

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

Please note the change of Parish email address : parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

Recently Deceased

Kieran Punch, Cork City

Rest in Peace



Lent

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated this week and is the beginning of the Lenten Season. Of course the world is changing rapidly and while Lent was once a significant period in peoples lives now it is often reduced in the public consciousness to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. However, that is to lose the depth and tone of a special time as believers in the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. In a world of noise and confusion, Lent can be a sacred time of quiet prayer. For those for whom it's possible, why not undertake more regular Mass attendance in the coming weeks? Why not undertake some genuine or real sacrifice that can remind us each day of the beauty of our faith? Why not again encourage children or grandchildren to visit the church or to undertake some initiative for Lent?



Lent is a beautiful time of the year leading us to Holy Week and Easter. This year, the miserable weather adds to our yearning for Spring and Easter. May the coming weeks be a time of renewal and prayer for us. This weekend, we reflect on how we will approach them. Please God, we will come to receive Ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday and humbly begin a special time of the year. Fr. Michael

New Ministers of the Word & Eucharist – training for new ministers in Mahon parish and our Family of Parishes will take place in Blackrock Parish Centre on 10th & 19th March provided by the Office of Mission & Ministry in the Diocese.

Ash Wednesday – 18th February – Mass and Blessing of Ashes @ 9.30am.

Trócaire Lenten Appeal 2026 - Trócaire Boxes available in the church.

Do This in Memory Mass – welcome to the Communion children and their families to Saturday evening Mass this weekend. This is the fifth of eight such Masses for this school year in preparation for the First Confessions in March and the First Holy Communion in May. May the Lord bless the children, their families, schools and our parish.

World Day of the Sick – Celebration of the blessing and anointing of the sick will take place on Sunday 15th February @ 12.15pm Mass in Holy Cross Church.

Fr. Michael
085 8735905

frmichael@corkandross.org

Maranatha is a full-day faith-based, high energy music event for young people from parishes across the diocese attending post-primary schools. Students from over half of our post-primary schools have been preparing for Maranatha 2026. This cumulates in a concert in Cork City Hall on Thursday 26th February with over 500 young people singing together. Maranatha was created to bring young people together to celebrate their faith through music and have fun at the same time. Please support our young people by coming to this event. Tickets are €15 (plus booking fee) and are available to book on eventbrite.ie, search Maranatha. Doors open 7pm, with concert beginning at 7.30pm

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading

Sirach 15:15-21

Life is a matter of having to choose and in the words of a twentieth century writer, we are "condemned" to be free. Freedom here is not wilful choosing but real interior freedom of heart.

Second reading

1 Cor 2:6-10

As believers, we stand before the great mystery of God, greater than our minds, greater than our hearts. And yet, somehow, as St Paul teaches, we share in this mystery and God lives in us through the Spirit poured into our hearts.

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

The Sermon on the Mount has entered world literature as a great synthesis of the teaching of Jesus. In today's reading from the Sermon, Jesus teaches a morality of the heart, that goes well beyond our external actions to the heart, the inner "sanctum" from which our actions spring. It is very searching and, as we know, very true.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Mary Kenny: Misogyny is to blame, yes, but so is the sex revolution and the casual pornification of society (2). Garry O'Sullivan: Justice after death -- why naming abusers is not the injustice some claim (3) David Quinn: Social media regulators threaten free speech. (4) David Brennan: Boards of Management -- Quiet stewardship in Irish education. (5). Seeing the person behind the statistic. -- Conor Lynott on faith, disability and why human dignity cannot be reduced to systems, services or numbers

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Pray with the Pope -- An invitation from the Holy Father to pray for the challenges facing humanity.

(2). Fr. Donal Neary SJ: Women Giants of the Irish Church. (3). Under the influence -- John Scally writes about the people who influence our lives for the better

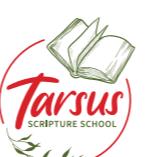
In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. For further information, please visit www.epilepsy.ie. Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday 26th March.

The AGM of **Blackrock Community Association** will take place on MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY at 12 NOON at the COMMUNITY CENTRE, CONVENT ROAD.

MASS will be celebrated at The Community Centre on TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY at 12 NOON.

