

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Friday: 10 am



Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem

Recently Deceased

Christine Keane, Ballinure
Aileen McCan, Beaumont
May the light of heaven surround them always.



PARISH COLLECTIONS

We would like to thank parishioners who are continuing to donate to the parish collections. A special thanks to parishioners who donate through our website. Just hit the **DONATE** button and follow the links.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

There are now 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is **2017**

'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

Baptism

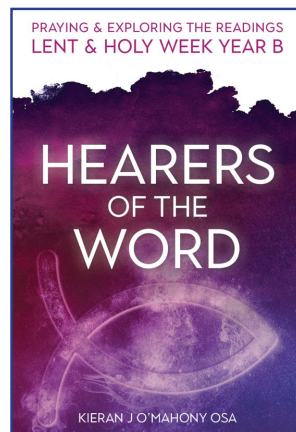
All baptisms have been cancelled for the moment.

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.*



The new publication written for Lent in the series

Hearers of the Word

by Kieran O'Mahony OSA

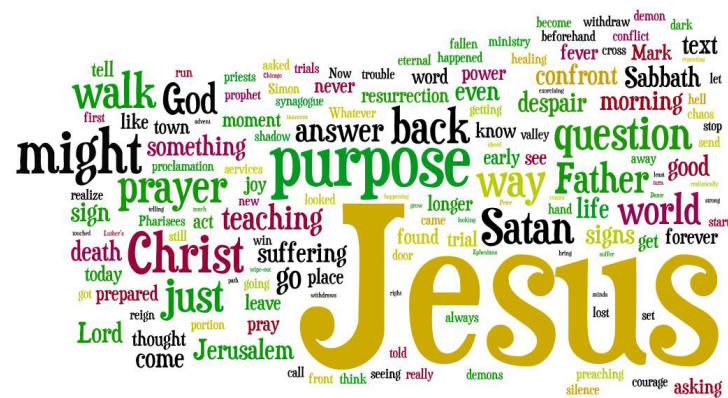
Available now from Messenger Publications

www.messenger.ie



ASH WEDNESDAY 17th. FEBRUARY.

Due to the continuing Covid 19 restrictions Mass on Ash Wednesday will be "live streamed", unfortunately the distribution of Ashes will **NOT TAKE PLACE**. Ashes will be available in envelopes on the tables in the Church which parishioners can take home.



If you would like to receive a weekly commentary on the Weekly Scripture Readings, both in AUDIO and in PDF, please log on to www.tarsus.ie and register to receive the emails.

Thoughts

A new word has wound its way into the English language: *Blursday*, denoting the blurring of days during our weary lockdown. The Book of Job does not use the term of course, but something of that experience is reflected in the first reading for this Sunday. Similar passages can be found in Ecclesiastes or, leaping forward two millennia, Samuel Beckett.

As is customary, that reading is chosen in light of the Gospel, which tells of multiple healings. Mark 1:29-39 offers four short vignettes, very powerful in their brevity. The third story — Jesus at prayer — brings us back to his and our source of strength in these days.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic. (1) The Church must foster anchor of marriage (2) Fr. Sylvester O'Flynn O.F.M. Cap : The Sunday Gospel -- Prayer for the hard times (3) Michael Kelly: Dublin's new archbishop insists that how we rise to challenges and opportunities defines who we are as people of faith.

Catholic Voice: (1) Candlemas Day. -- A Light to enlighten the Gentiles (2) Did communism ever die? Our current crisis in light of Our Lady of Fatima.

Tablet of 23/1 Christopher Lamb: Will EWTN stay faithful to Trump?

Tablet of 30/1 (1). Philanthropy -- one man - Bill Gates - has helped fund the development of five Covid vaccines, and backed 100 million doses for poorer counties. He deserves to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize says Paul Vallely. (2) United States: Bishops at odds in responses to Biden.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Under the current Covid circumstances, Fr. Colin has generously offered the poor box near the exit as a collection point for SVP. If you wish to contribute any time, it would be appreciated. Thank you.

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

Thought for the day

Which of us is not in need of some kind of healing? The healing touch of Jesus reaches out to all in need: the physically ill, the mentally disturbed, the addicts, the bereaved, the lonely, the distraught, the stressed, the sinners. He desires our well-being, that we might be fully alive and experience life in abundance.

Prayer

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Reflections

1. The first story (vv. 29-31) is one of healing. You might reflect on times when you were sick in body, mind or spirit and someone was a 'Jesus person' to you, someone who 'took you by the hand and lifted you up'. Remember them with gratitude. Have there been times also when you did this for others?

2. The second story (vv. 32-34) adds another dimension. People are freed from demons. Have you had the experience of being freed from demons that imprisoned you: fear, anxiety, guilt, low self-esteem, addictions, bitterness, etc.? What was it like for you to get that freedom? Who were the 'Jesus people' who helped to free you?

3. The third story (vv. 35-39) has a number of different elements we can consider: a) Jesus goes off to a desert place to pray. After a hectic day he felt the need for quiet to ground himself once more. In the busyness of life how do you keep in touch with what is going on inside yourself? How do you keep in touch with God? Where do you find your 'deserted place'? What difference does it make for you when you do succeed in taking time out? b) Jesus shows himself as a person seeking to break new ground. The disciples want him to continue ministry where he is. He wants to move on. What has been your experience of breaking new ground, moving beyond your comfort zone, or trying something you had not tried before? When has this had a lifelong effect for you?

PRAYER

Out of your power and compassion, O God, you sent your Son into our afflicted world to proclaim the day of salvation. Heal the broken-hearted; bind up our wounds, bring us health of body and spirit and raise to us to new life in your service. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

K O'Mahony OSA

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

DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE