

### Mass Times

**Sundays:** 9 am & 11 am  
**Working Holy Days:** 10 am & 7.30 pm  
**Monday to Friday:** 10 am  
**Saturday Vigil:** 6.00 pm  
**Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem**



### Baptisms

**Alfie Marco Chaloner.**  
**Denis John Long.**  
**Frances Patricia Clune.**

We welcome them into the Christian Family



### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

On Friday 1st October following morning Mass.  
Rosary & Benediction at 5p.m.

There are sheets on the tables in the Church where Parishioners can indicate the times most suitable for them to be present. We would like that there would be at least 2 people present for each period. If there are vacant periods we would appreciate volunteers to fill these times by putting their names on the list.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

### DIOCESAN PRIESTS RETREAT.

**Monday 11th. To Thursday 14th. October.**

Bishop Fintan Gavin has directed that there will be NO MORNING MASSES on these days.  
Funerals will be covered by Religious Order priests should that be necessary.

### Pandemic restrictions

You will be aware that there have been changes to the restrictions regarding attendance in churches which became effective last week. The new restrictions allow us to celebrate Mass with the church occupied to 50% of its capacity. Our church in Blackrock has a capacity of 796, therefore, to comply with restrictions the church could seat 398 people.

To ensure continued confidence in attendance at Mass we have decided as an interim measure to increase the current capacity from 100 to 150 people, to do this we are amending current protocols as follows:

- The pews were arranged to be 1 metre apart at the beginning of Covid and this will remain unchanged.
- There is no longer a requirement to divide the church into 2 separate parts.
- Stewards will continue to assist the congregation identify suitable seats, at communion and for entering and exiting the church.
- Two Ministers of the Eucharist will be situated half way to distribute to the lower half of the church.

To maintain appropriate distancing between the congregation, we will **continue to sit and stand** (as appropriate) rather than kneel. We will continue to receive communion as heretofore. These procedures will be reviewed in October in line with government guidelines.

### The Little Ones

This Saturday is the 25th September and the Feast of St. Finbarr, our patron saint. This weekend our diocese is blessed with the ordination to the diaconate of Ronan Sheehan from Newcestown. This is the final step on the journey in preparation for ordination to the priesthood. We ask God's blessing on Ronan in this new stage of his ministry.



This Sunday is Gougane Sunday and the annual pilgrimage in honour of St. Finbarr takes place. Thankfully people can gather in Gougane to join in the Mass this year.

The gospel this weekend is challenging. It speaks of the little ones. We can approach this gospel in different ways. We could see the little ones as other people who need kindness. We could also see ourselves as the little ones who can be worn down by the events of life and need the mercy and tenderness of God. Perhaps that will be our prayer this Sunday as we ask to taste that tenderness and mercy which is assured in Jesus Christ and the Eucharist. St. Finbarr, pray for us.

Fr. Michael



### Prayer Service for Creation on the Feast of Francis of Assisi

Monday, 4th October 2021 @ 7:30pm to 8:15pm in Holy Cross Church, to mark the close of Creation Time, organised by the Environment Group. All are invited to come together to recall before our God and one another that we human beings are the ones appointed stewards of His Creation. We remind ourselves that the welfare of our children, grandchildren, and our brothers and sisters in far-flung lands, rest largely in our hands. Decisions we make today and our courage to change lifestyles and to lobby those we have elected to lead us: these will make the real difference: for good or for ill. Mother Earth, our common home, needs each one of us to play our part. The opportunity to heal our environment is still available, but will not last. The scientists tell us that ours is the last decade that we can take action to avoid the worst. Please come, join, consider, pray. Together. Covid Guidelines will apply.



**The service needs 6 volunteers to lead short prayer/reflection.**  
**For more information: Máire: 087 6420135**

### Thoughts

The gospel is a straight continuation of the gospel of the previous Sunday, taking forward the teaching on discipleship. This time, the disciples have once again "lost the run of themselves" as we say. They have just failed in an attempted exorcism and still they object to an outsider successfully working deeds of power in Jesus' name. More than ironic...

