



### Mass Times

**Sundays:** 9 am & 11 am  
**Saturday Vigil:** 6.00 pm  
**Tuesday & Friday:** 9.30 am



Fr Colin Doocey Adm.

**BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL**  
Christmas Church Gate collection will take place on  
**w/e December 10th/11th 2022**  
Your support as always, is greatly appreciated.



### Do This in Memory 2022

6.00 Vigil on  
10th December 2022



### Unfolding the Word ~

#### The Christmas Story in Matthew's Gospel

Why not join us for any or all of the *Thursday 1st, 8th & 15th December*. We will meet here in the church rooms in Holy Cross from 7:30 to 9:00pm. An opportunity to come together and spend some time reading and discussing the Scriptures, followed by prayer. Everyone is most welcome and we even have a cuppa and chat afterwards as well!

**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**



### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

**On Friday 2nd December 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.

### THE PAPERS SAY.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Cause of pioneering Kerry nun, Mother Murphy, opens in US. (2) David Quinn: Why anti-Catholicism seems to be on the rise. (3). Bishop calls for 'critical look' at situation of Christians in Qatar (4) Cindy Wooden: Questions about Synodal Path dominate German bishops' 'ad limina'. (5) Fr. Billy Swan: Are we living in the end times?

**Catholic Voice.** (1). Richard N. Greene: Discipline in Catholic Schools. (2) Fr. Alban Butler: Remembering the Holy Souls in Purgatory. (3) Fr. Jerry Pokorsky: A Pharisee's Examination of Conscience



**Anam Cara Cork**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 7th December at 7:15pm in the Clayton Hotel, Silver Springs, Cork City**. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 01 4045378.



### Advent and Christmas 2022

The very first volume of the **Hearers of the Word** series is devoted to the readings for Advent and Christmas in Year A. The book is available online from **Messenger Publications**. It is also available for Kindle. *K O'Mahony OSA*

**Medjugorje Pilgrimage** ex Cork 31st May to June 7th 2023. Cost €749.00 pps if booked and paid in full by mid December 5th. Full price of €849.00 applies after this date. €200 deposit secures place. Half board accommodation in Hotel Leone. Optional insurance €39.00. Spiritual Director Fr. Ted Sheehan. Contact Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380 or Joe Walsh Tours 012410800. Places limited.

### AFTERNOON BRIDGE

Beaumont Bridge Club are holding open bridge in Cork Constitution every **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON** at 2.30pm €6 table money & Plenty of parking.

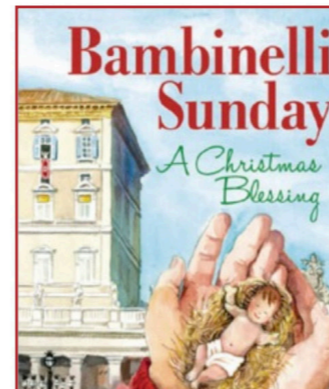
**BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL**  
Fr. Colin has generously offered the poor box near the exit as a collection point for SVP. If you wish to contribute any time, it would be appreciated.

### Observations

Advent 1 dovetails with the themes which closed the previous liturgical year —the end of the world, judgement and preparation. Advent 2 and 3 take us to two moments in the career of John the Baptist, that iconic Advent figure—his proclamation (Advent 2) and his questions about Jesus' identity (Advent 3). For Advent 4, we go backwards in time to the story of the conception of Jesus. Naturally, the theme of Matt 1:18-24 is most suitable on the Sunday nearest Christmas.

## Bambinelli Sunday

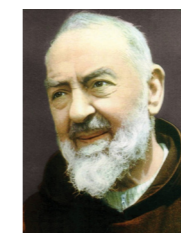
### A Christmas Blessing



All are invited, especially the children, to bring the Baby Jesus figure (Bambinelli) from their homes to the Masses on **10th/11th December** to be blessed and then on Christmas Eve to be placed in the Crib. The blessing will consist of a short prayer at the end of the Vigil Mass at 6.00 and the 11am Mass followed by a blessing with Holy Water.

### St. PIO Prayer Group of Our Lady of the Rosary

We meet on the last Wednesday of every month with Rosary at 7.45pm followed by Mass at 8pm. In Ardfoyle Convent. Why not join us for a quiet unrushed hour?  
ALL WELCOME.



Bishop Fintan Gavin on the occasion of his recent visit to St Michael's Church with Breda and Donal Counihan of Silverdale

Photo George Hatchell

**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

The liturgical cycle helps us not only by telling once more the story of salvation but also by underlining movements of the heart appropriate for each season. Thus, Lent invites us to conversion and Easter promotes joy in believing. What of Advent? The season encourages us and takes us back to our original longing and quest which brought us to God in the first place. Especially in the readings from the prophets, the lectionary explores again that restlessness of heart and helps us name our desire for the One who alone fills our hearts with his peace "which surpasses all understanding."

### Prayer

Stir up our hearts Lord, with a great longing for you in our lives. Let us feel again that deep restlessness of heart, the royal road to you. Amen.

*K O'Mahony OSA*

### Reflections

1. The 'coming of the Son of Man' can be applied to the end of the world, to the moment of death, or to any moment of grace. We are not given advance notice as to when any of these will happen, so the message is to be alert and ready. When have you found that your alertness meant that you were able to receive an unexpected grace (e.g. take an opportunity which presented itself, or respond to a hint from another person that you might easily have missed, etc.).
2. One of the enemies of alert living is constant busyness. Have you ever found that being caught up in your own agenda makes you less sensitive to what is happening around you? Recall times when you paused in your relentless busyness and were rewarded by a significant interchange with another person, a moment of grace.
3. You probably know the difference between being ready for a visitor and the unannounced caller who catches you unprepared. Let the memory of the discomfort of being caught off guard spur you on to a constant readiness for the coming of the Lord.

### PRAYER

*God of majesty and power, amid the clamour of our violence your Word of truth resounds; upon a world made dark by sin the Sun of Justice casts his dawning rays. Keep your household watchful and aware of the hour in which we live. Hasten the advent of that day when the sounds of war will be for ever stilled, the darkness of evil scattered, and all your children gathered into one. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.*

