



Mass Times

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



Fr Colin Doocey Adm.

Baptisms

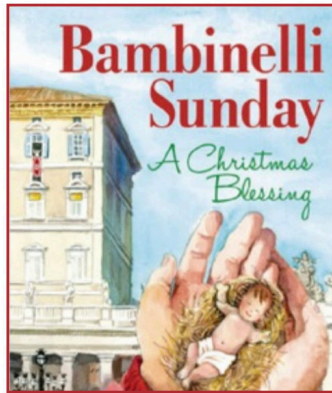
Muireann Elena Daly.
 Croia Naoise O'Mahony.



We welcome them into the Christian Family

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.

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!

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.

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



Christmas flower arranging with Anna Coakley at **Blackrock Community Centre** on Friday 2, 9, 16th December 2-4. Christmas Coffee morning/lunch for members on Monday 12th December at 12 noon. All members very welcome

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.

THE PAPERS SAY.....

Synodal Times. (1). Bro. Martin Keneally of Cork: A synodal Church gives new impetus to religious brothers today. (2) Dublin footballer Ger Brennan —. Glory both on and off the pitch - A journey of faith. (3) Pope Francis' vision of a synodal Church. (4) Professor Eamonn Conway: A Church that urgently needs a change of heart

Tablet of 26/11. (1) Joanne Morehead reports from Cork on the unlikely winner of one of 2022's most prestigious international awards — the Honan Chapel. (2). Human Suffering — The Intractable puzzle. (3) Religious Intolerance —. The High Price of Faith

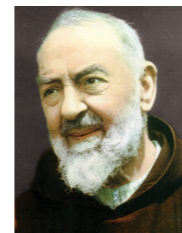
Irish Catholic. (1) Michael Kelly: Who is missing at the synodal table? (2). Vatican: China violated terms of agreement with bishop installation(3). Vatican publishes concern over German Synodal Way. (4). Fr. Vincent Sherlock: November truly called me to remember

Catholic Voice. (1) Confession is the Sacrament of Mercy. (2) Christmas in November? Why Christians shouldn't embrace the 'holiday season' too soon. (3). John Burger: What the West won't recognise —. Christian persecution worsening

FLEISCHMANN CHOIR
 SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2022 | 6.00PM
 ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BLACKROCK
 €15 | €12 (Concessions) | €12 & €10 (COS members) | €5 (Students) | Under 18s free
 Advance booking at www.corkorchestralsociety.ie

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.



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*

Observations

In our Gospel for this Sunday, the words of John the Baptist are trenchant: *do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones.* Entry to the kingdom is not on the basis of ethnicity (however noble) or tradition (however venerable). Rather entry is on the basis of a change of heart, metanoia, a fundamental re-orientation of our lives.

"The message of Advent doesn't fit neatly into a sound-bite or vignette. It's too complex, too deep, to compete with glitter and noise; and it's a hard sell in a culture that would rather skip straight to the big finish. But Advent is too important to be forgotten, because it is this season that prepares us to encounter our Lord."

- Kerry van der Vinne, Advent:
 Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room



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.



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

It is possible to live a merely sentient existence, paying attention only to the immediate and being satisfied once the urgent appetites are met. It is hard to say how many manage to sustain this form of sleepwalking! In our better moments, we all know that this is wholly inadequate, even on a merely human level. We are all of us called to rise above mere existence and to live life abundantly (cf. John 10:10). In the faith, the Advent call is to wake up from our slumbers. Metanoia (conversion or repentance) means a whole change of mindset, going right down to the roots of our being. It's the only project. Of course it takes time, but the time is now.

Prayer

God of life abundant, may your advent call to life and love, hope and conversion touch us again and draw us closer to you. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to us of the good news of the gospel that God loves us—a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have we borne that witness?

2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of opposition. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been content to be yourself, without pretending to be more than you are? What was it like to have that freedom, even in the face of criticism from others?

3. John was "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness"—announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment.

4. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

PRAYER

Your kingdom is at hand, O God of justice and peace; you made John the Baptist its herald to announce the coming of your Christ, who baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Give us a spirit of repentance to make us worthy of the kingdom. Let complacency yield to conviction, that in our day justice will flourish and conflict give way to the peace you bestow in Christ. 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

