

St Michael's Parish Blackrock Cork

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03/10/2021 27th. Sunday Ordinary Time.

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES:

Email to : info@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office.

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
Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm
Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem



Baptisms

Ava Peggy Blay.
Alvey Joshua Cummins.
Kaiden Sean O'Flynn.

We welcome them into the Christian Family



Recently Deceased

Jack O'Keeffe, Church Road, Blackrock.
 May the light of heaven surround him always.



St. Francis of Assisi – Pray for us

The gospel this weekend is challenging. Yet as we gather to celebrate the Eucharist we all know that life is complex and complicated. If we have learned anything from the pandemic, it is that all our plans can be turned upside down in an instant. We are all still struggling to recover and make sense of things again.



In recent years, we have been blessed with the leadership of Pope Francis. At every turn, he proclaims mercy. He reaches out to people in difficulty and on the margins. He knows that life is a wide tapestry of people and events. His words give hope to those who are struggling.

This weekend, as we listen to the gospel about relationships and marriage, we listen them with the merciful ear of Pope Francis and we pray for all those facing complex situations and we thank God for the joy and happiness that people experience too. We ask St. Francis of Assisi to pray for us as we will celebrate his feast day on Monday.

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.

Mass

It is encouraging to see more people and families attending Mass since the capacity of the church was increased to 50% a few weeks ago. We encourage one another be present safe in the knowledge that all guidelines are implemented. Hopefully the capacity can return to normal soon as restrictions will be further eased later in October.

Parish Finance – Thank You

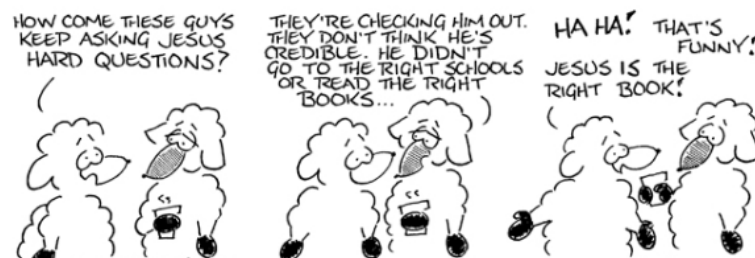
Many people now use the Donate Button on the Parish website to support the parish and priests. This is really appreciated in these challenging times for everyone.

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.

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**



Thoughts

The teaching of Jesus on marriage and divorce is best understood first of all in the context of the time. In that context, the teaching would have been seen as prophetic, against the grain, calling people to a different, more original ideal and offering greater security to women.

In contemporary terms, it is decidedly un-prophetic simply to repeat what was said then. Instead, we are called in our own time to be prophetic — against the grain, both social and ecclesial — calling all people, without distinction, to both love and life-long commitment.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

- Irish Catholic.** (1) Fijian gold-medalist celebrates his success with thanksgiving Mass.
 (2) Looking forward ourselves for inspiration in the vocations crisis.
 (3) Bishop Paul Dempsey says that Frank Duff would be 'appalled' of constant criticism of the Pope.
 (4) Nuala O'Loan: The dire consequences of short-term politics.
 (5) Fr. Conor McDonough: There is no separation between work and faith.



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

Thought for the day

At present, the culture hesitates before the long-term commitments such as life-long marriage. Perhaps wisely! And yet, there is freedom in commitment. It is possible to walk the quay sides looking are various options for the journey. At that time, you have freedom of choice. However, if you want to get any where, one vessel will have to be selected. That is the freedom of choosing, choosing not to remain in the paralysis of choice. Once made, commitment opens up to another level of living and loving and being loved in return.

Prayer

Creator God, you know our hearts and in your wisdom you have made us for each other, knowing that it is not good to be alone. In our committed relationships, help to find freedom and love, life and joy. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. Marriages do break down, but in this story Jesus appears as the wise person urging people to seek first the original harmony where possible, rather than seek escape routes when difficulties arise. When have you found that, in marriage or in other relationships, the bonds have been strengthened when you have been prepared to work through difficulties?

2. There are other things that we needlessly and wrongly put in opposition: young and old, male and female, people from different cultures, body and soul. Perhaps at times you have discovered the advantages of exploring the richness in combining such apparently exclusive opposites.

3. The children in the second story can be taken as representing any group of 'little ones' whose opinion we may be inclined to dismiss. When have you found that you have been taught an important lesson about life, about love, or about faith by people whose views you had been inclined to dismiss?

PRAYER

Creator God, in Christ you call man and woman to the fullness of glory for which you created them in your image. Heal our hardened hearts, renew our obedience to your will, and conform our lives to your gracious design. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Monthly Church Gate collection will take place on
 w/e 3rd/4th October
 Your support as always, is greatly appreciated.

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.

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



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.

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.