

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

Breda (Bríd) Dennehy, Avonlea Court



May the light of heaven surround her always.

Witnesses to These Things

We have been blessed with beautiful weather during the past week. It is great to see so many people out and about walking and taking advantage of the lighter restrictions since the start of the week. It is also great to see the young people and children back in their schools and the normality and routine which that brings to families and school communities.

We have reached the Third Sunday of Easter as we journey through the fifty days of Easter season. The new beginnings and hopeful signs chime with the season of Easter. On any other year we would be thinking of holidays and warmer days ahead. While the holidays may not happen, we certainly look forward to warmer days and longer evenings.

The gospel this Sunday concludes by asking us to be 'witnesses of these things' i.e. the Resurrection of Jesus. We have been listening to accounts of the 'Resurrection appearances' of Jesus to the disciples since Easter Sunday. These are not just magical words on a page but a real experience for the disciples. They are transformed and strengthened by this. Despite all our challenges at the moment, we are strengthened by these words and Easter.

May God bless you and your family as we look forward with hope to better times because we are witnesses to the Resurrection in our own lives.

Fr. Michael.

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.

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.

We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit. Follow the Exit signs.

We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime
Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.

CHURCH CLOSSES AT 7.00 pm

Easter Dues

Easter Dues envelopes are available in the church. People have been so generous in difficult times and that is much appreciated.

You can also support the priests via the Donate Button on the parish website. Thank you

Parish Finance – Thank You

Many people now use the [Donate Button](#) on the Parish website to support the parish and priests. This is really appreciated in these challenging times. A direct contribution to the offertory and maintenance collection can be dropped into the sacristy or the presbyteries at any time. Many people continue to do this and it is really helpful and appreciated.

Trocaire Boxes

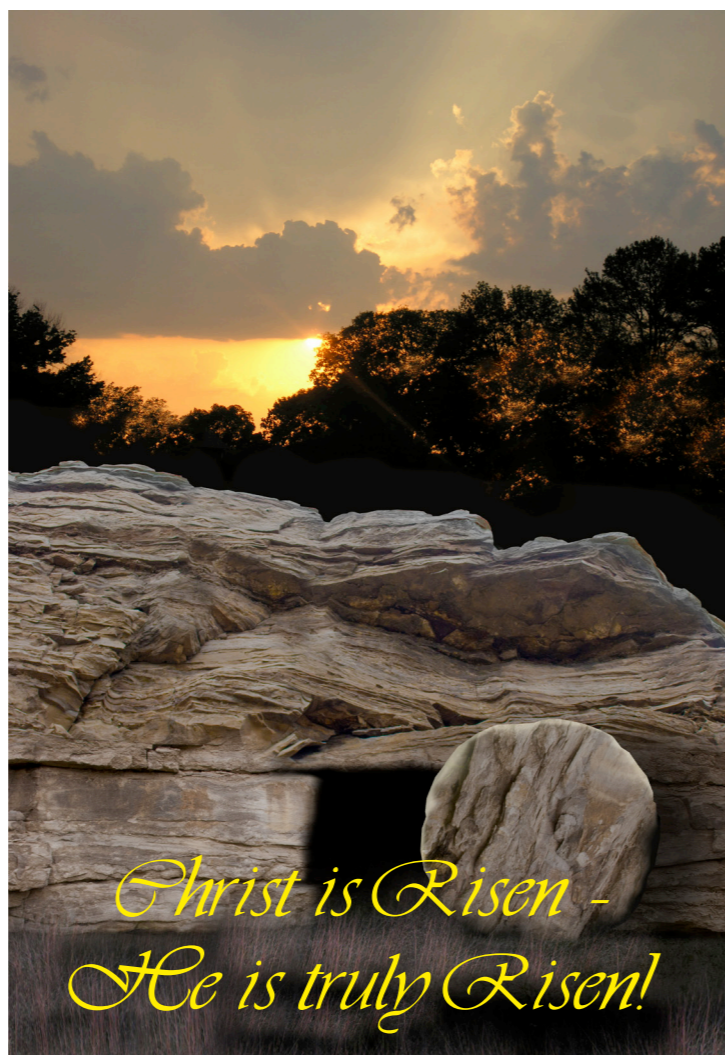
Please return your Trocaire Box to the sacristy or the presbyteries. Thank you.

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

DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE



*Christ is Risen -
He is truly Risen!*

Thoughts

In bereavement, very human and very natural questions arise: where are our beloved dead? What kind of existence do they have? Does it matter that we cannot really imagine it?

Such questions already come up in 1 Thessalonians. Paul gives his most considered reply in 1 Corinthians 15 — dealing precisely with the inability of some Christ-believing Corinthians to imagine the dead to be alive in Christ...one who can blame them? Paul explore this further reality and tries to expand their imagination...but he knows that he cannot really put words on what lies outside our experience and beyond our words.

Describing a spiritual experience he had, he puts it like this: *I come now to visions and revelations granted by the Lord. I know a Christian man who fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know—God knows) was caught up as far as the third heaven. And I know that this same man (whether in the body or apart from the body, I do not know—God knows) was caught up into paradise, and heard words so secret that human lips may not repeat them.* (2 Corinthians 12:1–4) The unsayable is, well, unsayable.



WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic (1) Devotion to Sr. Clare Crockett thrives as hopes rise for canonisation cause (2) The return of Becky Kealy of Kanturk to the Faith and the beginning of her political career with Aontu were closely intertwined (3) Hurling great Kevin Hennessy tells how a long stint in hospital has led to a deepening of prayer (4) Fr. Hans Kung, original celebrity theologian and liberal muse, dead at 93.

Unfortunately no other reviews at time of print.

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.

Thought for the day

For the word of God to become a living word, we need to listen beyond the words to the one speaking to us through Scripture. It is our faith that God speaks to us as we listen to "the very voice of the pilgrim people God." This does not happen of its own accord; it calls for a listening ear and an open heart.

Prayer

Merciful God, anoint me with you Holy Spirit. As I read your Word, let me hear your voice speaking to me from within. Give me the wisdom to understand your message to me. Let your Word be the joy of my heart and the light to my feet. Give me strength to build my life on your Word. Let it be done to me according to your Word. May I rejoice in the blessedness of hearing your Word and keeping it.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections for Prayer

1. When we are not expecting it to happen, even a good event can startle us. So it was with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them. He sought to calm them and helped them to see the good news behind what had initially alarmed them. Who has been a Jesus person for you by helping you to find meaning and good news in life?
2. Jesus helped the disciples to find new hope, but he did not give them easy answers. He asked them to see the facts before their eyes. He wanted them to learn from the experience they were having. As a parent, teacher, friend or guide, have you been a Jesus person to another, helping him/her to find hope and purpose in life by learning from his/ her experiences? Who has done this for you?
3. The disciples had a resurrection experience. Unexpected possibilities for the future surfaced when it seemed that hope had gone. What have been your resurrection experiences; recovery of health when it did not seem possible, new opportunities after failure or disappointment, inner healing after a deep hurt, etc?
4. It took the disciples some time to grasp the meaning of what was happening. It can take us time to learn the deeper lessons of life. Reflect on an example of some lesson about life that you have learned slowly over time?

PRAYER

God of all the prophets, you fulfilled your promise of old that your Christ would suffer and so rise to glory. Open our minds to understand the Scriptures and fill us with joyful wonder in the presence of the Risen Christ, that we may be his witnesses to the farthest ends of the earth. Amen.

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.

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.