

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

Pat O'Hara, Church Road

Catherine Keating, Skehard Road

May the light of God surround them forever.



Celebrating the Sacraments

While Lent and Easter are quite late this year, our church, schools and parish are already busy preparing and celebrating the Sacraments of First Confession and Confirmation. It's nice to see the children present for some of the morning Masses helping us all to pray for them and to support them. The celebration of the regular Do This in Memory Masses and the recent Confirmation Enrolment ceremony in the church on Saturdays have been great gatherings and celebrations.

All of these take place in a rapidly evolving faith landscape in our families and parishes. We need to support the young people and their families as a faith community and we do this through these regular gatherings and through our prayers. Life is increasingly complicated and our prayerful support can be a great steadying influence and contribution.

May God bless all the young people, their families, schools and our parish.

Fr. Michael
085 8735905

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Welcome – Witamy – Fáilte – Everyone is welcome to the Polish Mass in Holy Cross on each Sunday @ 3pm and each Friday @ 7.30pm. These are wonderful celebrations and the Polish Community have told us that they really appreciate the welcome received in Mahon Parish and our Family of Parishes and that it already feels like home for them.

Cork and Ross Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year will take place from Fri. 19th – Wed. 24th September. We will fly from Cork to Lourdes. Bookings are now open with Joe Walsh Tours on 01 2410 800 for anyone wishing to travel as a pilgrim. Volunteers are also required: Doctors, Nurses, Care Assistants and Helpers (Adults and Young Adults aged between 18 to 25 years). For General Enquiries contact 085 2525 040 or Email: lourdes@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 – there was a great attendance and good atmosphere at this Mass on last Saturday evening in the church. The next Do This in Memory Mass with all the First Holy Communion children and their families will be on Saturday 22nd March @ 6pm.

Ash Wednesday - 5th March – Mass and Distribution of Ashes @ 9.30am. Lenten Trocáire Boxes now available in the church.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 11-13, 22-23

A tiny bit of background may help: Saul, king of Israel, set out to kill David. David in turn has a chance to kill the king, but doesn't. If you listen carefully, you will hear why.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Christian faith in life after death is based not on nature or immortality of soul, but on the resurrection of Jesus himself. There is great energy in Paul's proclamation—an energy we need today as well.

Gospel Luke 6:27-38

The teaching of Jesus has had great appeal, even beyond the Christian faith or the churches. Nevertheless, it can be disconcerting. In the midst of teaching that we know and love, there is also teaching which is disturbing and deeply challenging.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1)The power of Synodal practices -- learning from the Benedictines. (2). Maris Steen: Scripture warns us not to place our trust in princes. (3). Martin Harran: A layman's response to Relentless Ministry. (4). David Quinn: How the social media giants engaged in censorship

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

Tablet. (1)Lessons in faith -- Strange ways of theology. (2). Theology and Revolution. -- Fighting the good fight. (3). Letters to the Editor -- Time to revisit the lectionary. (4) Cause of First World War hero Fr. Willie Doyle 'is progressing well'. (5). Trump's Gaza plan 'amounts to ethnic cleansing'



The members of St. Michael's Conference, SVP in Blackrock, Cork, were delighted to receive a very generous donation of €2,700 recently from the **Indian Orthodox Community** in Cork. This money was raised at their Melodia concert held in St. Finbarr's GAA Club last November, and it will be used to support families and individuals in the Blackrock area.

SVP Area President John McAdoo is seen here accepting the cheque from Benita John, Sajish Mathew, Shybu Varghese and Kuriakose Varghese. Also present are members of SVP St. Michael's Conference.

Confirmation – Sixth Class pupils from St. Anthony's School, Ballinlough will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation here in St. Michael's Church on next Tuesday 25th February @ 10.30am. Bishop Buckley will be the celebrant. Please note that the regular morning Mass will be at 9am that morning.

Families of Parishes Meetings – As part of the Diocesan Year of prayer, listening and discernment, representatives from the four parishes of Blackrock, Ballinlough, Blackrock Road & Mahon have met on 11th & 18th February and will meet again this week on Tuesday 25th February. The first two meetings reflected on the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. The final meeting this week will involve a review of the Family of Parishes model established in 2022-23. We are grateful to our representatives from Blackrock Parish for their involvement.

Observations

Love your enemies

It would be easy and perhaps tempting to think that our Gospel today is chiefly about morals, about how we behave. I suppose it is about morals but more profoundly it is about who we are on the inside. Character comes before action; spirituality comes before morality.

Firstly, Jesus was, in his own way, a kind of philosopher, an observer of life, with profoundly alternative ways of looking at things. His teaching to love your enemies was ground-breaking in its day and has lost nothing of its disturbing "novelty".

Secondly, the call to a higher, even impossible love is a central part of the Christian message. As Jesus insistently points out, there is nothing very special about loving those who love you. Jesus' higher teaching calls for an inner conversion to seek the good, to do what is right, to be loving, beyond what comes naturally.

Thirdly, that very point is made by Luke: be compassionate as your heavenly Father is compassionate. So, how compassionate is God? Again, a vivid illustration is given: he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. We, in our turn, are glad recipients of God's compassion and kindness, gifts which "reside" in us only when they become part of us, only when we ourselves are compassionate and kind in turn.

Reflections

1. Our natural tendency when attacked is to self-protection and when we are attacked we attack back. We respond to an angry word with another, or to a blow by hitting back. Here Jesus suggests that at times there may be another way to act. What has been your experience of retaliation? Has it been life-giving? Have you experience of another way of acting?

2. When we do good to another, it can sometimes be in return for what we have received. At other times it can be done in the hope of getting something back. Or we may do it simply for the sake of doing good without any strings attached. Jesus suggests that this is when we are at our best. Recall your experience of these different ways of giving and celebrate the occasions when you gave without expectation of return.

3. Jesus proposes the generosity of God as a model for our generosity, and says that the generous will be rewarded. Perhaps you have experienced rewards, even in this life, from generous behaviour.

PRAYER

Compassionate God and Father, you are kind to the ungrateful, merciful even to the wicked. Pour out your love upon us, that with good and generous hearts we may keep from judging others and learn your way of compassion.

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.

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

In the most generous perspective, the desire for retaliation represents a longing for justice and equity. For example, "an eye for an eye." Such justice is easily distorted into vengeance, hence the limiting of vengeance to precisely equal retaliation in the Old Testament. That tempering of vengeance does not really go far enough. The problem is responding in kind—the ultimate logic of which would be one person left with one eye!! Jesus goes to the heart of the matter: do not respond to violence with violence, do not engage at the level offered. Instead, turn the dynamic on its head: love your enemies and break the cycle of hatred and violence.

Prayer

Help us, compassionate God, to take to heart the teaching of Jesus that love without limit may be our rule of life.

[K O'Mahony OSA](#)

ENTRANCE

– Hail Queen of Heaven

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean Star:
Guide of the wand'r'er 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'r'er, 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.

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

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

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!



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.