

Mass Times

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



Fr Colin Doocey Adm.

Baptisms

Noah Anthony Hackett.
Jack Marcus Olden.
Isla Grace Kavanagh.



We welcome them into the Christian Family

Wedding

Congratulations to Ann Devine and Cian O'Brien who were married in our Church on Friday 18th. December, 2022. Fr. David McAuliffe officiated.



Christmas Reflection



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone.
Isaiah 9:1

A holy day has dawned. A glorious light shines in our world. It is Christmas! What we have prepared for and longed for has finally arrived.

As quickly as Christmas comes, for many it is over. Wrappings go in the trash, crumbs are swept away and the decorations come down.

The incarnation of Jesus is a grace we get to experience over and over. Here is the hope that we need to be able to overcome the many challenges life throws at us.

Christmas Blessings

Fr Colin, Canon Tadhg and Fr Michael wish you every blessing this Christmas time. May the Peace of Christmas be with you and your families.



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.....

Synodal Times (January issue). (1) The anatomy of a few days in Rome -- German bishops and Vatican remain bullish on substantive issues. (2) US priest survey shows priests under stress and lack trust in their bishops (3) Fr. Hugh Mc.Mahon: Mission as one of the three themes proposed for the Universal Synod. (4). Ger Gallagher: Mind the gap -- Synodality and the challenges of engaging the Young Church.

Irish Catholic. (1) Martin O'Neill on Christmas, religion and an all-Ireland team. (2) Nuala O'Loan: Women and men still flee terror as Mary and Joseph did with Jesus (3) David Quinn: Croatia has made Sunday a day of rest again, so why can't we? (4) RTE broadcaster Eileen Dunne opens up on Christmas and her gift of faith.

Tablet of 17/12. (1). Bishops' fury -- Scottish Supreme Court outlaws protests at abortion clinics (2) Ukraine -- Fears over two Catholic clergy held by Russia. (3). Democracy under fire. -- The ignobility of liars. (4). Restructuring of Dublin parishes under way.

Catholic Voice. (1). Christmas Meditation on the Sacred infancy of Jesus. (2) Islam in Qatar vs Islam in Europe -- The mainstream narrative is full of glaring double standards (3). Pope Francis talks about church division, women priests, abortion and China.



Church collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is for the Priests of the parish.

Christmas 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.

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. God bless you.

Fr. Colin



Observations

A very happy Christmas to all!

Very best wishes to all as we celebrate the birthday of our Saviour -- may it be a blessed time of happiness and peace. Kieran OSA

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!



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.

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

MICHAEL O'RIORDAN. WATERGRASSHILL.

An Appreciation

Michael passed away last week and his company Mitchelsfort Construction was involved in the renovations that were carried out in our Church.

We extend our condolences to his wife and family. Michael was a tremendous support to Canon Tadhg as the work progressed. His advice, expertise and wise counsel was very much appreciated. May he rest in peace.



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

There is on-going research into how certain animals manage to communicate, establishing some commonality with human beings. Such investigation makes it clear, however, that language, in its complexity and depth, is distinctively human, a mark of who we are. When we speak, something of who we are goes out from us, so to speak. Words are personal, mysterious, powerful (cf. a soft tongue can break a bone. Prov 25:15). God, too, discloses himself: in the "word" of creation, in the words of the prophets and, now, in the Word made flesh, God's deepest and most personal disclosure. We give thanks for God's "eloquence" in Jesus of Nazareth, as we mark his birth.

Prayer

You have spoken, O God, and shattered our deafness and we can hear you in one like ourselves. Let celebrate the feast, then, in love and great joy. Through Christ our Lord.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

- 1. "In the beginning" takes me back to my own new creation in Christ--back to significant moments--perhaps even to a single moment which stands out as the beginning of my own belonging in Christ. A prayer of praise.
2. Life--what makes me alive, taking hold of my imagination and energy? How is my life in Christ? Prayer of gratitude.
3. Light--a fabulous imagery. It may be that some particular land or seascape stands out in my memory as having an especially beautiful light. Prayer of enlightenment.
4. The dark side of refusal and rejection--in my life I probably have said both yes and no to grace. Where am I now in my life? Prayer of pilgrimage.
5. Wisdom was God's presence--a feminine presence, because (to use Biblical language) just as a man is "incomplete" without the love and companionship of a woman, the human person needs to be complemented by God's wisdom.
6. The power of language in my experience as an entry point to appreciating the Word made flesh. What word am I hearing especially today?

PRAYER

We praise you, gracious God, for the glad tidings of peace, the good news of salvation: your Word became flesh and we have seen his glory. Let the radiance of that glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate his birth. Reveal to all the world the light no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, 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.

