

Mass Times

Vigil Saturday: 6pm
Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Saturday: 10 am
Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem



Baptism

Jack O'Keeffe
We welcome him into the Christian Family



Wedding

Congratulations to **Caitriona Horgan & Eoin Cronin** who were married in our church on 14th December 2019 Fr John O'Donovan officiated



FIRST FRIDAY VISITS TO THE HOUSEBOUND

Please contact Fr Colin Doocey at 086-8136877, if you or a relative would like to receive the Blessed Sacrament in your home on First Fridays.

Carols by Candlelight

in St Michael's, Church Road on **Sunday, 22nd December at 7pm.** Congregational carols and music by the St Nicholas Brass Band, the Dundanion Singers and the St Michael's Parish Folk Group. All welcome.



Christmas Message from Fr Colin

It has been a difficult time for us this year with the death of Fr Kieran and all the changes that have occurred since then, but with us all working together, we will get through. As we celebrate the birthday of the Baby Jesus in Bethlehem, I would like to wish you all "A peaceful, joyous and grace filled Christmas and a hopeful, healthy and promising New Year." I am thinking not only of all of you who live in our parish but also your family members at home and away at this time.

We also remember those who have no homes this Christmas. For us here today thinking about these people as we celebrate Christmas, is bound to make us feel uneasy – that amid so much poverty and need, we enjoy such plenty. Christmas should challenge all of us to open our hearts to those who are in need, those who are homeless, or who are refugees. It reminds us of Christ's words: "Whatever you did to one of the least of these, you did to me."

I want to say a sincere thank you to all my fellow members of the Clergy who have been ministering here in St Michael's Parish. I wish you all the joy and peace that comes from simple things, from family and friends. A Happy Christmas and God bless you and your families.

Fr Colin.

On behalf of **St Michaels Conference SVPD**, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the clients we assist, I would like to thank most sincerely the parishioners, parish groups and organisations for their most generous support this year. Your donations have made a great difference to many adults and children who were facing into a difficult Christmas. Thank you for your continued support - it makes a real difference to so many and is deeply appreciated by all. With very best wishes for a happy Christmas and New Year to all. *John McAdoo*

Some Inspiration

The message of "God-with-us" is deeply appealing, of course. The how of that being with us is explored in Romans 1:1-7, Paul's longest greeting and surely programmatic for the whole letter to the Romans: *the good news about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.* As often noted, Matthew wrote about Jesus' conception and birth in the light of the resurrection and we read the same story also in the light of Easter faith.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Messenger (1) New series on the Letters of St. Paul by Fr/ Wilfrid Harrington, OP.

(2) Places of Worship -- The Honan Chapel, UCC.

St. Martin Magazine Jose Luiz Sanchez -- 'The Boy Martyr' of Mexico.

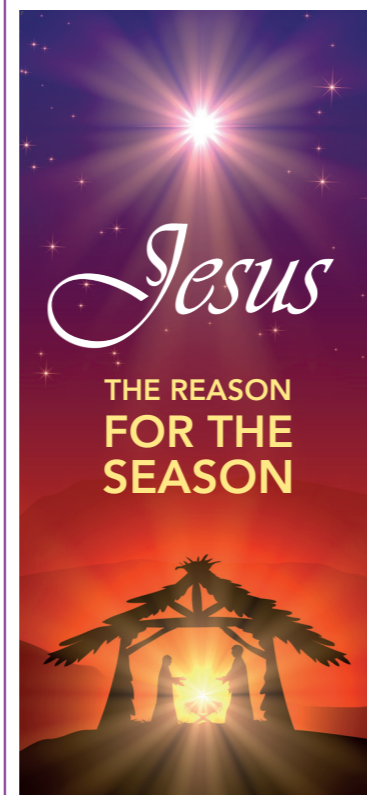
Irish Catholic (1) Reforms of the Church in Ireland are underway, and they will intensify, says our Papal Nuncio (2) Brendan O'Regan's pick of the Christmas season on TY and Radio.

Catholic Voice (1) This vision of St Faustina should bring warmth to our hearts on Christmas Day. (2) A former Presbyterian Church reopens as a Catholic Church in Belfast.

Catholic Herald In the Christmas Double Issue Anthony Hopkins & Jonathan Pryce are interviewed about the film 'The Two Popes';

Catholic Times (1) Monastery Life allows God to make us truly free, says Cistercian nun. (2) The 'journey of friendship' between Catholics and Jews.

Universe (1) Sunday Worship -- The patience and humility of St. Joseph. (2) Silent Night -- The gentle Austrian poem that the world fell in love with.



Christmas 2019
Mass on Christmas Eve: 6.00pm. and 9.00pm.
Christmas morning: 9.00am. & 11.00am.

Christmas and New Year wishes

May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph give you all the Blessings and Peace you want and need this Christmas time and in the coming year. Fr Colin, Canon Tadhg and Fr Michael

Every good wish for Christmas and New Year from St. Michael's Church Choir, St. Michael's Folk Group and from Valerie, Barry, and Aidan who look after communications.

2020 Parish Calendars are available on the tables in the church.

Reflections

As we move into prayer on the passage, we move from a 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?

A big thank you to all who helped to put up the Crib and trees last weekend.

The Crib is one of the great engineering feats of our time!!

We would ask parishioners to be good enough to switch off mobile phones during Mass. Thank you



Anam Cara Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on 8th January at 7:20pm in The Clayton Hotel, Cork City. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents.



Annual Mass for GAA Clubs

The 11am Mass on Sunday, 12th January 2020, will be celebrated for the living and deceased members of Blackrock National Hurling Club, St Michael's Gaelic Football Club, Blackrock Camogie Club and St Michael's Ladies Football Club. Refreshments will be served at the Rockies Club after Mass and everyone is welcome to come along and join us.

Reminder SVDP box for **Christmas Donations** is in the centre of the Church.

Your support is very much appreciated. Please see list of suggested items.

Christmas Donation Wish List

Nappies and Nappy wipes, Razors and shaving sets, Male and Female Hygiene Sets, Clothes washing products, Cleaning products, Washing up liquid, brushes, sponges, gloves, Christmas biscuits, sweets, cakes. Selection Boxes Honey, jam, marmalade, Tomato ketchup and other sauces Soups and packet sauces - and any non-perishable foods...

THANK YOU!

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 of 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

Advent Hymns

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.



Recessional

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.