

# St Michael's Parish Blackrock Cork

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19/12/2021 4th Sunday of Advent

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES:

Email to : [info@stmichaelsblackrock.ie](mailto: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**



## Recently Deceased

**Jerry Harris**, Beaumont Avenue  
**Terry Horgan**, Dunlocha Cottages  
**Anne Jackson**, Janeville



May the light of heaven surround them always.

## Christmas 2021

**Christmas Mass times:**

**Christmas Eve**

4.00 pm, 6.00 pm and Vigil 8.00 pm

**Christmas Day**

9.00 am and 11.00am



The parish has taken the responsible decision to safely manage attendances at Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day by arranging a ticket system. This will help to balance attendances across five Christmas Masses and to ensure that everyone is comfortable and safe.

**6pm Christmas Eve Mass is fully booked.**

People are asked to take this into consideration before collecting tickets which will be available at Masses this weekend.

People are asked to take tickets only for yourself or your family group so that arrangements will run smoothly.

If you will not be using a ticket you are urged to return it to the church so that others can be accommodated.

You are reminded about mask wearing at all Masses.

Masses will be at the usual times of 9am & 11am on Sunday 26th December (St. Stephen's Day). There is no Mass on Saturday evening of the 25th December.

## Sacrament of Confession

Christmas week **Mon, Tue Wed after 10am Mass**

## BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The SVP Christmas collection this year was over €13,000 This is a wonderful and most generous response by the parishioners of Blackrock.

Our sincerest thanks to everyone and to the Priests of the parish who facilitated the collection.

Thanks also to all for your continued support throughout the years it is very much appreciated.

Happy Christmas everyone and keep safe in these difficult times

John McAdoo  
President  
SVP Blackrock.



## Advent Blessing

We are entering one of the most wonderful weeks and yet, this year, one of the most uncertain. We do not know what the coming days and weeks hold for us. Certainly this will be a subdued Christmas in terms of family gatherings and celebrations. We are all cautious and more than a bit on edge.



However we still celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent in trust and hope. We see the circle of light complete with all four candles alight on our Advent Wreath. The Crib will be in place in the Church very soon. We look forward to the placing of the Infant Jesus in the Crib whether we are at mass in-person or visit the church over Christmas.

As the first reading this weekend concludes, 'they will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself is peace'. In other words, this is lasting and enduring. God will enter into humanity, into the ups and downs of your life and your family; you will have a hope in the newborn Infant, Jesus.

Finally, there is a blessing for you as well. The gospel concludes, 'blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled'. This weekend, that promise is about to be fulfilled not like a distant drama or stage play but in the reality of life. In these final hours we ask for that blessing; kneel in front of the crib asking for that blessing. May your heart leap with joy on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

May God bless you all in these final days of Advent.

Fr. Michael



**Parish Christmas Cards available in the sacristy. 4 packs for €5**

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



## Thoughts

The readings for the day are richer than might seem at first glance. Luke can pack a great deal into a few verses: women in his Gospel, joy, the Holy Spirit, blessedness, believing, Jesus and John the Baptism, and so on, not to speak of the Magnificat which follows on directly.

Hebrews can be tricky to read — so many layers — but it richly rewards the effort. The link below goes further to unravel the readings:

[youtube.com/watch?v=uRr-EVJM7A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRr-EVJM7A)

**Lough Derg Online Shop** offers unique Christmas Cards, featuring scenes of the Island from across the centuries and bespoke Gifts including a limited edition Lough Derg Christmas Candle. Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are also available – Fr La, Prior, will offer a Triduum of Masses beginning on Christmas Eve for all those who are enrolled. Visit [www.loughderg.live/shop](http://www.loughderg.live/shop) Telephone 0(0353) 71 9861518 Delivery nationwide and Click & Collect Service available.

## ACP AGM 2021 Recording – Synodal Experience:

**Kieran O'Mahony, OSA**, gave the main presentation followed by Peter McLoughlin and Patricia Melvin, part of the Killala diocesan team leading Placing Hope in Faith, their recent 'Synodal experience'.

ACP AGM 2021: Click on the link to hear Kieran O'Mahony, followed by Peter McLoughlin and Patricia Melvin (Killala Diocese) on the Synodal experience.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-211747038/acp-agm-2021-synod-extract?si=748edc90726a4077b1434c6687231aab>

## WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Fr. Bernard Cotter: Looking at funerals through rose-tinted glasses (2) Francis Brennan — a man of meticulous Faith (3) Net Ministries Ireland — Spiritual Multiplication of Irish Missionaries Bringing Hope to Irish Young People (4) It has never been more important to stand up and defend our schools so our students can shape a better world, says Philip Mc.Master (5) Government delays over visas leaving missionaries to Ireland in the lurch.

**Catholic Voice.** (1) Mary Kearns: Music we hear at Mass (2) Rita Brennan, a Catholic Grandmother: The Protection of Innocence (3) Taliban Totalitarianism Drives the World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis (4) John Lacken: Establishing Catholic Family Traditions.

**Tablet.** (1) Advent Reflection by Leonie Caldecott — Rejoice for the Lord in near (2) Cyprus & Greece — Orthodox leaders give Pope Francis a mixed reception (3) Church faces reluctance to return to regular Mass-going.

Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on 21st December at 7:20pm in the Munster Arms Hotel, Bandon. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents.



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

**DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE**

## Thought for the day

Even in its resolutely secular form, the Christmas celebration has positive sides to it. People do try very hard to get together with close family and friends. It might help to reflect in advance on this seasonal intensity of encounter. What do I hope for? What do I bring? How can I/we be so that we are not simply in the same physical space but truly meet each other and are the better for it? There should be some leap of joy, so that at the end of the festivities, we are glad we made the effort.

## Prayer

*God of all loving, bless all our encounters this Christmas. Help us to be both kind and joyful, so that all whom we meet will be the better for it. Inspire us to know when a word of witness will lift the celebration and enable family and friends to get to the heart of it all.*

K O'Mahony OSA

## Reflections

1. The greeting of Elizabeth to Mary "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb" is a joyful welcome of the child to come. Bringing new life into the world through pregnancy and birth is one of the most awesome human experiences. How have you experienced this for yourself or in someone close to you?

2. The image of the pregnant Mary going a distance to visit her cousin is a symbol of willingness to look beyond one's own needs to the needs of others. When have you witnessed that kind of generosity in others, or have been able to act in this way yourself?

3. Mary is praised for her faith, because she believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. In what ways have you experienced blessings from your faith and trust in God's promises?

## PRAYER

*Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your Word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose day draws near: your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Medjugorje Pilgrimage** June 15th to 22nd 2022 flying Cork to Dubrovnik (morning flight) with Aer Lingus staying in Hotel Leone. Spiritual Director Fr. Ted Sheehan. Cost pps €699.00 half board if booked and paid in full by December 10th), €749.00 thereafter. Deposit of €250.00 secures place.



COVID insurance cover included in cost. Contact Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380

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.