TARSUS SCRIPTURE SCHOOL LENT 2026

For the coming season of Lent, we are offering a short course which explores the Gospel readings for this liturgical year. Over six pre-recorded inputs, Jessie Rogers, Séan Goan, and Kieran O'Mahony will introduce these texts, provide a commentary, and explore how they help us reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In addition to these presentations, there will also be two live webinars: a conversation with the presenters about their topics, and a meditative reading of Scripture. There is also a parish option. For all registration go to TSS/Lent



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

You have heard it said but I say to you...

By Irish tradition, the feast of St Brigid marks the first day of spring. The cycle of time moves on and we are enjoying a little more daylight in spite of the rain. Change is the one constant in life and nothing really remains the same. Cardinal Newman once wrote: "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often." Newman had in mind the Christian Church, always evolving and developing. The question arises again today as we walk the Synodal Pathway, initiated by Pope Francis and now in the hands of Pope Leo XIV. There are many proposals on the table: some are straight opposites and others are, putting in gently, in tension with the received tradition.

Across Christian history, both doctrines and ethics have evolved. An example of ethical development would be the relatively new social doctrine of the Catholic Church, asserting the equal dignity and rights of all and finally condemning, for example, slavery and human trafficking. Examples of doctrinal development would include the following: the Incarnation and the Trinity, the seven sacraments, the Eucharist, papal authority and a range of doctrines about Mary. Ecumenism, an innovation of the Protestant Churches, is now firmly part of Catholic teaching. In other words, the Catholic Church, for all its apparent resistance to change, actually practices the development of doctrine, as described by Cardinal Newman in his book of the same name. "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

Reflections

1. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus proposes standards that go beyond external ways of behaviour but challenge how we feel in our hearts. When have you found that living out of inner conviction is more life-giving than keeping up appearances? 2. Jesus applies his teaching to feelings of anger and sexual desire. He suggests that if we do not keep an eye on our feelings and thoughts we will not be able to control our actions. Perhaps you have experienced the truth of this. What has helped you to integrate your feelings so that you were able to live in right relationship with yourself and others?

3. For Jesus, persons with genuine authenticity do not need to swear an oath to be convincing. Their 'yes' or 'no' suffices. Recall people who had this kind of credibility for you. When have you found that your simple, direct and honest communication had a positive persuasive force?

PRAYER

All-seeing God, you alone judge rightly our inmost thoughts. Teach us to observe your law from the heart even as we keep it outwardly. Purify our desires, calm every anger, and reconcile us to one another. Then will our worship at your altar render you perfect praise. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Have you decided to give up alcohol for Lent? Why not make something special of your efforts by taking the short term or temporary pledge. For more information contact Sorcha (086) 3642619 or Aislinn (087) 9699488

The Matt Talbot Novena will begin on Monday 23rd February at 7.30 p.m. in The Way of the Cross, Church, Togher. The Celebrant and Preacher for the opening night is Fr. Dan Daragry C.Ss.R, Scala, Blackrock. More details will follow next week.

The **Cork Regional Pioneer Council** will hold their AGM on Wednesday 18th February at 8 p.m. in The SMA Wilton Parish Centre.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

This month's collection came to **€1885**
Many thanks for your generous wonderful support.

BAPTISMS:
MARRIAGES:

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

Thought for the day

It is clear already in the Old Testament that it is not our misdeeds which accuse us before God, but our hearts, fractured and divided as they are. Consistent with Israelite teaching, Jesus insists that we go deeper than our external deeds. The important question is what is going on in our hearts, the source of inner thoughts and motivations? The teaching is presented using various examples, presented sometimes with great simplicity, other times with irony and wit.

Prayer

O God, you read our hearts and you know us even better than we know ourselves. Let us trust your knowledge of us and your call to true conversion of heart, for you desire only our good that we may be both whole and holy.

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.*

WHAT IF
ONLINE AD
TARGETING LEADS
ME TO SIN?

WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THEN YOU LOG OFF AND
DELETE YOUR ACCOUNT.
IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO LOSE
YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE...

MATTHEW 5:21-31



Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly

Parent Support Evening on Tuesday 17th February 2026 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