

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

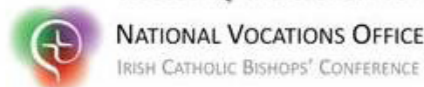
Diocesan Priesthood

Tuesday 23rd March
7:30 pm to 9 pm



For further information & registration
Email: Info@vocations.ie

Hosted by the Cashel Province



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.

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.

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.



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.

Thoughts

A warm welcome to all as we move towards the fourth Sunday of Lent. It may well be that the first reading will have a special appeal this year, as it promises an end to the Exile. We have all be dislocated, to a degree, and our personal resources of resilience and hope are being called upon virtually every day. But there is also hope, as 2 Chronicles tells us. It is intriguing that the Jewish Bible ends with these verses — opening up a grand vision of liberation and home-coming. (The order of the books in the Christian Bible places Malachi last so as to make a seamless transition to the Gospel of Mark.)

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Universe/Catholic Times. (1). Irish bishops alarm over new delays to worship's return. (2) Fr. Marsden: Karl Marx — an anti-hero for Christians. (3) Cleanse hearts of anger, live the Gospel, is Pope's plea at Mass in Iraq (4) Caroline Farrow: A little bit of forgiveness all round the world would go a long way.

Irish Catholic: (1) David Quinn: The illegal adoptions of the past are continuing in a new form. (2) Mary Kenny: The Old Testament knew all about sibling rivalry (3). Breda O'Brien: Perhaps imprudent, Pope Francis' Iraq visit was prophetic (4) Many Catholics know little about the good work of the Knights of St. Columbanus. The incoming leader tells Michael Kelly he is keen to address this.

Catholic Voice. (1) Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. — Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid 19 vaccines. (3) Mary Kearns: Pancakes, Cookies and Hot Cross Buns.

Messenger: (1) The Bells of St. Colman's Cathedral, Cobh. (2). Dying with Dignity.

Tablet (1) Vatican Decree puts Fr. Ignatius Spencer on way to Sainthood. (2). Beijing's new rules ignore Vatican deal.

Thought for the day

What does it mean to be saved? We have the secular sense of being rescued or spared somehow. The root meaning of the word in Greek and Latin is to be *healed*. So, the beginning is some recognition of need, of something fractured, unwell in my life. It includes faith in God who wants us to be both whole and holy, fully alive. The big "sickness" is death itself— from which we are saved/healed through God's love to us in the lifting up of Jesus in death into resurrection.

Prayer

Heavenly physician, heal whatever is us is dead or wounded or unfree that we may know the wholeness, freedom, life and joy of the Gospel.

Reflections

1. Jesus speaks of himself being lifted up, a term that can mean a physical lifting, or also exaltation. By this play on words the evangelist explains to us that Jesus' gift of himself in the passion was a glorious revelation of love, despite all its injustice and brutality. Bring to mind occasions when the love shown by Jesus in his passion was a sacrament of God's love for you.
2. It would be very cushy for us if we could be a source of life to others without cost to ourselves. The true life-givers know that they need the generosity of being lifted up by giving their lives so that others may have life. Recall when you have had that generosity and give thanks for others who have been like that for you.
3. We receive life from God when our faith enables us to trust in God's love for us. We give life to one another when the love between us is trustworthy. Recall memories of that kind of trustworthy love. For whom have you been able to be a 'Jesus person' and give a love that another could trust? Who has shown that kind of love to you and been for you a sacrament of God's love?
4. When people cannot find a love in which to trust they are truly in darkness rather than light. Perhaps you have had such moments. What was it like to be in that darkness, and what was it like to come into the light again when you found a love you could trust?
5. People loved darkness rather than light...so that their deeds may not be exposed. Judgement and condemnation are very inhibiting forces and we easily slip into them. Occasionally we meet someone who is non-judgemental, who does not come into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved. What has it been like for you when you met a non-judgemental person? What has it been like for you, and for other people, when you have been able to adopt a non-judgemental approach them?

PRAYER

O God, rich in mercy, you so loved the world that when we were dead in our sins, you sent your only Son for our deliverance. Lifted up from the earth, he is light and life; exalted upon the cross he is truth and salvation. Raise us up with Christ and make us rich in good works, that we may walk as children of light toward the paschal feast of heaven.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever 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