

St Michael's Parish Blackrock Cork

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02/05/2021

5th SUNDAY of EASTER

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES:

Email to : info@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

BAPTISMS: Saturdays 3 pm - 2 weeks notice required.

MARRIAGES: Minimum 3 months notice required by Church and State. Pre-marriage course required.

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

Izabel Saoirse Coelho O'Mahony, Dublin & Brazil
Sheila Hurley, Rosegreen Avenue



New Month, New Beginnings, New Hopes

People feel a new sense of optimism since the announcement of easing in government restrictions on last Thursday. There is a sense of a fresh start and brighter days ahead. Please God, this will indeed be the case as we carefully move ahead. There is also a growing sense of security as many people are receiving their Covid vaccination.

We are all looking forward to being able to attend Mass again from 10th May next. That will be wonderful and a great blessing. We hope that we can join together to sing The Flowers of the May in the church. Every year the late Gay Byrne would always broadcast Canon Sidney MacEwen singing that wonderful hymn. Curiously, in recent years it is widely shared by people on social media with a sense of nostalgia but also a sense of hope at the start of a new month and summertime. A bit more sunshine and warmth would also be seasonal but we hope for the best in that too.

On this Fifth Sunday of Easter and at the start of May which is the month of Mary we look forward with trust and hope.
Fr. Michael

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. 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.**

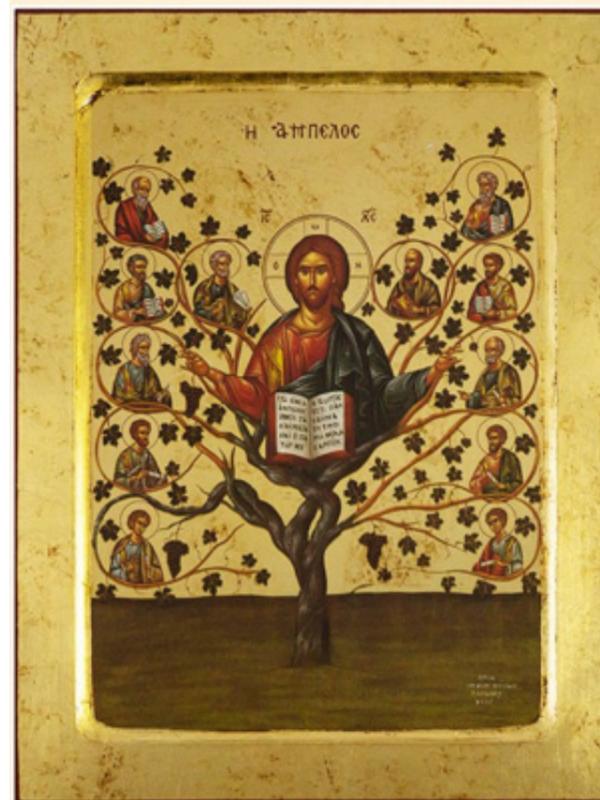
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit of God working in and through creation to forgive and comfort, heal and rebuild Communities of hope and love in universal solidarity? **I do.**

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 year, the Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Easter is the first part of the True Vine discourse in John 15. To get to the deep meaning of passages in John, three steps are essential: (1) a close look at the Old Testament and early Jewish background; (2) an awareness of the links with the Jesus tradition in the Synoptic Gospels; (3) a reading of the imagery/vocabulary across the whole Gospel of John. All three are significant for the True Vine discourse, with special emphasis on the Old Testament and early Jewish



WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Universe/Catholic Times. (1) The Chauvin trial -- justice done, or more work to do? (2) Caroline Farrow: A funeral's focus should be on the deceased - and prayer. (3) Fr. Marsden: Who is Jesus according to Jehovah's Witnesses? (4) Vatican - Tougher security not enough to counter terrorism

Irish Catholic (1) Michael Kelly: Church can't take on role of policing whether families have parties or not. (2) Maria Steen: Even the freedom to disapprove of abortion is under threat. (3) The Irish OLA sisters believe racism and discrimination must be addressed as Ireland becomes more multicultural, writes Ruadhan Jones (4) Prof. Oran Doyle: The evolution of legal prohibitions on religious services

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**

Thought for the day

In the Bible, things from everyday life are used to speak of God. Two good examples would be those staples of the Mediterranean, the olive and the vine. In particular, the vine lends itself to metaphorical reference. It takes great tending; at the same time, it is obvious that even the furthest tendril "must with the vine be one." By staying connected and with careful pruning, the fruit itself is "pleasant to the sight and good for food" (Genesis 2:9). No need to mention the wine!

Prayer

Help us, God of all growth, to be one with the true vine, Christ our Lord. May the difficult experiences which prune us make us more abundant in the fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections for Prayer

1. In a relationship connectedness is important. Relationships cannot be taken for granted and need time and care to be life-giving. What does your experience tell you of the truth of this in your relationships with God, with your friends, with your family, with communities or groups to which you belong?

2. "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." In what ways do you see that you have been 'pruned' by the experiences of life, or by the word of God, to be a more fruitful person? Perhaps you have also experienced the need for "pruning" in significant relationships in your life.

3. The parable also reminds us that we are not the source of our own life. It is a gift from God, from our parents, and from all who have nourished us. Give thanks for those who have been a source of life for you.

4. God is glorified by our being fruitful. When has human fruitfulness reminded you of God at work in our world?

PRAYER

O God, you graft us on to Christ, the true vine, and, with tireless care, you nurture our growth in knowledge and reverence. Tend the vineyard of your Church, that in Christ each branch may bring forth to the glory of your name abundant fruits of faith and love. 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.