The temptation to exclusivity is not unknown in the subsequent history of Christianity and church. It takes courage (and is life-giving!) to see God's Spirit at work beyond the boundaries set up by human traditions. There is something here for us all — especially in the light of Synod 2023. Can we discern God at work in our world around us?

### WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

**Irish Catholic.** (1) Fr. Rolheiser: Do we really believe that our prayers can stop a pandemic? (2) Neymar offered E500,000 a month to keep quiet about faith (3) Breda O'Brien: Church history is a story of ups and downs (4) Frank Duff's indirect influence on Vatican II hailed by biographer Finola Kennedy

**Tablet.** (1) Liturgical Reform -- The Custodians of Tradition. (2) Pope Francis warmly welcomed on short stay in Budapest

**Catholic Voice.** (1) Mary Kearns: Keep holy the sabbath day -- What is so special about Sunday? (2) October 7th. -- Our Lady of Victory, Feast of the Holy Rosary (3) Challenging Catholic politicians on Abortion

### First Holy Communion and Confirmation

All the outstanding celebrations of First Holy Communion and Confirmation in our parish have taken place. This weekend we congratulate the children and young people from Scoil Ursula, St. Michael's and the School of the Divine Child. May God bless all the children, their families, their schools and our parish. All the celebrations were prayerful in the context of the ongoing restrictions.

### 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 for everyone.

### Welcome and Thank You

We are so grateful to our volunteer stewards, church collectors, parish ministries and parish volunteers who continue to make sure that we can gather confidently and safely for Mass. Go raibh maith agat.

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

**DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE**

### Cork Autism Online Conference 2021 - Thriving with Autism. Sunday, October 17th.

This online conference offers interventions, skills and strategies to support people on the autism spectrum. Suitable for Parents, Families, Caregivers, Autistics, Employers, Educators, Professionals, Agencies, Advocates and anyone with an interest in autism. Visit: [www.autismcork.ie](http://www.autismcork.ie)

### Thought for the day

Jesus knows, of course, that it is not our hands or our feet or our eyes which cause us to sin (cf. Mark 7:14-23). There is a certain sarcastic, even caustic wit in telling us to lop off extremities, as if it were that simple. Sometimes, humour is more effective— more disarming at any rate— than blunt exhortation (hence, dictators always fear the comedians). The point is not lost however: we need to get to the root of the matter and undergo conversion of heart, then of life and then of the whole person, limbs and all!

Prayer

*Loving God, help us to continue on the path of conversion of heart and life. Help us to make those choices which will reflect our faith in you, loving, just and faithful God. Help us to see ourselves as you would wish us to be, in your own image and likeness.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. John objected to a person who was not in their group, casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus himself had no problems with this. Jealousy can poison our outlook even when what is done by another is good. "S/he is invading my patch." Perhaps you have seen, in yourself or in others, the negative effect of jealousy and the contrasting positive effect of being able to rejoice that good is being done, irrespective of who is the person doing it.

2. In strong terms Jesus condemns those who are destructive of the life of others, particularly the "little ones." Just as Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full, we likewise are here to make a positive difference to others. What was it like for you when you were able to do something that was helpful to another?

3. Rather dramatically Jesus tells us to cut off a hand, or tear out an eye, rather than harm another. It is not to be taken literally but it does mean that we should not be casual about our efforts to live a good life. When have you experienced the benefits of an element of seriousness in your approach to life?

PRAYER

*Pour out your Spirit, O God, over all the world to inspire every heart with knowledge and love of you. Grant that we who confess Jesus as Lord may shun whatever is contrary to this faith and give witness to your love that has saved us in Christ, for he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### 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**

**Blackrock Community Association** will hold Registration for members on Monday 27th September between 2-4 pm. Registration will take place in line with government advice re covid 19.

SECOND COLLECTION W/E. 25/26 SEPTEMBER.  
PRIESTHOOD EDUCATION.

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](http://www.tarsus.ie) and register to receive the emails.