan Pennington. In his study of the Sermon on the Mount, he comes up "Flourishing are the poor." It might not be your only version but it does capture the two senses of happy and blessed and a very attractive energy. After all, who would not like to flourish?

Reflections

1. We are told that Jesus "fixed his eyes on the disciples" before speaking. It suggests that he was about to say something that he really wanted them to take in. Surprisingly he then tells them it is no bad thing for us to be poor or hungry. But perhaps you have recognised the truth in what St. Augustine said "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."
2. "Blessed are you who weep" is not an encouragement to be miserable. Rather it is an affirmation of the importance of loving relationships in life. We are blessed to have such people in our lives, but there may also be pain. Yet is it not true that the blessing of loving and being loved is worth the price you pay?
3. Jesus said that his followers would be open to opposition and ridicule because of him, and they are blessed when this happens. Unpleasant it may, but have you not been grateful on those occasions when you had the courage to stand by something that you believed in?

PRAYER

O God, who alone can satisfy our deepest hungers, protect us from the lure of wealth and power; move our hearts to seek first your kingdom, that ours may be the security and joy of those who place their trust in you.

We make our prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

Family of Parish Meetings – as part of the Diocesan Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment, representatives from Blackrock Parish joined in the first of a series of three meetings as a Family of Parishes and facilitated by the Office of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese. Participants reflected on the Sacrament of Baptism at this initial meeting. Further meetings will take place on Tuesday 18th February reflecting on the Eucharist and on 25th February to review the Family of Parishes model established in recent years. Sincere thanks to those who are representing Blackrock Parish at these meetings for their time and dedication. Fr. Michael

Thought for the day

We all know from experience that happiness can be confused with all sorts of things — enjoyment, getting my own way, pleasure etc. We also all know— in our heart of hearts—that true happiness is not something that I have for myself but something that I am with others. Rather than something I possess, it is something that I am, with my values and vision. The paradox of human life is that we attain happiness not by aiming at it for ourselves but only making other people the focus of our lives and loves. In the words of St Paul: *Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (Rom 13:8)*

Prayer

God of our happiness, give us the wisdom that you alone can give so that we also may be wise and come to life in abundance, according to your will.

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.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

February collection came to €2135

Many thanks for your generous continued support.