



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



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

As we reach the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we can begin to wish one another 'Happy Christmas' though it's still nice to hear those words on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning in the church. These words of greeting are most meaningful when gathered to pray, to sing and to look at the Crib in the church. Our prayer is that we can be happy in our hearts on that day.

This has been a very hard year for so many people. Some families have experienced profound loss and grief. People may have experienced hurt or separation. Others have navigated change which can be painful and uncertain. All the more reason that we take a step in trust, hope and faith to greet the Newborn Jesus.

May the Lord bless and comfort you and your family. May the Lord console the broken hearted. May the Lord give courage and strength to those who are worried or fearful. May the Newborn Jesus bring you hope where hope may be hard to find. May you and your family truly experience the happiness of Christmas. - Fr. Michael

Thank You – for your loyal generosity to the parish in the weekly offertory collections and scheduled Maintenance and Repair collections. You support keeps the church very well and thank you again for that.

Christmas Dues Envelopes – have been delivered to homes week and are available in the church. It's also possible to send Christmas Dues via the 'Donate' facility on the parish website.

Christmas Masses on Wednesday Christmas Eve @ 3pm (co-ordinated by SMA Parish), 6pm & 8pm. Thursday, Christmas Day @ 9am & 11am.

Christmas Confessions after Masses this weekend of 20th/21st December.

School Communities – the parish schools have celebrated Christmas carol concerts and Nativity Plays both her in the church and their school halls over the last two weeks. That's so important and we are grateful to the schools for everything that they do for our children and young people. May they all have a restful time over Christmas.

Fr. Michael
085 8735905
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A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Isaiah 7:10-14

Every child is a blessing and in our reading today the promise of a child to the house of David is evidence of God's continued care.

Second reading Romans 1:1-7

Early Christians affirmed Jesus as a descendent of David because it marked continuity with God's earlier promises to the house of David.

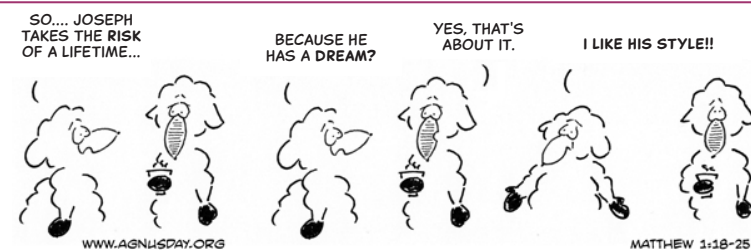
Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

"God with us" is the climax of this reading and, indeed, of the Gospel of Matthew: And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. (Matthew 28:20)

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA: **Hearers of the Word -- Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.** (2). Garry O'Sullivan: Croke Park, like Herzog Park, should not be a victim of ideological display politics. (3). Bishop Fintan Gavin: Church can offer support for mental health (4). Breda O'Brien: Do they know it's Christmas. 'Charitable giving has to work alongside pressure for the restoration of aid from states, all in respectful partnership with people in the Global South'. (5). As the homelessness crisis in Cork worsens, one local woman, Ann Wixted, shares how she hopes to help Cork Simon make a difference.

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Fr, Charlie Davy SJ: Ignatius and Liturgy -- A View from the Altar. (2). Fr. Vincent Sherlock: Ordinary Parish Life. (3). Fr. Liam Lawton: Music and Liturgy. (4). Dr. Margaret Naughton: Time for New Beginnings



Gentle reminder!!

For those attending with young children, there is a Family Room available at the top left inside the church. Thanks.



Thank You

Thanks to everyone who assisted in our Parish in any way during the year. Thanks to the Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, the collectors, sacristans, altar servers, florists, the communications and office teams. Special thanks to our Choir for their dedication and enhancing our liturgy every Sunday. Without your support, St Michael's would not the the vibrant parish it is.

