



Mass Times

Vigil Saturday: 6pm

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am

Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm

Monday to Saturday: 10 am



Baptisms

Seamus Anthony Kenny. Luke Shannon.

We welcome them into the Christian Family



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BLACKROCK Monthly Collection 8th & 9th December 2018

Bambinelli Sunday

16th December 2018

Families and Parishioners are encouraged to bring the Christ Child from their Nativity sets to Mass on Saturday 15th 6pm and Sunday December 16th 11am for a Special Blessing.



Advent Retreat

On Saturday, 15th December with Fr Mossie Kelleher SMA in the Sisters of Bon Secours Convent College Road. 10am to 5pm with light lunch. Booking essential. Email eavopost@gmail.com or call 0872209994

Cork Alzheimers Café

Is a safe place for people with Alzheimers and other dementias, their carers, family and friends, along with social and health professionals to meet. Last Friday of each month 1.30 - 3.30pm in St Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road. Light refreshments provided free of charge. All welcome. Info from bettycogan@hotmail.com

BLACKROCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Christmas Raffle & Coffee Morning at Blackrock Community Centre on Monday 10th December 10-12. Christmas Flower Arranging classes with Anna Coakley continue Thursday nights 7-9.

The Readings

In today's Gospel, Luke sets up an arresting contrast. First, we hear the resounding names of "grandees" of the time, starting with Tiberius Caesar in Rome and ending with local rulers in Palestine. Then, we are suddenly transported to the wilderness and faced with the disturbing, wild figure of John the Baptist, the very opposite of worldly power and glory.

And yet, something far more significant was stirring in a forgotten corner of the Roman Empire, something which would go on to change the world. Truth is concrete, as Dorothee Sölle put it, and the universal is found in the ordinary of the here and now.

As we look around our world today, believers can easily feel insignificant and powerless, given all the upheaval and instability. And yet...we believe in God "in ordinary" and that change starts with us, in our own here and now.

Do not let the downtrodden retreat in confusion, give the poor and needy cause to praise your name. Psalms 74:21

Millions of people have had to flee conflict in South Sudan and Yemen. In one area alone in northern Uganda, 33,000 mainly women and children from South Sudan have taken refuge. They have witnessed and experienced the worst kind of violence and have arrived traumatised and broken.

Trocaire's Christmas Appeal will help these people and many others rebuild their lives. Visit www.trocaire.org to find out more.

BLACKROCK ST PIO PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the Blackrock St Pio Prayer Group will take place on Wednesday 12th December, at Ardfoyle Convent, Blackrock. Rosary 19:45. Mass 20:00. All welcome. Anne O'Sullivan, Prayer Group Leader.

50th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT IN AID OF COPE FOUNDATION ~ FEATURING CARA O'SULLIVAN

Concert in Aid of Cope Foundation in City Hall on Sunday 9th December at 7:30 featuring Cara O'Sullivan, the Sonatina's Choir, singers from Cope Foundation and The City of Cork Male Voice Choir. Ticket €10 on the Cope Foundation Web site http://www.cope-foundation.ie/beautifulcity where you can print off your tickets.



The SVP Annual Christmas Collection will take place on 9th December next. In the run up to the appeal this year, St Michael's Conference SVP are hoping to collect basic items to make up hampers for needy families. We have placed a box in the church for donations. A list of items that we need has been placed on Noticeboards in the church. If people when they do their weekly shop, would please consider buying and donating one additional item, this will help in a very practical way. Thank you

Reflections

1. The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall in detail the time and the circumstances of particularly significant moments in your life?

2. John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g., burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.

3. Behind the quotation from Isaiah lies the practice of preparing festival routes for religious celebrations. Isaiah visualises such a celebration to celebrate the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem. Can you recall a particularly memorable Advent? What happened? Think of how you can do it this year.

PRAYER

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Make our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Pope Benedict's Prayer.

Dear friends, may no adversity paralyse you. Be not afraid neither of the world nor of the future nor of your weakness. The Lord has allowed you to live in this moment of history so that by your faith, his name will continue to resound throughout the world.

If you would like a detailed commentary on the Scripture Readings (audio and pdf) for each week of the year, please e mail komahony1@me.com or visit www.tarsus.ie

Parish Café

Coffee/Tea morning is held at the Parish Centre each Thursday morning from 10.30am to approximately 11.15am. It is a very pleasant gathering with lots of chat. A warm welcome and friendly company is guaranteed.



ST MICHAEL'S PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Will be held as usual in the Parish Centre Thursday 13th December from 2:30 to 5pm. All are very welcome to attend.

St. Michael's Christmas Cards are on sale in the sacristy after masses.

OLA Sisters Mission 'Yesterday & Today' Exhibition

An exhibition of artefacts collected over 140 years' service in Africa by the OLA sisters will take place at their convent in Ardfoyle, Ballintemple on December 8th & 9th from noon to 7pm each day.

Thought for the day

The feats of engineering hinted at in the citations from Isaiah may seem physically daunting but are even more of a challenge on the intended spiritual level. The highway is for our God— and we could ask what in me impedes his way, how do I block the arrival of the Lord in my life? More positively, I could ask myself what do I do so that the Gospel may come alive in my life? With such cooperation from me, the Lord can and will bring to completion what he has begun.

Prayer

O God, you search me and you know me. Help me to know myself better; help me acknowledge and set aside the blocks to your coming. You have indeed begun a good work in me and, in spite of my hesitations and resistance, I too want it to be brought to completion under your graceful care. Amen.

K. O'Mahony OSA

Today's Hymns

PLEASE JOIN WITH OUR CHOIR IN THE SINGING

O come, 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. 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. Rejoice, rejoice etc.

When Creation was Begun

When Creation was Begun God had chosen you to be mother of his blessed Son, Holy Mary full of grace. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

When creation was restored, You were there beside the Lord Whom you cherished and adored, Holy Mary, full of Grace.

ST. JOSEPH'S YOUNG PRIESTS SOCIETY.

Monthly meeting takes place on Monday 10th December in the Parish Centre following morning Mass.