

### Mass Times

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



### Baptism

All baptisms have been cancelled for the moment.

### Recently Deceased

**Ellen Bowen**, formerly Woodvale Road  
*May the light of heaven surround her always.*



**W**e celebrate the feast of Christ The King, the last Sunday of the church year.

But what a year it has been. We had no public celebration of mass for St Patrick's Day. We were not able to come together for the Holy Week ceremonies. We had no public celebration of mass on Easter Sunday. We were not able to gather for the beautiful feasts of Ascension, Pentecost, Holy Trinity & Corpus Christi.

Thankfully, in the summer, our church was open again for a visit and to pray or to light a candle. After a few weeks again, public celebration of mass resumed, baptisms were happening and later than usual of course the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation were celebrated. Unfortunately, over the past few weeks we are back to a previous scenario, but the church remains open and that has to be a sign of hope.

Throughout all of this, funerals have been celebrated with limited numbers being able to attend. It has been very difficult for families to say goodbye to a loved one this year. In all of this, Jesus Christ is our King, always. He is the One we look to for guidance, compassion and help. He is King of our lives and will stay at our side during the challenges we face each day.

*Fr. Colin*

THE HOOK OF FAITH PRESENTS  
**A THREE SESSION VIRTUAL ADVENT RETREAT**  
With Fr Billy Swan  
TUES. 1st TO THURS. 3rd DECEMBER 2020  
From 8-9pm on ZOOM  
Tuesday 1st Dec. - FAITH  
Wednesday 2nd Dec. - HOPE  
Thursday 3rd Dec. - LOVE  
To take part, just email [thehookoffaith@gmail.com](mailto:thehookoffaith@gmail.com)  
to receive the Zoom link  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
[www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)

Some Reflection.....

### The Feast of Christ the King

by Malcolm Guite

Our King is calling from the hungry furrows  
Whilst we are cruising through the aisles of plenty,  
Our hoardings screen us from the man of sorrows,  
Our soundtracks drown his murmur: 'I am thirsty.'  
He stands in line to sign in as a stranger  
And seek a welcome from the world he made,  
We see him only as a threat, a danger,  
He asks for clothes, we strip-search him instead.  
And if he should fall sick then we take care  
That he does not infect our private health,  
We lock him in the prison of our fear  
Lest he unlock the prisons of our wealth.  
But still on Sunday we shall stand and sing  
The praises of our hidden Lord and King.

### WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

**Tablet.** (1). Andrea Bocelli says that 'music will show us the joy of living. (2) The McCarrick Report. -- the Vatican examines its conscience

**Messenger.** The Ministry of Music. -- Fr. Liam Lawton links music, prayer and the word of God in the Pope's intention for this month

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Fr. Vincent Sherlock: And he leaves her a daisy a day. (2). Breda O'Brien: Separating God and religion reflects our radical individualistic culture. (3) Michael Kelly: To make Advent Mass a reality we need to keep the pressure up

**Catholic Herald** Sophie Caldecott asks how parents can harness the benefits of smartphones and social media without putting their children in danger

**Catholic Voice.** (1) Sr. Clare Crockett. -- The Biography. (2) Stories of Saint Teresa of Avila And the Holy Souls in Purgatory

### BEAUMONT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



If you are interested in taking part in a 'Pedestrian Improvement Scheme' Working Group focused on identifying improvements in the Beaumont area we would be delighted to hear from you - please drop us a line by email to: [beaumontresidentscork@gmail.com](mailto:beaumontresidentscork@gmail.com).

### Welcome to St Michaels for Personal Prayer

To maximise the number of people that can join us for Personal Prayer, we have made a number of changes to the church so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe.

Please use only the bottom half of the church and exit from the left only, using the one-way system following the arrows.



We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit.

We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime  
*Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.*

St Michael's Conference SVP Blackrock would like to thank most sincerely all who have supported St Michaels SVP Conference Blackrock over the past year. The past year has been difficult for everyone due to the continued Covid19 pandemic. We hope all of you and your families have been keeping safe and well and adjusting to the current new way of life.



