

ST MICHAELS PARISH BLACKROCK CORK

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29/12/2019 Holy Family

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES:

Email to : info@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

BAPTISMS: Saturdays 3 pm - 2 weeks notice required.

MARRIAGES: Minimum 3 months notice required by

Church and State. Pre-marriage course required.

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

Conor John Riordan

Lewis Michael Hannigan

Grace Carter Karlsson

We welcome them into the Christian Family



Recently Deceased

Breda Hughes, Upper Beaumont Drive

May the light of heaven surround her always.



FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

On Friday 3rd January 2020 following morning Mass. Rosary & Benediction at 5.00pm. There are sheets on the tables in the church where parishioners can indicate the times most suitable for them to be present. We would like that there would 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.

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*

'When all the others were away at Mass'

When all the others were away at Mass
I was all hers as we peeled potatoes.
They broke the silence, let fall one by one
Like solder weeping off the soldering iron:
Cold comforts set between us, things to share
Gleaming in a bucket of clean water.
And again let fall. Little pleasant splashes
From each other's work would bring us to our senses.
So while the parish priest at her bedside
Went hammer and tongs at the prayers for the dying
And some were responding and some crying
I remembered her head bent towards my head,
Her breath in mine, our fluent dipping knives –
Never closer the whole rest of our lives.
Seamus Heaney

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Messenger

Extension Rebellion and Forgetting Past Protests

Irish Catholic

(1) Donal Walsh's message of life continues to inspire people, his mother Elma tells Claire Fitzpatrick (2) Creating a song and dance -- Fr. Ray Kelly reveals all in 'raw and honest' book

Announcement of the Sunday of Word of God. January 26th 2020

Pope Francis is passionate about the Word of God. He has declared a special Sunday dedicated to the Bible. All of us are invited to respond imaginatively and actively to this new Feast. Here in our parish, there will be a number of initiatives including pastoral resources for the day itself. The Feast marks the start of a year of increased engagement with the Word.



Medjugorje Pilgrimage ex Cork

June 30th - July 7th 2020.

EARLY BIRD price €625.00 pps (Half board in Hotel Leone, 2 mins from Church) if fully paid by December 13th. Full price of €725.00 applies after this date. Spiritual Director Fr Sean Corkery. Group Leader: Sean O'Shaughnessy. €200.00 deposit secures place. Limited places. Contact 086 2959380 or Joe Walsh Tours 01-2410800.

Reflections

1. The threat to the child Jesus put Joseph in a situation where he had to make a quick and yet wise decision. Perhaps you have also had to make a speedy response to an unexpected crisis. Who were the 'angels' who guided you to wise decisions? Remember them and give thanks.
2. The whole narrative is designed to bring out the guidance of God's providence for the child Jesus. Have there been times when you have been grateful that things worked out well for you despite adverse circumstances or experiences?
3. External forces forced migration on Joseph and his family, until he came to establish a home in Nazareth. Where have you lived before coming to the place you now call home? How has this journey helped to fashion the person you are now? Perhaps you have a mixture of gratitude and regrets as you look back. Give thanks for the good memories. What helps you to deal with the disappointments and hurts in the past? Bring them to God with a prayer for further healing.
4. The story and today's feast remind us of the importance of the family in nourishing and fostering new life. Recall and give thanks for those in your own childhood who helped you to find your way in life.

PRAYER

Loving God, guardian of our homes, when you entrusted your Son to the care of Mary and Joseph, you did not spare them the pains that touch the life of every family. Teach us to rely on your word, that in our trials as in our joys we may be clothed in gentleness and patience and united in love. Make us ever thankful for the blessings you give us through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

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

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.

2020 Parish Calendars are available on the tables in the church. Please take one.

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

Thank you



Thought for the day

Our Gospel today omits—understandably?—the brutal massacre of the innocents. While the story is indeed brutal, it is unfortunately not unrealistic. Its omission is a pity because the tragic side of life is underscored, in different ways, by both Matthew and Luke, in anticipation of the passion. They were not composing sweet scenes for Christmas cards! On the contrary, they were addressing the full human condition, in its mystery, its joys and its tragedies. It is precisely within the family that we encounter death, life, happiness and the sheer wonder of being at all. Today's feast invites us to look unflinchingly at the whole picture, in all its complexity.

Prayer

God, bless us all as members of our different families. As we thank you for the gift we are to each other, we ask your guidance and grace in all we do. K O'Mahony OSA

