

## 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**



Could God be calling you  
to serve Him as a  
**Diocesan Priest?**

**Virtual Discernment Evening**

**zoom** for men (18 years+) exploring

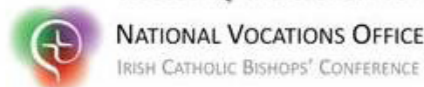
**Diocesan Priesthood**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**  
**7:30 pm to 9 pm**



For further information & registration  
Email: [Info@vocations.ie](mailto:Info@vocations.ie)

Hosted by the Cashel Province



[www.vocations.ie](http://www.vocations.ie)

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

**DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE**

## 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**

## 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.

## St. Patrick's Day 2021

Many people who live and work abroad have been unable to return home to visit families for almost year. St. Patrick's Day is traditionally a day to reach out and connect to our diaspora. This year we want to reach out to Blackrock people throughout the world. Why not let them know that they will be included as part of the Mass and that they can join in the Mass via the church webcam.

## Reflections for the Sundays of Lent

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM. Cap in Rochestown has kindly made his weekly reflections on the Sunday readings for Lent available to the Diocese. These reflections will be available each week during Lent as 'Reflections for the Sundays of Lent' on the Diocesan website. Fr Silvester's reflection for this Second Sunday of Lent is now available on <http://corkandross.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Lent3B.pdf>

## Parish Finance – Thank You

People continue to be very generous to the parish in this difficult times. A sincere word of thanks to parishioners who continue to drop in their weekly offering and once-off donations to the Sacristy and Presbyteries. It's very much appreciated.

We also thank people who are using the 'Donate' facility on the Parish website to support the parish as well. A Donate button is placed on several pages of the website including the Webcam page used for livestreaming Masses. Please continue to support your parish either through a direct contribution to the sacristy or presbyteries or via the Donate Button on the parish website.

## Stepping Stones through Lent

To help us all journey as a People of God in Cork and Ross through this Lent, people are invited to join in a series of short reflections each Wednesday afternoon during Lent at 1.30pm. The second of this series of short reflections will be live-streamed on this Wednesday 10th March at 1.30pm on both the Diocesan Facebook and YouTube channels. Details of links to join in this short reflection are available on the Diocesan Website <http://corkandross.org/diocesan/hope-as-a-stepping-stone-for-lent-a-reflection-online/>

These reflections have been prepared by Elaine O'Sullivan (Chaplain at MICC, Dunmanway) and Fr. James McSweeney (Chaplain, Bantry Community College). Each week they will be joined by a guest to reflect on different aspects of our Lenten journey.



## Thoughts

On the third Sunday of Lent, we leave Mark behind until Palm Sunday and begin reading from the Fourth Gospel for the rest of Lent. Everything in that Gospel is carefully written and also carefully placed. A scene in John offers a kind of mosaic — the overall picture is powerful (even violent in this Gospel) and the individual pieces (tesserae) sparkle with insights into the thrilling world of John the Evangelist.

In Lent, all three readings belong together, as we saw last Sunday. What about these readings for the third Sunday of Lent...they seem to be on different tracks? Perhaps a schema such as this might help.

Exodus 20: how to stay in **relationship** with God.  
1 Corinthians 1: in paradox of the cross, a very different **relationship** with God is put in place.  
John 2: the "locus" of our **relationship** with God is now Christ — the way, the truth and the life.

## WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

**Universe/Catholic Times.** (1) Fr. Francis Marsden: The utter humility of John of God, which led to a totally selfless dedication to others. (2) China -- Spike in online hostility a reminder of the need for continued international attention. (3) Talking Point -- Embattled German bishops pick woman theologian as top Catholic administrator. (4) For Lent, read the Gospel, fast from gossip, says Pope Francis.

**Irish Catholic.** (1) Jason Osborne: The gulf between Joe Biden and US bishops is symptom of a divided Church. (2) A giant of Irish intellectual life, Fr. Edna McDonaghis warmly remembered by many as a man of great generosity. (3) The human rights abuses of the Chinese communist regime are becoming worse by the day, writes David Quinn (4) Mary Kenny: When banks were community treasures.

**Messenger** (1) Corkman Fr. Pat Corkery SJ On Catholics and Public Life -- Dorothy Day. (2). Dying with Dignity. (3). The Bells of St. Colman's Cathedral.

# 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

In the Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox traditions, faith and reason are not in fundamental contradiction. At the same time, there is something radically irreducible and paradoxical in our faith. It was expressed a long time ago by Bishop Robinson, the scandalous particularity of the incarnation. And we may add, of the crucifixion. The Christian vision, for us, is indeed something wonderful. Nevertheless, let's not forget that for many today, it is in a way too wonderful, too strange and actually unbelievable. That natural resistance can be part of our faith too!

Prayer

*God, we come to you through the cloud of unknowing, because you are always greater, greater than our minds, greater than our hearts. Help us to stand before the bright darkness of your mysterious Being that we may come to know you as you really are.*

K O'Mahony OSA

## Reflections

1. We all tend to confine God to received traditions (places, images, words) but we know that "God is greater than our conscience." (1 John 3:20) How do I experience that "more" of God and keep it before my eyes?
2. Jesus himself is the "locus" of God's presence for us, a presence found in life, through others, in the Word of God and in the sacraments. What have been my own moments of encounter, with him who gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction?

PRAYER

*Holy God, the folly of the cross mocks our human wisdom and the weakness of the crucified puts worldly power to shame. Banish from our hearts every pretence of might and knowledge, that, by the power flowing from Christ's resurrection, your people may be raised up from the death of sin and fashioned into a living temple of your glory. Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.*

## BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

St Michael's Conference would like to thank all who donated to SVP via the donation box at the back of the church. It is much appreciated. *Thank you.*

## 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.*