

# St Michael's Parish Blackrock Cork

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20/12/2020

4th Sunday of Advent

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES:

Email to : [info@stmichaelsblackrock.ie](mailto: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 Friday:** 10 am  
**Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem**



## Baptism

Eli Vitez Szigeti.  
Elijah Hos Szigeti.  
Lily Mae O'Driscoll.

*We welcome them into the Christian Family*



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions will take place after 10am Masses, on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 21st to 23rd December.

## Mass times changes 2021

From 28th December 2020 to 1st January 2021, daily Mass will be at **11am** and Baptisms will take place after Mass at 12pm.



St Michael's Church, Blackrock  
**Christmas Mass Celebrations**

**Christmas Eve Dec. 24th**  
12 Noon. 4 pm 6 pm 8pm  
*Admission by pre-booked ticket only*

**Christmas Day Dec. 25th**  
9 am & 11 am  
*Admission by pre-booked ticket only*

**St Stephen's Day Dec. 26th**  
6.00 Vigil (No morning Mass)

**Sunday 27th Dec.**  
9 am & 11 am

If you feel unwell, please do not attend Mass.  
Access to the top half of the Church is only by the side door.  
Please follow stewards guidance.

The church will be open 30 minutes before each Mass



## Christmas Blessings

Fr Colin and Canon Tadhg wish you every blessing this Christmas time.  
May the Peace of Christmas be with you and your families.



## BLACKROCK VINCENT DE PAUL

St Michaels Conference SVP would like to thank the parishioners of BlackRock for their most generous support for our Christmas Appeal. The amount contributed this year was the largest donation of the past five years. This is very much appreciated and will go a long way in enabling the conference to meet the many requests for help, especially now. We thank all who have so generously contributed and are greatly encouraged by such generous support. We wish all a very happy and safe Christmas and new year.

John McAdoo  
President St Michael's Conference SVP BlackRock



Welcome, everyone, to the resources for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, 2020. The painting above is the very top part of an altarpiece by Perugino, today in the art gallery of his hometown of Perugia.

Christmas this year is certainly going to be different and challenging. Perhaps a way in might to be consider what we have learned about ourselves as human beings in the last year. A spontaneous list might include: fragility, threat, solidarity, compassion, global awareness, mortality, community, belonging and so on. It is this very reality which God embraces in the incarnation of his son, Jesus Christ.

## 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...

**Irish Catholic.** (1) Letters from Father Christmas -- Ruadhan Jones explores a little known Christmas treasure by JJR Tolkien. (2) Aontu leader and TD Peadar Toibin opens up about faith, cancer and the future of the Church. (3) Fr. Rolheiser: Covid 19 has been a game-changer; it has dispelled an illusion, that of our own invulnerability. What's to be learned? (4) Catholic aid agencies work to help Christians return to Iraq

**Catholic Voice:** (1) On the joy Christ's birth should inspire. (2) Mary Kearns: Living in joyful hope (3) Timeless Christian wisdom from Venerable Fulton Sheen

## 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.*

## Welcome to St Michael's

People and families are asked to consider coming to Mass at anytime from Christmas Eve to Epiphany (6th January) for 'their Christmas Mass'.



This year you can come to Christmas Mass anytime over the 'twelve days of Christmas'

**Christmas Mass tickets are now completely allocated. Please do not attend without the relevant ticket.**

- Think of coming instead on Saturday (St. Stephen's Day) at 6pm – it might be a very good time!
- Think of coming on Sunday 27th at 9am or 11 am.
- Think of coming any morning during the following week, Monday 28th – Friday 1st at 11 am Mass each day.
- Think of other people as we all just won't be able to go to our 'usual' Mass this year.
- If you can't get to any of these Masses, think of visiting the Church Crib at another time. This year it will be positioned in the sanctuary so that it will be in the open and safer to visit.
- We are all doing our best and working together to make this a prayerful Christmas and a special time in the parish Church.
- We indebted to our volunteer stewards, cleaners, all the different ministries and all those who have helped to keep our church safe for people since March.
- Thanks for your generosity and response to the recent mailing in relation to parish finance in 'A Message from your Parish'.
- This year we need to work together, think of one another (especially the bereaved during 2020) as we celebrate the Birth of Jesus.
- The sun will rise again in 2021!

## RECENT MAIL DROP

It has been drawn to our attention that some households in Blackrock Parish did not get the recent parish appeal envelope delivered. We have been on to the company involved and if you have 'No Junk Mail' sign on your letterbox, they will not deliver. You can pick up an envelope in the church any time which includes Christmas Dues.

# Coronavirus COVID-19



Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

## 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

## Thought for the day

The season of preparation is drawing to a close. Like Mary, our getting ready involves deep listening to what God is asking of me now and an interior willingness to say "let what you have said be done to me." What is God asking of me now, as a person, in the family, at work, and indeed within the faith community of the Church? Have I noticed a pattern of "nudges" from God calling me to a deeper, perhaps different engagement as a disciple? Are my gifts—tokens of God's grace—fully at the service of my neighbour?

## Prayer

Great and loving God, open my ear to your word, open my heart to your call, open my life to your service. Give us all the strength to live according to the Good News of your Son, Jesus, our Lord. Amen

## Reflections

- "Greetings, favoured one. The Lord is with you." We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you...a messenger of good news?
- "Do not be afraid." Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path and wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an "angel" helping to lower your anxiety?
- The angel told Mary that it was through her fruitfulness that she would realise the truth of the greeting. New life would come into being through her, and it would be through the Spirit of God working in her. How and where have you experienced yourself as a source of life for others? Have you at times had the sense that the Spirit of God was at work in you?
- Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the "right moment." "Here I am Lord." What invitations have come to you at the "wrong time" and how have you responded?
- Mary's response serves as a model for us—as one saying "yes" to what life offers. What is it like for you to say "yes" to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say "Here I am, Lord"?

## PRAYER

*Here in our midst, O God of mystery, you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages. For you we wait; for you we listen. Upon hearing your voice may we, like Mary, embrace your will and become a dwelling fit for your Word. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

K O'Mahony OSA

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

**DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE**