

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock, Cork

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29/06/2025

Sts Peter and Paul

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES:
Email to : parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office.
MARRIAGES: Minimum 3 months notice required by Church and State.
Pre-marriage course required.

1230

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
Mary Murray (née Fitzgerald). Ballyvolane, late of Blackrock, Cork
May the light of God surround her forever.



Wedding

Congratulations to Áine French and Patrick John O'Sullivan Green who were married in our church On 20th June 2025.
Fr. Tadhg Quinn officiated.



Summertime

As we look into the month of July, we are grateful for many good things that have taken place in our parish and Family of Parishes in recent weeks.

Cork Eucharistic Procession – there was a fine representation from Blackrock Parish at the Eucharistic Procession last Sunday. It was a very prayerful gathering and encouraging to see so many people from different parishes and different age groups participating.

St. Michael's Cemetery Mass – thanks to members of Mahon Parish Assembly along with representatives from Blackrock, Ballinlough and Blackrock Road Parishes for carefully arranging the Annual Cemetery Mass in St. Michael's last Wednesday evening. It was a very poignant and prayerful gathering. While there is an evident sadness for people and families, there is also great consolation as people gather to pray and remember. They have gone no further than to God and God is very near.

School Holidays – Please God all the children, their families and our hard-working school communities will have a good summer rest. Best wishes to all the children who graduated over the last week and celebrated beautiful liturgies to do so.

First Friday Visits to the Sick and Housebound – Many people have been in touch to let us know of a family member who would welcome a visit to receive the Blessed Sacrament in their homes. This is so important for people who came to the church all of their lives and now can do so no longer. If you know of a neighbour or family member who needs a visit just let us know.

Canon Kieran Twomey – this weekend we remember Canon Kieran Twomey our late and much-loved parish priest who returned to the House of the Father on 27th June 2019. We thank God for his deep faith and gentle presence in our parish. May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

Fr. Michael
085 8735905
frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Acts 12:1-11
The early church did experience powerful opposition, but, equally powerfully, God was with them. In our own difficult times, this parable of unexpected grace and surprising liberation may speak to us.
Second reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18
Certainly there is sense of closure in this reading, as the writer reflects on the life and fidelity of Paul. Wouldn't it be great to be able to say at the end, "I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith"?
Gospel Matthew 16:13-19
The question put by Jesus is one of those moments when every listener feels addressed: Who do you say I am? How would you begin to reply, even to yourself ?

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1) David Quinn: Why liberal societies need the right to kill. In Britain there was quite a bit of critical commentary last week after the House of Commons voted to decriminalise abortion up to birth in the case of the woman. (2). Tony Carroll. Empowering nursing home residents. -- As Christians there is the pastoral dimension which we are mandated by our faith to fulfil in our service of others. (3). Fr. Shay Cullen: Children and adults. -- victims of the harmful junk food industry. (4). The Sunday Gospel. -- Peter and Paul. -- Two pillars of faith and devotion

Tablet. (1)Margaret Hepplethwaite: Bible studies. -- Sometimes played down or neglected, the miracle at the marriage feast at Cana is rich in signs and symbols that anticipate the Last Supper and the Passion of Jesus. (2). Michael W. Higgins: What does it mean to be compassionate? The testimonies of four writers approaching death challenge our suppositions about human autonomy, suffering and authentic living and dying. (3). United States - Cardinal and bishops defend undocumented migrants. (4). Jihadist slaughter at Nigerian Catholic mission. -- Pope mourns Christian victims

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
He is truly risen! Alleluia!



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
July Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 6 July 2025
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.
THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 6 July for tea and bikkies and more chat!
Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!
Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



Observations

Perhaps it comes as a surprise that the feast of Peter and Paul takes the place of the Sunday, including the readings. There is an advantage in this: with the election of a new bishop of Rome, we can reflect on the role of Holy Father in maintaining union and communion. The feast also affords an opportunity to do some close reading of the important Gospel passage, Matthew 16:13-19.

On this feast day, we can make our own the collect for today:

O God, source of every good gift and sure foundation of our unity,
as we honour and revere Saints Peter and Paul,
grant your Church a share in their zeal for the gospel.
Strengthen our faith to be witnesses,
even unto death,
of the one Lord, 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

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.

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.

Thought for the day

The church is like the human person: we are both body and spirit at the one time. The body of Christ—which is what we are—has both a bodily reality (membership, structure and sacraments) and a spiritual reality (the life of faith and prayer, the indwelling Spirit). The institutional and the prophetic dimensions of Church are sometimes in tension and that is really normal. To be part of the living body of Christ is to hear again Jesus' question, who do you say I am? As St Paul reminds us, no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:3).
PRAYER
Christ, Son of the living God, you call us to confess your name and to acknowledge you as Lord. Help us to live our faith and find new words for what we believe so that we may proclaim your Gospel to our contemporaries in words they can understand.
K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. This marks a turning point in the life of Jesus, and of the disciples. It is the first time that his disciples recognise him as the Messiah. Recall turning points in your own journey of faith when you came to some deeper understanding of who Jesus is.
2. "Who do you say that I am?" This is possibly the most important question that Jesus puts to us. In your heart of hearts, how do you answer this question today?
3. Jesus praises Peter for his faith and comments that this was not his own doing but a gift of God. Perhaps there have been times when you have been conscious of the gift nature of your faith. Be thankful for the gift you have received.

PRAYER

O God, source of every good gift and sure foundation of our unity, as we honour and revere Saints Peter and Paul, grant your Church a share in their zeal for the gospel. Strengthen our faith to be witnesses, even unto death, of the one Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Some thoughts on today's scripture

The traditional setting for this memorable encounter in Caesarea Philippi is a lovely riverbank under a huge rocky cliff. Jesus asks: /Who do people say that I am?/ Impetuous Peter, always ready to speak out and take risks, confesses Jesus as the Messiah. It is an inspired confession. This uneducated fisherman, who was to prove so shaky when Jesus was arrested, is rewarded with a new name, suggested by the great solid rock above them; and with a new role, leading the people of God. His strength is not in his warm, impetuous nature, but in the power of God.

Reflection

The motley band of the twelve with Peter as leader would guide the future community of Jesus. They believed that Jesus was the Son of God, and later they would die for that. Our community today is somewhat similar - the motley group who are saintly and sinful, but who with firm faith believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

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