

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

Jacqueline Morehead, Blackrock
Gretta Lehane, Willowbank



May the light of God surround them forever.

Fourth Sunday of Lent –

Lent is moving ahead very quickly as we look forward to Holy Week and Easter. Hopefully, we will also have more springlike and warmer days ahead as well. This Sunday is also Mother's Day and best wishes to all the mothers, nanas and grannies who have given us everything in life especially the gift of our faith in God. We remember especially those who have gone to their heavenly reward. May they enjoy the eternal light of Heaven so richly deserved.



This weekend we listen to one of the greatest messages in the scripture, the parable of the Prodigal Son. May we all use this time to convert our hearts to the Lord and humbly gather to celebrate the forgiveness, mercy and love of God.

Fr. Michael

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Confirmation – Congratulations to the Sixth Class pupils of Scoil Barra Naofa Cailíní, Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí and Scoil Ursula who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation during the week. Bishop Fintan celebrated a beautiful ceremony and we were blessed with a nice day. May the Lord bless the young people, their families, their schools and our parish.

Confessions in preparation for Holy Week will be celebrated on Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th April after weekend Masses.

Holy Week 2025

Holy Thursday @ 7pm
(Celebration of the Lord's Supper)
Good Friday @ 12noon (Stations of the Cross)
& 3pm (Ceremony of the Passion)
Holy Saturday @ 7pm (Easter Vigil)
Easter Sunday @ 9am & 11am.



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

SECOND COLLECTION W/E 29th/30th MARCH: DIOCESAN NEEDS.

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 Joshua 5:9-12

All transition is difficult, eliciting choice and change. The entry into the land marked a major transition from nomadic to settled living.

Second reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Our reading today balances nicely between the first reading and the Gospel. Like the first reading, new realities call for new practices. Like the Gospel, reconciliation stands at the centre of Christ's mission and ours.

Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

See if you can listen in a fresh way to this great parable by noticing that the story is unresolved at the end and by asking yourself why Luke leaves it openended like that.

The Papers Say.....

Tablet. (1). Austin Ivereigh: Ecclesial assembly -- Pope Francis has signed off an ambitious three-year plan that makes clear that no diocese or bishops' conference can opt out of the process to embrace Synodality in the life of the Church. (2). Lent 2025. -- Prayer: Petition, gratitude, wonder. (3). Letters, Topic of the Week -- Look to Asia for a new Pope. (4). Zelensky asks religious leaders to back him.

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Re:Link, a resource for Junior Certificate Studies -- Holy Week and Easter. (2). Women in the Church. -- The number of women in Vatican leadership positions has increased under Pope Francis.

(3). Fr. Bernard Cotter: Looking forward to the Easter Vigil.

Irish Catholic. (1). David Quinn: Adolescence -- Boys need positive male role models. (2). GAA giant, Sean Og O'hAlpin admits he would struggle as a teenager now. (3). Bishops Donal Roche: I never found priestly ministry relentless. (4) Dr. Anna Rowlands: The Spirit is as active in our time as the times of the Apostles and Pentecost.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

March Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 6 April 2025

Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

YOU KNOW, SOME PEOPLE ARE OFFENDED BY GOD'S LAVISH GENEROSITY



OH, I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT.....



....AS LONG AS I GET MY FAIR SHARE!



Diocesan Needs Quarterly Collection

The Diocese supports parishes through all kinds of services such as Education, School Religious Faith Formation support, Mission and Ministry, Youth Ministry, Safeguarding, Stewardship and Governance and in areas such as Data Protection, Finance and Property advisory.

This assistance to parishes is only possible through your ongoing generosity. In January the Diocesan Quarterly Collection amounted to €56,738 for which the Diocese is most grateful. These collections allow us to support the work in Parishes and Families of Parishes. This work is vital to enable our parishes to be renewed and invigorated. As we continue the Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment in our Diocese and discern how God is calling us to be his Church and Faith Communities into the future, your financial support if vital to allow this to happen.

The next quarterly Diocesan collection will take place on this weekend. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated.

Observations

The story of the prodigal son is one of the best remembered and familiar stories in the New Testament. It would be (relatively) easy to feel that there is nothing new in such a well-loved narrative. Hearing the same stories year in year out can dull our capacity to hear.

And yet, the Prodigal Son is a truly remarkable piece of writing — much richer than we usually allow ourselves to recognise. Appreciated as a very short short story, it was much admired by Tolstoy and you can see why. Perhaps it can speak to us again in a fresh way.

The story has many dimensions with a kind of ricochet effect. A short list would include:

Relationships: Fathers, sons, brothers, foreigners, servants, and, in an unsettling way, women.

Feelings: desire, autonomy, rivalry, dependence, shame, jealousy, resentment.

And for issues: property, inheritance, rights and duties, authority, family inheritance.

It is a lot to pack into a short story and gives us plenty to think about.

Reflections

1. Like many a parable, this story makes its point in what seems to be unfair: the spendthrift son is rewarded and the elder son is hurt and angry. Jesus is telling us that love is a free gift, not something we earn by our goodness. This is true of human love, and is also true of God's love. When have you experienced this truth in the love you have received from others? When has the experience of human love prompted you to reflect on God's love for you?

2. After some time the younger son "came to himself" and returned home. Where and when have you experienced a homecoming after a time of exile and alienation? What helped you to come to yourself and make that journey home?

3. The older son resented the welcome given to the younger son after his wandering and dissolute life. This contrasts with the welcome the father gave the younger son. Perhaps you have experienced these differing attitudes in yourself. What were they like for you? Where was there life for you or for others?

PRAYER

God of compassion, you await the sinner's return and spread a feast to welcome home the lost. Save us from the temptations that lead us away from you, and draw us back by the constancy of your love, that we may take our place in your household and gladly share our inheritance with others. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 6th April for tea and bikkies and more chat!

Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!
Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



Thought for the day

Both sons have misconstrued the relationship with their father. The older son wants to relate on a basis of servile loyalty (allegorically, the Law). The younger son, on his return, wishes to relate on the basis of confession of sin and desires to be treated as a slave. The father rejects both projections. Servile loyalty and guilt are not unknown in the Christian tradition!

Prayer

Abba, Father, show us your compassion and let us know your love.

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.

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.

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.

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening for Cork will take place on Wednesday 2nd April at 7.30pm in the Maryborough Hotel, Douglas.

