

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

Aoibhí Jean Harrison.
We welcome her into the Christian Family



The Rich Young Man

The gospel this weekend is a very familiar one. It is the account of the rich young man who approaches Jesus asking 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'



There are so many levels to this meeting with Jesus but two stand out. It says that Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him. There was no judgement but love. That is the way we want to be received as well, with mercy and without judgment.

Secondly, it says that the young man went away sad. That sadness is powerful and familiar. We can have so much and yet are empty inside. The key is to meet Jesus in person and in the Eucharist.

As always, we are in the right place at Sunday Mass and listening to the right words in the Sunday readings so that we can go away in happiness.

Fr. Michael.

Priests Retreat

Please pray for the priests of the Diocese who are gathering for their Diocesan Retreat for four days this week. No more than other frontline services, they have given so much over the last twenty months celebrating the Funeral masses and the sacraments in extraordinary circumstances. Our priests need care and support like everyone else especially a renewal of their prayer lives. It is a blessing that 80 priests can participate this week. Please pray for them.

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.*

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



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.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

- Irish Catholic.** (1) David Quinn: Feminist and Christian criticisms of James Bond echo each other. (2) Martin Mansergh: Benefits of separating Church and State. (3) Irish synod should not 'water down' teaching to cater to elite classes. (4) Fr. Martin Delaney: A disturbing question about the remains of babies
- Messenger.** (1) Fr. Brendan Mc.Manus SJ: Why I left IT to join the Jesuits. (2) Fr. Peter McVerry SJ: Is prayer a waste of time? (3) A favourite day of Pope Francis
- Catholic Voice.** (1). Why I pray the Rosary. (2) Mary Kearns: The Centre of Worship is the Altar. (3) John Lacken: No man can serve two masters
- Tablet of 9/10.** (1) US foreign policy -- Fostering Jihad. (2) Disability discrimination -- A life less ordinary (3) Female ministry -- Irish theologian Angela Hanley criticises male-only diaconate
- Tablet of 2/10.** (1) US Catholic media -- Pope Francis cries foul. (2) USA Archbishop and congresswoman at odds over abortion

This Sunday's second collection is for Diocesan needs



Thoughts

World Mission Sunday is the Holy Father's annual appeal for spiritual and financial support so that the life-giving work of overseas mission and missionaries can continue. It always falls on the second last Sunday in October, meaning this year it will be celebrated over the weekend of Sunday 24th.

Its theme 'We Cannot Remain Silent – We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard (Acts 4:20)' is twofold.

It is a message of hope – Jesus Christ is risen and we cannot keep his love, compassion, and mercy to ourselves.

It also challenges us to stand up and speak out on behalf of those who are weaker. All too often, the voices that need to be heard are not the loudest. For them, we cannot remain silent.

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**



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

We all have our own "emotional programmes for happiness." These are part of who we are from a very young age, structured around what was happening then in our lives. To continue in these attitudes well beyond the need for them is the common human experience. At the same time, the call to be fully alive entails some kind of conversion, some kind of letting go. Commonly, something triggers this growth and we become aware of hitherto unrecognised blocks. We may even have the help of someone like Jesus to put his/her finger on the hidden hesitations.

Prayer

God of freedom, you desire nothing more than our strongest love, coming freely from within. For freedom Christ has set us free. Help to recognise how much we are still bound and blind.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. We often get satisfaction from the things we own, clothes, cars, homes, gadgets, or money. There would be something unnatural if we did not. But what happens to us when our possessions begin to 'own' us, when they take a hold us, when we become obsessed with them? Jesus seeks followers who have the freedom to let go of possessions in order to be a servant of others. In whom have you seen this freedom? When have you experienced it yourself?
2. Growth implies change. That change sometimes means letting go of something we have at this moment: job, status, home, security, or something else we value. There can be an apparent loss in letting go but when have you found that you gained by having the freedom to let go of something you had previously clung to?
3. The disciples thought that Jesus was making impossible demands of people following him. He acknowledged that discipleship was impossible to us on our own efforts alone. How have you experienced the benefits of the help of others and of God when you were faced with difficulties in life?

PRAYER

God of wisdom, whose word probes the motives of our hearts, with you all things are possible. Let worldly treasure not keep us from Jesus who looks on us with love. Free us to leave all things and follow him, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Church Gate Collection last weekend
The amount collected was €2160
Your support as always, is greatly appreciated.