For us in the SVP Blackrock conference this has been a strange year. We too have had to adjust to new ways of working and meeting. Our visits to clients are conducted remotely; our conference meetings are conducted via email, WhatsApp and phone calls. Our income has been reduced significantly due to the closure of the church and suspension of the monthly collections. Meanwhile requests for help continue and we try to meet them as best we can. We would like to thank most sincerely all who support us at our monthly collections and also those who have taken the opportunity to support us through their donations via the box at the back of the church or through donations to the conference via the priests or directly to individual members and online.

We have one final collection date this year. It is the weekend of December 12/13. This is our annual Christmas collection which has been so successful year on year. This year will be different as mass numbers will be restricted. In light of that I would appeal that you avail of one of the following options to support this year's SVP Christmas appeal. Please also encourage your friends and family to consider supporting SVP St Michaels Blackrock this year.

*Donations can be made using one of the following options:*

1. *Donate directly in the SVP box at the back of the church*
2. *Donate on [SVP.ie/donate](http://SVP.ie/donate). In the box marked "Specific location to help" insert- St Michael's SVP Conference Blackrock Cork*
3. *Call 0818 176 176 and Request that your donation goes to St Michael's SVP Conference Blackrock*
4. *Place your donation or cheque made out to 'St Michael's Conference SVP Blackrock' in an envelope marked SVP Blackrock and give it in to the Sacristy or to one of the Priest's houses.*
5. *Donate via the Parish Website [www.stmichaelsblackrock.ie](http://www.stmichaelsblackrock.ie) Click on the Donate button. Find SVP St Michaels Conference Blackrock and click on that. Make your donation via the secure donation facility.*
6. *Make your donation at the church collection on the weekend of 12th/13th December 2020.*

We the members of St Michaels Conference SVP again thank most sincerely everyone who continues to support us so generously year after year, to help those individuals and families in the parish who are struggling to make ends meet. Keep safe everyone and enjoy a happy Christmas and New Year.

John McAdoo  
President St Michaels Conference Blackrock SVP

**When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.**

**DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE**

### Thought for the day

**T**he image of the king is a foundational metaphor in the Bible, which in ordinary usage suggests power and glory. But even in the ancient biblical tradition, there are two significant modifications. According to an Old Testament vision, a king is meant to be a shepherd to his people, a true shepherd who cares for and who knows and even loves his sheep. According to a New Testament vision, Jesus our king rules paradoxically by loving service, humility and the gift of himself. This example and teaching of Jesus have lost none of their power.

### PRAYER

*Wake us up, O God, and rouse us from the slumber of the everyday that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person, each day of our lives. Amen.*

### Some Thoughts....

1. This judgment scene contains surprises for us. One is that nobody is condemned for doing wrong, but for their failure to do good. Jesus is telling us that being his disciple is a positive choice about how we live and relate to others. Perhaps sin-avoidance has sometimes dominated your view of what was being asked of you. What difference has it made for you when you viewed your Christian life as a daily opportunity to make a positive difference to others?
2. Another way of saying this is that the aim of Christian living is not me-centred (about my personal sanctification) but other centred (about responding to the needs of others). What happens to you when you get caught up yourself? Is your life not better, and often more enjoyable, when you can look beyond yourself to others?
3. The standard of love and concern that Jesus presents challenges us to look beyond our comfort zone to those who are most in need. Who are those most in need in your world? When have you been able to move beyond your comfort zone in reaching out to them?
4. Another surprise is to hear Jesus tell us that when we do something for another, he considers it as done to himself. When has seeing Christ in others helped you in your dealings with them?
5. The story is about the judgment of the whole of humanity. It presents an ideal of society in which human relationships at all levels are governed by the law of love. In your experience what difference has it made to a group to which you belonged when there was a definite sensitivity to the needs of all members?

### PRAYER

*Almighty God, you have conferred upon Christ Jesus sovereignty over every age and nation. Direct us, in the love of Christ, to care for the least of his brothers and sisters, that we may be subject to his dominion and receive the inheritance of your kingdom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*K O'Mahony OSA*