

### Mass Times

**Sundays: 9 am & 11 am**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm**

**Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am**



Fr Colin Doocey Adm.

### Baptisms

**Culann Jerry Patrick Duggan.**

**Finn Joseph Hawkes.**

**Jack William Hawkes.**

We welcome them into the Christian Family



### Recently Deceased

**Mary Aherne, Blackrock**

**Tony Cummins, late of Blackrock**

May the light of heaven surround them always.



### Some thoughts on today's scripture.....

We celebrate the most passionate and enduring of all human relationships, that of mother and child. As Mary looked at her baby, and gave him her breast, she knew that there was a dimension here beyond her guessing. Christians thought about it for four centuries before they dared to consecrate the title Mother of God. Like Mary, we treasure the words spoken about Jesus, and ponder them in our hearts.

Every birth is a precious gift of God of someone new in the world; we brought a new joy and promise to parents and to the world on our birth. This would be more so in Jesus – the one who saves is the meaning of his name. The world would never be the same because of him, and maybe Mary began to know that when the shepherds came and told her their story.

A new year is like a new birth: something can become alive in us that life is always new, grace flows new each day and in every moment. In the dawn of New Year's Day God is visiting us 'like the dawn from on high'. Offer in prayer your hopes for this coming year – hopes for yourself, hopes for others.

God's messengers tell the shepherds something astonishing, that a baby boy lying in a manger is both Messiah and Lord, God and Saviour! They, in their turn, repeat the angels' extraordinary message to Mary and Joseph. As Jesus grew and developed, Mary must have pondered all these things as she laced his sandals, prepared his meals, soothed him when he cried and watched over him as he learned how to use carpenter's tools. Like any mother, she must have pondered what the future had in store for her son.

We too are called to ponder Jesus' life so that his ways of thinking and his value system may become ours.

### PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

There are now 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K PetrolStation. The code to operate both is 2017

### THE PAPERS SAY.....

No reviews this week. Barry on holidays.

**Anam Cara Cork**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 4th January 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

If you would like to receive a weekly commentary on the Weekly Scripture Readings, both in AUDIO, VIDEO and in PDF, please log on to [www.tarsus.ie](http://www.tarsus.ie) and register to receive the emails.

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 6th January 2023**

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.

### Christmas New Year Message

This has been a year of great change here in our parish and in our diocese.

I thank you for your understanding and your patience during the changes. Sincere thanks to all of you who work so hard here in the church, Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, Sacristans, Collectors, Cleaners and those who help around the altar and to all our volunteers who help out in so many ways, it is much appreciated. Thanks also to all in the Communications Team who keep everyone up-to-date with events.

Thank you to all who continue to support the church financially, without your help it would be impossible to maintain the upkeep of our church.

May the miracle of Christmas fill your hearts with joy and love.

I wish you a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. God bless you.

Fr. Colin



### Observations

Very best wishes for the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. This is a relatively new feast, replacing the feast of the Circumcision. There is something of a loss because the Circumcision is a reminder of our Jewish roots. The blessing of Aaron makes a very suitable first reading.



The icon of Mary, SALUS POPULI ROMANI (the health of the people of Rome), is said to have arrived in Rome in AD 590. The abbreviated letters in Greek at the top identify Mary as "Mother of God" (MHTHP ΘEOY).

The image type itself suggests an Early Christian concept dating from antiquity: a majestic, half-length portrait showing a frank outward gaze of the ruler-like Virgin, with her upright, stately pose and folded hands gently clasping the Child, unique among all icons.

### 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.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage ex Cork 31st May to June 7th 2023.

Price : €849.00. €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.

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on **w/e December 31st/1st January**

Your support as always, is greatly appreciated.

### Thought for the day

The start of a new civil year gives us pause to reflect on the twelve months just past and to look forward to the next year of our lives. There is always darkness and light. Still, we are sustained by this great hope, taken paradoxically from the Book of Lamentations:

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."* (Lamentations 3:22-24)

### Prayer

All time is in your hands and so we dedicate ourselves to you at the start of this year year. May your grace be with us always and may we recognise your presence in all we meet and in all that happens. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. A new year invites us first of all to take stock of the last year – what were the moments which mattered and which somehow "stayed" with me? Was I able to see the hand of God in the people I met and in the various events? A moment of discernment and gratitude.

2. A new year also signals the chance of a new beginning – his mercies are new every morning! Can I open my heart to God's presence and grace in a new way this year?

3. If I were to name some hopes this year – for family, for myself, for my faith and discipleships – what comes to mind? A prayer to the Holy Spirit that we may be guided by God's grace today

and always.

### PRAYER

*God most high, your only Son embraced the weakness of our flesh to give us the power to become your children; your eternal Word chose to dwell among us, that we might live in your presence.*

*Grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich in the glory you have made our own and how great the hope to which we are called in Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.*



### 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.

