

Mass Times

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

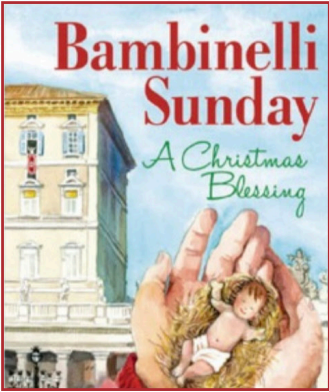


Fr Colin Doocey Adm.

Recently Deceased

Tony Murphy, Dunlocha
May the light of heaven surround him always.

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.

Cuppa after Mass

You are invited for refreshments after 11am mass Sunday in the Parish Centre. All are welcome!!

St Michael's Church, Blackrock
Christmas Mass Celebrations

Christmas Eve Dec. 24th
6 pm 8 pm
Christmas Day Dec. 25th
9 am 11 am

Mass at the 6 pm Christmas Eve is likely to be well attended. Even though Covid restrictions have been lifted and mask wearing is optional, if you are in any way unsure, please consider either the 8 pm vigil or Christmas Day masses. Stay safe at all costs as the virus is still about.

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.

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

THE PAPERS SAY.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Book reviews —. Children's and young peoples's books for Christmas. (2) Jason Osborne: Inviting God into our children's play. (3). While the European Union is not perfect, we must recognise its achievements, says the new Irish EU Nuncio Bishop Noel Treanor. (4). Fr. Philip Endean SJ: Original Sin and the Immaculate Conception

Synodal Times. (1). Garry O'Sullivan: Don't miss the poetry of the dirty animal filled crib. (2). Fr. Andrew Egan SJ: Ecumenism and Synodality. (3). Fr. Diarmuid O'Murchu MSC: Christmas — Birthing possibilities for both child and adult. (4). Synod Review —. End of year timeline: Where we've been and where we're going in 2023

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

Messenger. (1) Re-link: The Resource for Junior Certificate Religious Studies — Martin Luther King Jr. (2) 'Our Lady of Knock'. — The count for Ireland's favourite hymn took place at the National Ploughing Championships this year



Anam Cara Cork, Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on **Tuesday 20th December at 7:20pm in the Mill Court, Mill Place, Bandon P72 E938**. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. For further information please contact us on 085 288 8888 or info@anamcara.ie



CHRISTMAS CARDS/JUBILEE BOOK

This Christmas we have a limited number of Christmas card packs available. **Pack of 6 €5**. Also available are Jubilee Books. These were published in 2014 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of St Michaels Church. They contain a treasure of history and photographs dating from the fire to the Jubilee. **Priced at €10**, it is an ideal present for anyone who has an interest in Blackrock and the history thereof. **Proceeds will go to St Vincent de Paul, Blackrock** and are available in the sacristy after masses. Thanks.

CHURCH HEATING

We apologise for the lack of adequate heating in the church of late. There is an issue with the burner which we are getting sorted during the week. Hopefully it will be fixed then.

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



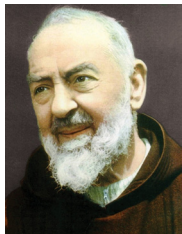
Observations

John the Baptist asks the question we all ask: is *this* the one? The question may seem a strange one given that (a) in Luke 1-2 they are supposed to be cousins and (b) Jesus was a disciple of John. As for (a), it would seem clear that the family link is a metaphor for their theological relatedness. As for (b), we really know very little of their actual relationship. Jesus was indeed a disciple of John. John did baptise Jesus. Jesus started his ministry once John was arrested. It would seem that Jesus saw John as an authentic and important prophet (cf. 11:7-15; 21:23-27). Furthermore, only when John could no longer function did Jesus enter the public arena. How much they knew each other personally remains unanswerable for lack of evidence.



St. Pio Prayer Group of Our Lady of the Rosary

St. Pio Prayer Group of Our Lady of the Rosary, Ardfoyle Convent, Blackrock will take place on Wednesday December 14th. Rosary at 7.45pm followed by Mass at 8pm. ALL WELCOME.



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS ENVELOPES

The Christmas Offerings Envelopes have been delivered this week throughout the parish. In the unlikely event that you failed to receive one, there are envelopes available in the church. Please take some for your friends and family. We thank you sincerely for your generosity.

COLLECTORS WANTED

We would invite parishioners to assist with the collections at masses on Saturday and Sundays. There will be a rota. If you are able to participate, please contact Fr Colin or Fr Michael. Many thanks.

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

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.

Thought for the day

Joy in believing might seem an "extra" in today's challenging climate for faith. Many of us struggle simply to hold on, not to mention being exuberant about it all. And yet, of course there is deep happiness in faith. First of all, everything around is a gift and behind all the gifts stands a giver. Secondly, love is at the heart of it all and, in the faith, nothing is ever "lost" or "wasted." Faith, hope and love endure and the greatest of these is love. Finally, why not "permit" ourselves true joy in all that God has done for us and still does for us in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit?

Prayer

We believe, loving God, that you take delight in all you have made. Open up in us again the springs of joy, that we may delight in you, our true joy.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. In response to the question of John, Jesus let his actions speak for him. Some people show by the way they live what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Who has given you such an example? Perhaps there have been times when you have done the same for others.

2. John made a journey of faith from an incomplete knowledge of Jesus to a deeper understanding of who he was. Recall similar steps in your journey of faith.

3. Faith is not primarily about answering abstract theological questions but about living the gospel. What in your life has helped you to get that sense of perspective?

4. John marked the end of an era, Jesus the beginning of a new one. In our lives how do we honour the past and yet be free to move on into a new era?

PRAYER

God of glory and compassion, at your touch the wilderness blossoms, broken lives are made whole, and fearful hearts grow strong in faith. Open our eyes to your presence and awaken our hearts to sing your praise. To all who long for your Son's return grant perseverance and patience, that we may announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom. 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.

