

## 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

**Mary Egan**, Dundanion Court  
**Patrick (Pat) O'Riordan**, Blackrock.  
**Kathleen Barry**, Beaumont.  
May the light of heaven surround them always.



## The Dream of St. Joseph

At the start of this week, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh met with the Minister for Health in relation to public worship and emphasised how attentive parishes have been to public health requirements with the support of volunteer stewards and parish ministries. In the course of the meeting, he also highlighted the fact that priests have been on the frontline comforting the bereaved, attending to the sick, celebrating Funeral Masses and trying to reach out to parishes through social media and all available means. This has been the way in our own parish and parishes throughout the Diocese of Cork and Ross. It has been in the absence of public worship that we realise the great gifts of the Eucharist and the priesthood.

It's in this strange context that we celebrate Vocations Sunday this weekend. In his message for Vocations Sunday 2021 Pope Francis speaks of three words that mark the journey of St. Joseph and vocation: dream, service and fidelity. Indeed, the first words that Joseph hears from the Lord in a dream are 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid'.

In recent years we have celebrated Vocations Sunday faced with decreasing numbers of priests and deteriorating morale. This year we pray for vocations to the priesthood facing a different adversity of the pandemic and the absence of public worship. However, it's in this adversity that these qualities of dream, service and fidelity come to the fore.

This weekend we persevere in prayer and hope for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We put our trust in God who brings through difficulties so that we can join together again for the Eucharist and that there will always be a priest to lead the celebration. St. Joseph, pray for us.

Fr. Michael

## 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 – Thank You

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.

**When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.**  
**DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE**

## EASTER CREED

Do you believe in God, Source and incarnating power of the immense cosmic space and time, who personally knows and cares about each person in the small and most intimate moments of our lives? **I do.**

Do you believe in God who is intensely personal, Taking flesh in fathers, but is much more than fathers, Taking flesh in mothers, but is much more than mothers, who is ultimately MYSTERY and before whom we must stand wordless and in awe? **I do.**

Do you believe in the divinely human Jesus, born of Mary, Who emerged from among us to open our eyes to the presence of God working in all creation? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus as the special revelation of our knowledge of God, Who sometimes used images of women and men, birds and trees, seeds and weeds to help us sense the incredible power and earthy intimacy of God's love? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus who from the cross in agony found the strength to love and forgive those who betrayed, tortured, reviled and executed him, And who rose to offer comfort, love, forgiveness and hope And to entrust his mission to us? **I do.**

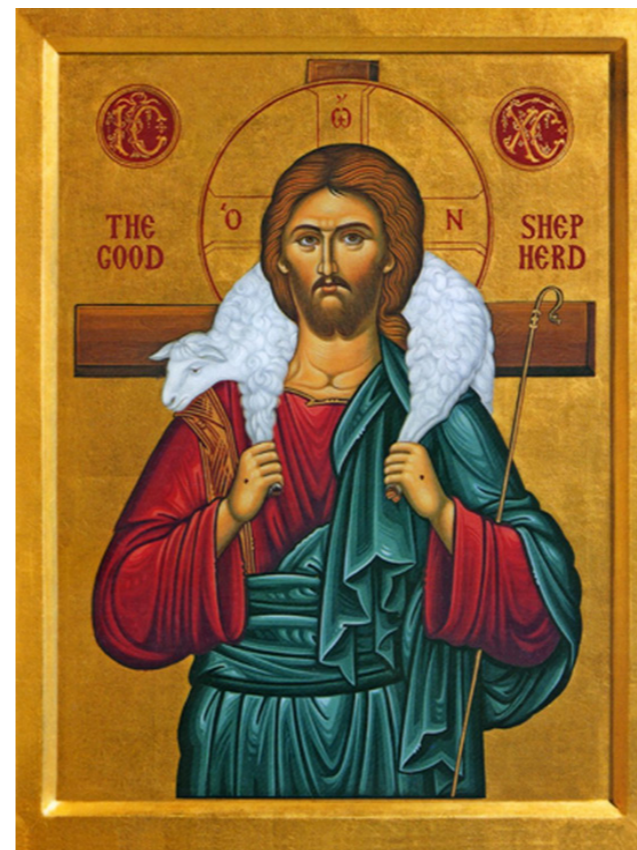
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit of God working in and through creation to forgive and comfort, heal and rebuild Communities of hope and love in universal solidarity? **I do.**

