

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

Patrick J Byrne (Paddy), Castle Road
May the light of heaven surround him always.



HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES:

PALM SUNDAY –
Virtual blessing of Palms.

HOLY THURSDAY –
Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 6pm.

GOOD FRIDAY –
Stations of the Cross @ 12noon.
Ceremony of the Passion @ 3pm.

HOLY SATURDAY - Easter Vigil in Cathedral only.

EASTER SUNDAY – Mass at 9am. and 11am.



Kieran O'Mahony OSA
invites you a Zoom Meeting for Blackrock Parish.

Topic: Celebrating Easter 2021

Time: March 23, 2021 07:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 853 0825 0059
Passcode: 541276



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.

Palm Sunday

You are invited to have a palm branch to hand next weekend for the live streamed Sunday Masses at 9am & 11am to be blessed virtually.

Holy Week

While our Holy Week ceremonies will be celebrated without a public presence, they will be live streamed from the church on Holy Thursday at 6pm and on Good Friday with the Stations of the Cross at 12noon and the Solemn Ceremony of the Lord's Passion at 3pm. All parishes in the Diocese are encouraged to turn to the live stream from the Cathedral on Holy Saturday night at 9pm for the Easter Vigil there.

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.

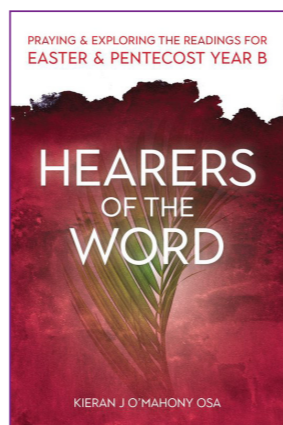
Trocaire Boxes

Please return your Trocaire Box to the church during Holy Week

Hearers of the Word: Easter & Pentecost 2021

Volume 6 of the series by Kieran O'Mahony OSA is now available.

Go to www.messenger.ie to order your copy.



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

Our Gospel comes from John 12, the chapter which brings to a close the first part of the Gospel, the "Book of Signs". At first glance, the chapter may feel a bit muddled, with oblique replies and unexpected characters. However, it is intended as a bridge passage, synthesising what went before and leading to the "Book of Glory" in chapters 13-20. As such, it is a major clue to the evangelist's purpose, taking us to the very heart of the matter.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic. (1) Fr. Rolheiser: Dorothy Day's unlikely affinity with the Little Flower's spirituality. (2) Fr. Conor McDonough: We shouldn't be surprised that the Lord continues to raise up saints (3) The Sunday Gospel with Fr. Sylvester O'Flynn: Dying and rising with Christ (4) David Quinn: We need to be wary of factions who will try to manipulate the planned Synod for their own purposes. (5) Cork and Ross new guide a 'positive acknowledgement' of online ministry.



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



Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

Thoughts

It has sometimes been remarked, in lighter vein, that none of us gets out of here alive. Death is part of the human condition and we are aware of death and feel the threat of ultimate absurdity. How shall we confront it? Denial—often lived in frenetic distraction—is no help. Christian faith, in contrast with all other faiths, has a distinctive claim: in Jesus' death, God reached out to us in tender and vulnerable love, becoming our companion on the way. Both John 12 and Hebrews 5 affirm that. It is astonishing to the point of being almost incredible.

Prayer

Great and loving God, we are surrounded by mystery—the mystery of ourselves, of death, of creation, of you. You are our companion on the way and we place our hand confidently in your outstretched hand.

Reflections

1. Jesus seems to sense that a crisis point has arrived, and he agonises over saying 'yes' to what lies before him. He opts to stay faithful to the mission given him by God. Can you recall decisions over which you agonised? What was that like for you? What was it like when you made a decision that you dreaded, or were anxious about, but believed it was the right one for you?
2. The parable of the grain of wheat reminds us of a truth that any parent can testify to, namely that it is in dying to ourselves that we can give life to others. We will never be of benefit to others if we remain wrapped up in ourselves. In what ways has your dying to yourself brought life to another? How has the generous giving of another brought life to you?
3. Sometimes our emotions rebel at the thought of what lies ahead and we feel like praying to Father, save me from this hour. Then a realisation may come for you as a parent, a teacher, a spouse, a friend: No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Recall times when you have accepted pain or hassle and been a source of life to others for doing so.
4. The story presents the death of Jesus as the moment of his glorification by God. It is the moment when the love of Jesus for us is shown in its greatest depth in his gift of himself, a gift he was able to make because God enabled him to do it. We are also glorified when the grace of God enables us to give generously of ourselves. When have you experienced this in yourself or in another?

PRAYER

In our hearts, O God, you have written a covenant of grace, sealed by the obedience of Jesus your Son. Raise us up with Christ, the grain fallen to earth that yields a harvest of everlasting life. Bring us to glorify your name by following faithfully where he has led. For you we wait; for you we listen. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.