

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



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Mass Times will be announced next week. Bear in mind, we are still **limited to 100** at any one Mass. This will be strictly adhered to in order to avoid anyone getting sick.

The Masses will be all ticket.

These will be available in the sacristy after 10am weekday Mass and on Sunday after 9am and 11am from next weekend.

Tickets will be limited to 4 per family. Please understand that if you do not have a ticket, you will be unable to attend.



Remembrance List

The names on the December Remembrance List for the dead will not be read out individually. Instead they will be prayed for at each Mass.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Tablet. (1) Roses in December -- Remembering the four women martyrs of El Salvador, including Jean Donovan. (2) The Fr. Tony Flannery affair -- Caught in the Curia's crossfire

Irish Catholic (1) Martin Mansergh: Every effort needed to keep churches open (2) In many secular eyes, the very idea that anyone would seek participation in public worship of God is alien, writes Declan Ganley. (3) David Quinn: Judging a saint: the legacy of John Paul II after the McCarrick report. (4). Fr. Martin Delaney: Following the lead of the handmaid of the Lord

O Emmanuel

by Malcolm Guite

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

Welcome to the celebration of Sunday Mass

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



We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit. We will continue to stand for the "Gospel" and "Our Father". We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime

Ministers of the Eucharist will be positioned at the top and centre of the church. The Ministers will wear face masks and we ask that you maintain 2 metres distance in the line. Follow the Stewards guidance during Communion.

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. 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 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

As Christmas approaches, we could ask ourselves: How can we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour? The proclamation of John the Baptist points to the preparation that really counts: conversion of heart and life. The deeper meaning of metanoia is a change of vision, a radically new outlook, in the light of the Gospel. God is our compassionate father, our Abba, who desires nothing less than our hearts, our whole selves. We are accepted and loved by him, while we are still sinners (Romans 5:8). Receiving his forgiving love means a revolution in values, beliefs and direction in life.

Prayer

Loving God, as we your children prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour, help us to prepare our hearts too. May the coming birth of the Son of David encourage us to true repentance and genuine conversion of heart. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Some Thoughts....

1. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord? To whom have you been such a messenger?
2. The voice cries in "the desert" or wilderness...a reminder to us that when we feel that we are in a desert place in our lives, we should not give up hope. It may be that God's grace will come to us at any moment. Have you had an experience of God's grace coming to you when you were in a desert place?
3. John calls the people to repentance (= a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you?
4. John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart - write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?
5. John did not claim to be greater than he was and freely acknowledged the greater role that Jesus would play. When have you seen yourself, or others, act with that kind of humility, freely acknowledging the place of God and of others in what is happening? What difference does it make to you when you are comfortable with your own important, but limited, worth?

PRAYER

With tender comfort and transforming power you come into our midst, O God of mercy and might. Make ready a way in the wilderness, clear a straight path in our hearts, and form us into a repentant people, that the advent of your Son may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

Coronavirus COVID-19

Stay safe. Protect each other.

Continue to:



Wash
your hands well and often to avoid contamination.



Cover
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue safely



Distance
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell



Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

BLACKROCK VINCENT DE PAUL

COLLECTION DATES:

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER & SUNDAY 13th December 2020

Your generosity is very much appreciated in these difficult times.