



### Mass Times

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



Fr Colin Doocey Adm.

### Recently Deceased

**John L. Sullivan, McGrath Park. Blackrock.**  
May the light of heaven surround him always.



Alison Bergin, (granddaughter of Parish stalwarts Chris and Peg Ahearne) who won a **Bronze Medal in the U 23 World Rowing Championships** held in Varese Italy recently.  
*Photo courtesy Rowing Ireland*

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

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan by John is a second epiphany. See him mingling with those Jews who have come to confess their sins, be baptised and receive forgiveness. Why would Jesus do this? Why identify with sinners? Does he need John's baptism? Already there is here a manifestation of who Jesus is, and what he has come to do. John himself hints at it.

The more dramatic revelation comes "from above". First, the heavens are torn apart and the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus as he emerges from the water. This Spirit will remain with him throughout his public ministry and passion. Then a voice speaks from heaven, offering a commentary on what is happening: "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased". We identify this voice as that of his Abba, his dear Father. Rest in this scene and allow yourself to be drawn into the embrace of the three persons of the Trinity. They are all participating in this baptismal ritual.

### THE PAPERS SAY.....

**Irish Catholic.** *The IC has a 14-page special remembering Pope Benedict XVI.* Contributors include Michael Kelly, Prof. Francis Campbell, Fr. Vincent Twomey SVD, Cindy Wooden, David Quinn, Carol Glatz and Jody Martin.

**Synodal Times.** (1) Some well known people reveal how they find peace in their lives including Miriam O'Callaghan, Micheal Martin, Johnny Sexton, Tommy Tiernan, Brendan O'Connor & the late Vicky Phelan. (2) Michael Kelly: A Synodal Church requires people to take responsibility for their faith. (3) Listening for the Holy Spirit -- Learning from the life of the Apostolic Church.

**Catholic Voice.** (1) A Shower of Grace through the Miraculous Medal. (2). Ven. Fulton Sheen - a trusted and worthy guide (3). Richard Greene: St. Joseph -- Model of Fathers and Patron of the Universal Church.

**Sacred Heart Messenger.** (1). Fr. Brendan McManus SJ : Social Media -- Balance and Freedom. (2). Fr. Brendan Comerford SJ: Courageous Witnesses -- Mother Mary Martin.

**Croí na Gaeilge** (Tel. 085 1213189 after 6 p.m. only) is holding a Leaving Certificate Honours Written Irish 1-Day Preparation Course (worth 50% of total exam marks) open to current Leaving Cert/5th Year students on Sunday January 15th from 11-6 p.m. given by an experienced Exam Corrector/Teacher. All topics covered (including poetry, próis, essays, comprehension, & grammar).  
Míle buíochas, Peadar Ó Murchú.

**Anam Cara West Cork** the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on **Tuesday 17th January 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](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)



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



2023 rota for Ministers of the Eucharist is available in the sacristy.

### 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

May the new year bring many graces to us all!

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU.  
MAY THE LORD LET HIS FACE SHINE ON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU.  
MAY THE LORD UNCOVER HIS FACE TO YOU AND BRING YOU PEACE.



### PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.  
Amen.

SECOND COLLECTION W/E 14TH & 15TH. JANUARY, 2023  
**DIOCESAN NEEDS.**

### Thought for the day

Begin by recalling some special moment between yourself and your parents. Did you ever hear from them the equivalent of "This is my son, my daughter, the beloved: my favour rests on you"? In Jesus' ministry, on several occasions, he felt such a word from his Abba, his Father. His baptism by John was one such moment, as was the Transfiguration later on. Such deep love and affirmation grounded him as a human being and as God's prophet to the people of Israel. Our sense of calling grows out of our relationship with the Father, whose beloved we are, whose favour we too enjoy.

### PRAYER

Let us hear again, Abba, Father, your words of favour to each one of us. Direct us on the Way of discipleship, that we may be bearers of the Good News by simply being who we truly are before you, your children.

K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. The Baptism of Jesus marks a turning point in his life, and the start of his public ministry. Recall moments when your life changed and you moved into a new phase.
2. The experience was one in which Jesus had a new sense of his own identity. What have been the experiences which have helped shaped your sense of who you are?
3. How have you come to an awareness of being a child of God, beloved by God, and one on whom rests the grace of God?
4. It is surprising that Jesus, the Saviour of the world, asks to be baptised by John. The request symbolises his desire to identify with us. At the same time he is filled with the Holy Spirit. That step of identifying with us is an important element in his being able to help us. Have you ever found that when someone identifies with you, it is easier for him/ her to help you? Has your ability to identify with others had any impact on your effectiveness in helping others?

### PRAYER

God of the covenant, you anointed your beloved Son with the power of the Holy Spirit, to be the light of the nations and release for captives. Grant that we who are born again of water and the Spirit may proclaim with our lips the good news of his peace and show forth in our lives the victory of his justice.  
We make our prayer through 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.

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.

### 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 Ardfoy Convent Why not join us for a quiet unrushed hour?  
ALL WELCOME.