Happy Christmas



The Fourth Sunday of Advent 2025

In today's Gospel, it is all in the names. The name Joseph should trigger a memory of another Joseph from the book of Genesis, of the amazing technicolour dream-coat, who was known to have significant dreams, as does our Joseph. The name Jesus, which is the Greek for Joshua, reminds us of Joshua, the companion of Moses, who led the people finally across the Jordan and into the promised land. David is also mentioned: he was the shepherd king of Israel and became the focus of hopes for a longed-for new anointed successor. Emmanuel, God is with us, echoes a phrase first uttered to Jacob in the Bible: I will be with you. This is spoken to many people, for example, not only to Jacob but also to Moses, Joshua, Solomon, Isaiah and many others. There is more: the "little annunciation" to Joseph in a dream reminds us not only of the annunciation to Mary in Luke but also evokes the birth stories of Ishmael, Isaac and Samson.

Even in this short passage of a few verses, Matthew has woven a rich tapestry of personalities, narratives and themes. With all these threads, some more obvious than others, Matthew is teaching us about Jesus, his identity and his destiny. This Jesus, a real human being, a descendent of David, is also the Son of God. He is God with us and he comes to save us. He fulfilled all that God did before and surpassed it. In this way, Matthew does exactly the same as Mark and John in their introductions — telling us who Jesus is — but pictorially or graphically and in a more accessible and memorable way. We all do "get" what the pictures are about. Matthew is also offering us the possibility of stitching the threads of our own story into this tapestry of stories.

Reflections

As we move into prayer on the passage, we move from consideration of the mystery of how "God with us" was revealed to the world in the person of Jesus two thousand years ago, to a reflection on how we become aware of "God with us" now in our daily lives.

1. It took some time for Joseph to accept the fact that in Mary there truly was Emmanuel—God with us. God is with us now, but at times we struggle to perceive God's presence. Where have you unexpectedly discovered the presence of "God with you"? Recall those experiences and give thanks.
2. Joseph was confused and uncertain about what he should do. It was difficult for him to discern what his next step should be. Perhaps you have also had to make difficult journeys on the way to some decisions or commitments. Recall that journey and the moments when it became clear to you what was being asked of you. Give thanks for the angels who helped you along the way.
3. Mary bore Jesus within her, unseen to all, and unacknowledged by most. In Joseph she found one who believed in the treasure that she bore. We can be bearers of Jesus to others, and they to us. When have you been a bearer of Jesus to another? Who has been that to you?
4. The experience of having a gift that others do not see or recognise can be painful and isolating. Then someone comes, like Joseph to Mary, who gets to believe in what we have to offer. Has that happened to you? What was it like?

PRAYER

Eternal God, in the psalms of David, in the words of the prophets, in the dream of Joseph, your promise is spoken. At last, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, your Word takes flesh. Teach us to welcome Jesus, the promised Emmanuel, and to preach the good news of his coming that every age may know him as the source of redemption and grace.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

Thought for the day

In a culture where God is, apparently, absent, it may sound strange to hear words such as "Do not be afraid" and "God is with us." Such assurances are at the heart our biblical faith from start to finish. Everyone who is anyone in the Bible is told not to be afraid. And the assurance "I will be with you" is found throughout starting with the very name of God in Ex 3:14, I am who I am. The God—in whom we live and move and have our being—is there all along, whether we are aware of it or not. Faith is the moment of discovery and recognition.

Prayer

You are with us always: you are with us in creation in all its splendour, in our fellow human beings in all their generosity, you are with us in the quiet where we are alone with you. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE – THE LORD MADE KNOWN TO ISRAEL

The Lord made known to Israel,
His great redeeming plan.
He speaks to us his people now
Through Christ his Son made man.
We have been called like Israel,
To witness to God's grace,
A people he has made his own,
A royal priestly race.

God brought his people to the mount,
As we are gathered now,
To hear His holy word proclaimed
And their allegiance vow.
We have been called like Israel,
To witness to God's grace,
A people he has made his own,
A royal priestly race.



RECESSIONAL – O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
To free your captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel,
To you shall come Emmanuel.

O royal branch of Jesse's tree,
Redeem us all from tyranny;
From pain of hell your people free,
And over death win victory.
Refrain:



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Last month's Christmas collection came to €7000 !
Many thanks for your generous wonderful support.