

St Michael's Parish Blackrock Cork

09/05/2021

6th SUNDAY of EASTER

Email : info@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

Website: www.stmichaelsblackrock.ie

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

William (Bill) Connolly, Jersey Channel Islands, formerly Beaumont



May the light of heaven surround him always.

Canon Tadhg Ó Mathúna

On behalf of the parish community we wish Canon Tadhg a very happy "special milestone" birthday on this Tuesday 11th May. We give thanks to the Lord for the years that He has blessed Canon Tadhg with.



We acknowledge his years of service and ministry, especially here in Blackrock over the last 21 years, another "milestone".

Congratulations Canon Tadhg, on this significant moment in your life and may God bless you with strength, good health and grace in the years to come. May you have a good and restful day. In the thoughts and prayers of everyone.

Fr. Colin

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 the celebration of Sunday Mass

To maximise the number of people that can join us for the celebration of Mass, we have made a number of changes to both the church, and to how we celebrate Mass, so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe.

We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit. We will continue to stand for the "Gospel" and "Our Father". We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime Ministers of the Eucharist will be positioned at the top and centre of the church. The Ministers will wear face masks and we ask that you maintain 2 metres distance in the line. Follow the Stewards guidance during Communion.

Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.

CHURCH CLOSSES AT 7.00 pm

Return of Public Worship

People can again attend Mass in-person on weekdays from Monday 10th May. Weekend Masses resume on Saturday 15th May @ 6pm and on Sunday 16th May @ 9am & 11am. Thanks to our volunteer stewards who ensure that all health guidelines are observed in the Church so that we can all gather safely and joyfully for Mass.

Baptisms

Families are asked to contact the church to make arrangements for baptisms. Families were very understanding when it was not possible to gather since Christmas but baptisms can now proceed with immediate family members present from Saturday 15th May next. We all look forward to these moments.

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. As we have not been able to gather for public worship since St. Stephen's Day, people have been very generous to drop in their weekly offering to the church and presbyteries. This continues to be welcomed. Thank You.



PARISH NOTICES:

Baptisms will commence again on Saturday 15th. May, 2021. Attendance at them is confined to Parents, Baby and siblings (if any) Sponsors and Grandparents.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST – ROTA available for collection in the Sacristy.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD – ROTA available in Sacristy.

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

Thoughts

The Easter season is gradually coming to a close. John 15:9-17 is a continuation of the "I am the true vine" discourse, although the metaphor no longer dominates. Instead, the writer takes us, in his disarmingly simple way, to the heart of the matter: love one another. God so loved the world...because God is love.background. It turns out to be extraordinarily relevant for discipleship today.

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

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic. (1) National Maternity Hospital -- Political parties determined to promote their 'progressive credentials' are intent on stoking fears of an imaginary Catholic threat to their of a secular Ireland, writes David Mullins (2) Re-evaluating the approach of the Church to sacraments post-Covid (3) Breda O'Brien: Parishes can no longer ignore the declining numbers attending Mass (4) Michael Kelly: Return to Mass welcome, but legal situation remains murky.

Messenger (1) The effects of gambling (2) The Prophets -- Ezekiel (3) History of the saints -- St. Colmcille.

Universe/Catholic Times (1) God 'just wants me to hang around' says 108 year-old Dominican nun. (2) Q & A with Fr. Francis Doyle -- Is Pope Francis still considered a Jesuit? (3) The North -- Arlene Foster: where it went wrong for the First Minister and Sinn Fein labelled hypocrites after calling for ban on pro-life vigils (4) Fr. Shay Cullen: Governments failing to stop the virus.

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.

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

There are odd expressions in the Fourth Gospel and in 1 John. It is strange to be commanded to love. Even stranger: "Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments." What can "command" and "obedience" have to do with the love, the most free thing of all? It may help to recall that both human nature and divine nature are defined by love. We are being commanded to become what we most want to be in our deepest selves. Obedience here is the invitation to become our truest selves, true to our identity before God and our true to our mission simply as human beings.

Prayer

You know us more deeply than we know ourselves: may your love go before us always and inspire in us a generous love for our neighbour.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections for Prayer

1. A commandment of love is something of a contradiction in terms. Love is a free choice. That is what gives the thrill to the experience of being loved. Recall times when you received gestures of love from another—a spontaneous embrace from a husband or wife; a wave from a friend; words of comfort and affirmation— not because the other person felt obliged to reach out to you but because they wanted to let you know that you were loved. What effect did that have on you? Did it bring you joy? Perhaps you have had a glimpse of the truth of what Jesus said, that it is in loving that our joy is complete.
2. Often love and friendship make demands on us. Parents give freely of their time and energy to the care of their children but sometimes it requires a lot of effort. Also in responding to the needs of friends or spouses we can be challenged to 'lay down' our own 'lives' at least for a time. Can you recall when a time when putting yourself out for others bore fruit for them and for you?
3. "I chose you". Have you had the experience of being 'chosen' by someone? What was it like for you to be chosen? What is it like for you to consider yourself as one chosen by Jesus?
4. Jesus called the disciples 'friends' not 'servants' because he had told them everything about himself. When have you allowed yourself to be known and loved? When has friendship blossomed for you because you made the time available and took the effort to understand another?
5. The presence of God is revealed to us in the love we experience from others. Sometimes it can be clearly seen in the love between husband and wife, or parent and child when it doesn't have to be proved but is the nature of the relationship in which they live. Love can also be apparent in difficult situations like when someone is ill or dying or in any kind of trouble. Abiding in the love of another is one of the greatest joys of life. When have you had that experience?

PRAYER

God of all nations, in the gift of your Son you have embraced the world with a love that takes away our sin and bestows perfect joy. Grant to all who have been reborn in baptism fidelity in serving you and generosity in loving one another. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God for ever and ever. Amen.