

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

Joseph Browne, Silverdale Road
Pat Hurley, Kilbrack Lawn
Maria O'Brien, Skehard Road
John O'Donnell, Menloe Gardens
Jim Hanover, Marian Park



May the light of heaven surround them always.

Reflection

It has been a great week to see people gather for Mass each morning in the church. This weekend we really look forward we hope and joy to joining in Mass together again in person. We need see one another and to be together as the visible Body of Christ gathered together in prayer and thanksgiving.

The last time we were together in the church on Christmas Day the Crib was carefully placed in front of the altar. Now as we return the Paschal Candle is raised up as the light of Christ announcing resurrection and the triumph of life over death. This weekend we are celebrating the Feast of the Ascension.

In front of the Crib at Christmas we welcomed the Emmanuel assured that a Saviour has been born and God is with us. Today the gospel opens and closes with the same words, 'I will be with you always'. These are the same words but different images of the infant Jesus and as He ascends into Heaven. Jesus is the first to enter into Heaven to open up a way for us as well as He goes before us.

May we celebrate with joy this weekend and be reassured that God is with us as we face many challenges in these times.

Fr. Michael

Welcome to the celebration of 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

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. A good few have done so in recent days and we look forward to joyfully celebrating with them soon. Families were very understanding when it was not possible to gather since Christmas but baptisms can now proceed with immediate family members in attendance.

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 continue to be welcomed. *Thank You.*

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic. (1) Vatican's vanishing artisans -- traditional workshops struggle amid Covid-19. (2) The Mass ban and the drift towards a new form of totalitarianism. (3) Anyone who has an interest in a peaceful transition to a more democratic Ireland ought to engage on unity, writes Fr. Joe McVeigh. (4) Mary Kenny: Bill and Melinda Gates -- When a mature marriage ends

Catholic Voice (1) May 13th 1917 - Fatima. (2) John Lacken: But he that shall persevere to the end, he shall be saved.

Tablet of 8/5 (1) Venezuela -- 'Doctor of the Poor' beatified after miracle is recognised. (2) New bible translation will use inclusive language.

Tablet of 1/5 (1) End of Life -- Dignity in Dying. (2) US politics -- an idealist in the White House.

Keep in touch - buy a Catholic paper

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.

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.

Thoughts

The Gospel for the Ascension is interesting in itself and raises significant questions. It is evident that the original Gospel ended at Mark 16:8, quite enigmatically. That unsettling non-ending triggered the production of "appropriate" final verses, not by the Gospel writer. The NRSV offers two endings: the shorter ending added no earlier than the fourth century and the longer ending added some time in the second century. The longer ending also comes with variants (not the C19 variety!). In other words, later generations did not hesitate to adjust the holy books. The stories in the longer ending point to a time after the availability of Matthew and Luke. All Churches accept the extra verses as part of Scripture.



You may be using your mobile phone for Mass, if so, please ensure it is on silent. If not, please switch it off. Thank you

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

When is an ending not an ending? Mark takes the huge risk of an apparently negative ending to the story which began resoundingly in 1:1. The ending does not satisfy and never did... and that is Mark's very point. To have a neat narrative ending would close the story in the past, whereas Mark forces us to realise that the story goes on the lives of all disciples, then and now. We are the bearers of the Good News, we are the continuation of the story, a story which in truth will never really end, thanks be to God.

Prayer

Give us the courage, God of the Good News, to take that message into our hearts and lives, into every time and place. Even when we cannot feel it, we know that the Lord is working with us and so we do not lose heart.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections for Prayer

1. In the preceding verse Jesus had rebuked the apostles for their lack of faith. Despite this he commissioned them to bring the Good News to the whole world. Witnesses to the Good News do not have to be perfect. There is encouragement for us in this. To whom have you brought good news? Who has been a messenger of good news to you?
2. Jesus then tells them that their witness will have quite dramatic effects, helping people to overcome demons, bring them peace and healing. Things happen when we have belief in God and in ourselves. Strong faith can enable us to meet and overcome difficulties, in ways that waverers cannot do. Perhaps you have had experience of this?
3. The ascension marked the end of the visible presence of Jesus with the disciples, but he was with them in other ways. 'The Lord worked with them'. Sometimes we can experience that death is not the end of the presence of someone significant to us. We can experience the unseen presence and influence of a parent, a friend, or an inspiring leader, after they have died. Has this happened for you? Have you also experienced the hidden presence of the Lord working with you?

PRAYER

God of power and might, in the mystery of the ascension you have raised up and glorified your Son, and exalted our humanity at his right hand. Confirm the good news your Church proclaims, so that when Christ returns in glory all nations may be gathered into the kingdom where he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God for ever and ever. Amen.

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