

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock, Cork

Email : info@stmichaelsblackrock.ie Website: www.stmichaelsblackrock.ie Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmichaelsblackrock | Parish Mobile No. (086) 813 6877

27/04/2025

2nd Sunday of Easter

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

1159

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

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



Sincere Thanks

Much has happened during Holy Week and Easter this year and so much to be grateful for as well. We were blessed with prayerful and well attended ceremonies this year. There was a lovely atmosphere in the church during those days.



We are grateful to so many people who quietly give their time and talents to parish for Holy Week and throughout the year. We have a very special parish with so many volunteers making it so. We thank our volunteer sacristans, altar society and those who lovingly maintain the church, our church choir, folk group, cantors, music groups, ministers of the Word and Eucharist, church collectors, Parish Finance Committee, the young people along with Sr. Mary for the beautiful Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and all those who ensure that our church and grounds are well maintained. Thank you for your generosity and time.

This year also, it was wonderful to support the Polish Community as they gathered in great numbers to celebrate Holy Week and Easter in Holy Cross Church.

Then on Monday morning, we heard the sad news that Pope Francis had 'returned to the House of the Father'. Thanks to all those who helped in arranging and celebrating a special Mass for him on Thursday evening. While the notice was short, it was really impressive so see that people from our Family of Parishes were able to be there and pray for Pope Francis together. May he rest in the peace of the Father whom he so faithfully served.

Fr. Michael 085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

Easter Collection – thank you so much for your generosity and support in this collection last weekend.

Children's Adoration – Friday 2nd May 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)

Cork International Choral Festival Sacred Trail - Stockholms Musikgymnasium Youth Choir 2025 from Sweden will sing at 11am Mass next Sunday 4th May.



Cork and Ross Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage to Rome 2025 – we will have some young people to speak after Communion at Masses this weekend 26th/27th April letting us know about the pilgrimage and seeking support. Accordingly, the second collection after Communion next weekend will be for this purpose.



A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Acts 5:12-16 Until the feast of Pentecost, our first readings are all taken from the Acts of the Apostles. Today, in a few broad brush strokes, the writer paints a picture of both courage and expansion, in a hostile environment. Second Reading Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19 This year until the feast of the Ascension, our second readings are all taken from the book of Revelation. Written in symbol and metaphor, this book can be hard to fathom. The language is always rich and challenging, but at the centre stands an immense faith in Jesus, risen from the dead, the ground of our hope. Gospel John 20:19-31 Known as the story of doubting Thomas (and so a source of consolation to us all, perhaps!), it could also be called "believing Thomas" because the main point is that finally he did come to faith. The closing beatitude speaks to subsequent generations, including ourselves.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. Unsurprisingly Pope Francis dominates the pages of the IC this week. There are many articles of tribute. Contributors include Fr. Chris Hayden, Fr. Billy Swan, Nuala O'Loan, Mary Kenny, Michael Kelly, David Quinn, Peter Costello and Breda O'Brien. Features include 'Pope Francis in his own words', 'Pope Francis' Pontificate -- A Timeline' and 'The Pope in Ireland (in pictures)'

Tablet. (1). Witness to the Resurrection -- A prophet of hope in a despairing world (2). Margaret Hebblethwaite: Witness to the Resurrection. -- Was Jesus' mother at the empty tomb? (3). France. -- Dramatic increase in Easter baptisms for second year running -- Adults and young people flock to the Catholic Church.

In his message for a three-day Congress on vocation in Spain in February which marked the conclusion of the Spanish bishops pastoral plan, Pope Francis invited us to always make our talents bear fruit. This is the ultimate purpose of existence, he says "Whenever God sends you, Bring him along to your office, to your family, to your apostolate. He emphasised that "we are all stewards of the gifts of grace and nature that the Lord has given us. Our talents must be invested and yield interest; our possessions must be shared so that their benefits reach others." Few lived out this vocation better than the Church's newest young saint, Carol Acutis. Paul Clayton-Lea.Editor Intercom magazine.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL March Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 4 May 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 4th May for tea and bikkies and more chat! Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!! Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



