

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

Maureen O'Flynn, Ballinlough

May the light of God surround her forever.



3rd Sunday of Lent

The season of Lent is moving on and we have reached the Third Sunday already. It is so easy to forget that we are in a sacred time of the year in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. This is very so much so this year as Holy Week and Easter come so late in April. If we have undertaken some sacrifice or some work of charity for Lent, then we refresh our resolve to turn our hearts and minds to God.



Fr. Michael

085 8735905

frmichael@corkandross.org

Thank you for your generosity to the parish in the weekly offertory collections and scheduled collections for the maintenance, repair and upkeep of St. Michael's Church as well as those who support the church via standing order or by donating online via the donate facility on the parish website. Your loyal support ensures that we have a very welcoming and well maintained church. Go raibh maith agat.

Confirmation – Next Friday we welcome Bishop Fintan Gavin to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with the Sixth Classes pupils in Scoil Barra Naofa Cailíní, Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí and Scoil Ursula. There are 75 candidates for Confirmation. May the Lord bless the young people, their families, their schools and our parish.

Trocáire Boxes – available in the church.

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

Children's Adoration – Friday 4th April 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 (087 7798175)

Annual Legion of Mary Ceremony

The Acies will be held here in St. Michael's on Thursday 27th. March commencing with the Rosary at 7.15p.m. Former active members and auxiliaries etc. are very welcome to attend. Refreshments will follow in the Parish Centre.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on each Friday of Lent after the 9.30 Mass.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Fr. Michael has generously offered the poor box near the exit as a collection point for SVP.

If you wish to contribute any time, it would be appreciated.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Names are important to us and in this reading God gives us God's own name. The name, YHWH, reveals and conceals: my nature will become evident in the actions.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Are there lessons from the past? Paul uses the story of the Exodus to shake up the Christians in Corinth.

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

The gospel, too, is a little frightening: now is the time, so don't lose the moment. At the same time, it is a parable of hope, because there is another chance, now, today. If not now, when?

The Papers Say.....

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Re;Link, a resource for Junior Certificate Studies. -- Holy Week and Easter. (2)Fr. Bernard Cotter: Looking forward to the Easter Vigil. (3). Women in the Vatican. -- The number of women in Vatican leadership positions has increased under Pope Francis.

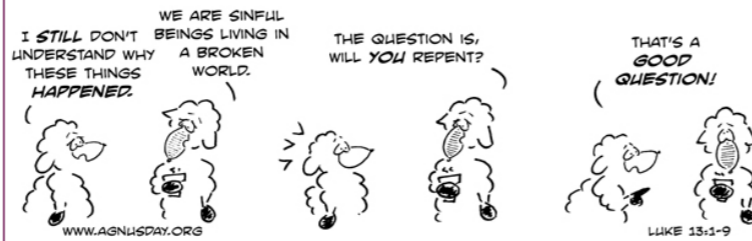
(4). Fr. John Cullen: Mercy. -- What Mary knew.

Irish Catholic. (1). The unchristian politics of President. -- Book Review of 'Jesus and the Powers. Christian political witness in an age of totalitarian terror and dysfunctional democracies'. (2). The pressures of modern hurling. -- 'We expect so much from these young men'. (3). Cardinal Grech: A new path to help the Church walk in a Synodal style. (4). Questions of Faith. -- Does the Church grant annulments in cases of marital infidelity?

Tablet. (1). Sizeable increase in adults joining Church at Easter in dioceses in England, Scotland and Ireland. (2)Light from the East? -- The influence of the Catholic Church in Asia has always extended far beyond the paltry numbers of the faithful. But there has not been an Asian Pope for nearly 1,300 years.

(3). Lent 2025. Coming home -- While he was still far off.

(4). Religion in the White House. -- Donald Trump is famously proud of his Hebridean ancestry but the influence on him of his Scottish Presbyterian roots takes expert scrutiny to detect.



The Matt Talbot Novena

continues in Togher Church on Tuesday next, 25th March, Most Reverend Ray Browne, Bishop of Kerry Diocese will join us to celebrate the third of our 5 Novena nights this year.

Anyone who wishes to take a Short Term pledge until Easter or replace a Pioneer emblem may do so after the Matt Talbot Novena any night

SECOND COLLECTION W/E 29TH/30TH MARCH; DIOCESAN NEEDS.

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 corkandross.org/office-for-mission-and-ministry or by contacting the Office at 021-7355517.

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.

Observations

Where we hear the words "I am who I am," our first reaction could be that the disclosure is a kind of anti-disclosure, revealing and just as much concealing. There is something right about this, because God must always be awesome, beyond and to us, a mystery. In fact, our word mystery comes from an ancient Greek word muō, meaning to close or shut the mouth or the lips, that is, to remain silent. A contemporary monk has written as follows:

"The natural language of God is silence. Everything else is a poor translation. In order to understand this language, we must learn to be silent and to rest in God."

It is a good warning: anything we say of God must be qualified by our awareness any word we use of God is coming from a very limited human experience, a distortion of some kind. The name of God is indeed mystery.

Reflections

1. Jesus rejects the idea that personal misfortune is God's punishment for sin. Yet a serious illness or accident can serve as a wake-up call about how we live our lives. How have such experiences given you a greater appreciation of the value of your life and relationships, and of the time and opportunities at your disposal?

2. "I'll wait till tomorrow to do that". Have you ever said that and then found the chance is gone the next day? In the story, we are called to recognise God at work in our lives and respond to Him. NOW is the opportune moment. When have you been glad you did not put off action to the following day?

3. Perhaps there have been times when you saw yourself like the tree in the parable—useless, merely a waste of space. Think of friends who came to you at such a time, people who saw your potential and were prepared to give you another chance, people who also dug the soil around you and gave you the helps you needed to grow. Perhaps in your turn you have been able to do this for others.

PRAYER

God of salvation, we stand before you on holy ground, for your name is glorified and your mercy revealed wherever your mighty deeds are remembered. Since you are holy and forbearing, turn us from every rash and shallow judgment to seek the ways of repentance.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and our hope, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.

Cork Alzheimers Café

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 March - Next meeting

Joined by Ciara O'Neill - Occupational Therapist

Speaking about Memory Aids and Memory Technology



Cork Scripture Group Exploring Prophecy in the Bible

4 Monday nights (24, 31 March, 7, 14 April) from 7.30-9.30 p.m. in Scala, Blackrock

Presenters: Fr Seán O'Sullivan, Sheila Curran, Marian Mortell, Rosalie Moloney

Workshop on "Prophecy: Reading the signs of the times" with Jessie Rogers (Maynooth) in Sacred Heart Hall, Western Road from 10.00- 1.00 p.m. on Sat.5 April Cost €50.

To book a place please email corkscripturegroup@gmail.com

Thought for the day

We are all aware of the fleeting nature of time and we all have experience of the missed opportunity, the moment of grace—however secular—overlooked. At the same time, we know that our God is the God of second chances and that it is never truly over. Like Augustine, we hear the insistent murmur, "if not now, when?" That future moment of grace will be just like this one, ordinary, nothing special, fleeting and yet it is the only moment that exists, the "now" of our everyday.

Prayer

Patient and insistent God, knock again on the door our hearts. We are never really ready—a sign perhaps of our everyday need of you. Help us undertake again to dig around and manure, so that under your grace, we may bear fruit, fruit that will last. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE – God of Mercy and Compassion

God of mercy and compassion
Look with pity upon me;
Father, let me call thee Father,
For I now return to thee.
Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy,
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.

By my sins I have abandoned
Right and claim to Heaven above,
Where the saints rejoice for ever
In a boundless sea of love.
Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy,
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.

RECESSIONAL - Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

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

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

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is 2017