Do you believe that you are a part of this community in Christ's Spirit, called every day to spread this hope and comfort in rebuilding our communities, our Church, our nation, our world? **I do.**

We, in and of your immense universe of cosmic time and space, give you our deepest thanks, our Loving God, through Christ our Lord and in the Living Spirit. **Amen.**

## Thoughts

This is Good Shepherd Sunday and we read from John 10. It is familiar and very rich. The passage takes us in three directions. Firstly, it invites personal reflection: *how do I experience the care of the Good Shepherd in my own life?* At the same time it leads to communal reflection: *are we really one flock and one shepherd?* Communion is always "under construction," of course. Finally, John 10 indicates missionary reflection: *how do we relate to those who do not belong, to the "other sheep" who also belong to this fold.*



## WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

**Universe/Catholic Times** (1). Q and A: Do miracles have a place in modern-day Catholic Church. (2) Fr. Marsden on St. Catherine of Siena, a woman of intense prayer and close union with God. (3) Talking Point -- Virus pandemic blamed for creating conditions ripe for human trafficking. (4) Post-Covid recovery plans must centre around care. (5) Pope Francis: New politics must be built from the bottom up.

**Irish Catholic.** (1) Is Vitamin D the solution to our Covid problems? (2) David Quinn: Proposed 'hate law' poses big questions for the Church. (3) Mary Kenny: Keep up the campaign to open our churches for public Masses.

**Catholic Voice.** (1) Be not afraid -- Five ways to have hope in dark times. (2) Richard Greene: Counselling from a Catholic perspective. (3) John Lacken: Battle Fatigue - Signs of Darkness - Signs of Hope.

**Tablet** (1) Christopher Howse -- From 1967, Princess Alice, still dressed as a nun, lived in Buckingham Palace. (2) Nigerian Bishop opposes scheme for 'former' Boko Haram members.

## Thought for the day

The image of the Good Shepherd is profoundly reassuring. We hear it today in John's gospel and elsewhere in the Bible. It evokes a tremendous feeling of being cared for—the consolation of faith. Even in these difficult days, we need such reassurance. At the same time, the metaphor is used in a dissonant way: no regular shepherd, however caring, gives his life for his sheep! Cosy familiarity can dull the sense of shock: what is going on here? The gentle pastoral language suddenly gives way to sacrifice, as the shepherd becomes the lamb of God.

Prayer

*Jesus our shepherd, we know your care for us was costly as you laid down your life and took it up again. Help us to know again "the great events that gave us new life" in you, that we may hear you and follow you in all we do.*

K O'Mahony OSA

## Reflections for Prayer

1. There is a qualitative difference between a casual acquaintance and a relationship characterised by understanding and care. What changes have you experienced in your relationships as your love and knowledge of the other increased? What was it like for you to experience that change?
2. The good shepherd "lays down his life for the sheep." When has your care for another led you to "lay down your life" for that person, e.g., as a friend, parent, spouse, son or daughter? When you have known another to do this for you?
3. The parable also suggests that relationships should not be closed but open. Perhaps you have experienced the truth of the saying that love shared is love strengthened.
4. Jesus speaks of the freedom of the Good Shepherd in laying down his life. Faced with the needs of others, we can at times feel trapped into looking after them, caught by duty, obligation, or guilt. We can become like the hired hands who do a job without care for the person. Perhaps you have experienced both attitudes, caring for others under duress and by free choice. What difference did it make when you chose to care for the other, even in circumstances where you had little option?
5. What do these experiences of love and care in human relationships reveal to you about God's love for you?

PRAYER

*God of lasting love, fulfil your plan of salvation to gather into one fold the peoples of the whole world. Let everyone on earth recognise your Christ as the Good Shepherd who freely lays down his life for all to take it up again in power. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God for ever and ever. Amen.*

## MASS CARDS

We have received a supply of the Packet of 12 Mass Cards. Like everything else during Lockdown they have doubled in price. We will sell any parishioner a single Mass Card signed by the priests of the parish – the cost €1.00 per card plus the Stipend for the Mass.