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

Observations Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is truly risen! Alleluia! Doubting Thomas moves from a position of stark resistance to faith to an extraordinary confession of faith, equally stark: My Lord and my God, the highest confession of Jesus on the lips of anyone in John's Gospel. Part of the message is not to be afraid to name our doubts and to own them, even to "inhabit" them. Is there a God at all? Is Jesus the person Christians claim he is? What is my experience of prayer and spirituality? By what values shall I choose to live? The word of today's gospel is encouraging: deepest doubt is the royal path to deepest faith. But the climax of the story is not Thomas' journey, impressive as it is. The climax is in the 'beatitude' which follows: Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe. This final beatitude of only two in the Gospel addresses the later generation, wondering if it is somehow at a disadvantage. The answer is a resounding 'no'. On the contrary, Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' It was true then and it is true today.

Reflections 1. "Peace be with you" was the greeting of Jesus on meeting his frightened apostles. Who has come to you bringing peace at times when you were afraid? To whom have you been able to bring peace? 2. Thomas, doubting and questioning, is possibly a person with whom we can identify. What part have doubting and questioning played on your faith journey? How has your faith been strengthened by such moments? 3. Note the way that Jesus dealt with Thomas. He did not give out because he doubted. He accepted how he felt and led him along to see the truth of his resurrection. Who has been that kind of teacher for you, gently taking you where you were and leading you to a deeper knowledge about some truth about life? For whom have you been that kind of teacher? 4. "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believed". That requires great trust. Perhaps you have had the experience of being trusted without having to justify every step along the way. What was it like to be trusted in that way? Whom have you been able to trust in a similar manner? PRAYER God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism you have raised us up in Christ and given us life that endures. Day by day, refine our faith that we who have not seen the Christ, may truly confess him as our Lord and God, and share the blessedness of those who believe. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and signs with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Cork Quaker Meeting is holding a Silent Vigil for Peace on Sunday May 11, 2025 between 1.00 and 2.00 pm, at the Cork Quaker Meeting House on Summerhill South, T12 XW8R. We invite anyone who wishes to drop in for any length of time during the vigil. The vigil will be completely silent. We request that no political symbols or political statements be displayed.

Cork International Choral Festival Choir Interchange – Welcome to the church choir from St. Columba's in Douglas @ 11am Mass this Sunday 27th April. St. Michael's Church Choir will sing in St. Patrick's Church, Lower Road @ 12noon Mass there.



Thought for the day How did any of us make the journey towards faith in Christ? No doubt a great part of it is simply what we received—usually from family. At some point, did I make a conscious choice? Perhaps at other times, I felt like walking away from the faith project? What kept me going? Did a more personal ownership of faith result? Perhaps I felt the intuition of John O'Donahue, "Faith is helpless attraction to the divine." In spite of everything, perhaps in spite of myself, somehow it is part of who I am. Prayer Mysterious God, we are those who have seen and at the same time not seen. Help to look beyond the simple gifts of each day to see you the giver behind—and in—every gift. Help us acknowledge Jesus that we may know true blessedness in believing. Amen. K O'Mahony OSA

Bishop Fintan invites people to remember Pope Francis with gratitude and in prayer:

Following the announcement by the Holy See that Pope Francis has 'returned to the House of the Lord', Bishop Fintan Gavin invites the people of the Diocese of Cork and Ross to unite in prayer to God at this time. "I invite the parishioners, priests, deacons and religious of our diocese to join as one with the faithful across the globe as we commend Pope Francis to the Lord.

We give thanks to Almighty God for the gift of Pope Francis as shepherd of the people of God and we thank God for his selfless service and dedication to the end of his earthly life. We remember Pope Francis as one who challenged us to reach out to those on the margins and to bring God's mercy to all those we encounter. We pray together that Pope Francis' call to all of us to make this Jubilee Year a Year of Hope may be fulfilled.

In what was to be his last pastoral message to the faithful on Easter Sunday, Pope Francis said: 'All those who put their hope in God place their feeble hands in his strong and mighty hand; they let themselves be raised up and set out on a journey. Together with the risen Jesus, they become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and of the disarmed power of Life.'

We pray together now that Pope Francis prayer will be answered and that his soul may be in eternal peace with God."



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

Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold it's monthly Face to Face Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 7th May at 7.30pm in the Maryborough Hotel, Maryborough Hill, Douglas, T12 XR12. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age of your child, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance. We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie

