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WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES:
Email to : info@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

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Mass Times

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



Fr Colin Doocey Adm.

Recently Deceased

Tony Kelleher, Silverdale

May the light of heaven surround him always.



Some thoughts on today's Gospel.....

The Incarnation is a powerful mission statement by God. Jesus follows it by announcing his own goals in the Beatitudes: we are blessed through the goodness of God and we need a divine perspective in life. The Beatitudes as a mission statement are prophetic rather than profit-based. They speak of freedom and selflessness, not of worldly success, as the way to happiness.

The Beatitudes touch into paradox, indicating that we find life where we might least expect to find it. They can be understood rightly in the life and example of Jesus, who lived simply, showed mercy and compassion, hungered for the Father's will. We who share his life are called to proclaim his Gospel message.

FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

On Friday 3rd February 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.



A lovely occasion recently in Blackrock National Hurling Club where St Michaels and Blackrock honoured Fr Der Leahy OSA, in appreciation of his 70 years of priesthood. A remarkable achievement, and in his own words, he has been a part of both clubs for even longer. He in fact served as president of the Rockies and St Michaels at the same time. Thanks to Fr Der for his devotion to both clubs and we were delighted to honour his 70 years of devotion to his faith. Thanks to everyone who organised this.

Photo : George Hatchell

THE PAPERS SAY.....

Irish Catholic. (1) Forgiveness on this island can only be progressed if we bring to light the truths about our troubled past, says Archbishop Eamon Martin. (2) David Quinn: The undermining of authority is now playing out on our streets. (3) Cork Simon Community is rallying to prepare for a big increase in homelessness after rent moratorium ends, writes Chai Brady. (4) Fr. Rolheiser: Even the saints struggled.

Catholic Voice. (1). Ray Sullivan: Why Evil is Spreading (2). The late Cardinal George Pell: What is one to make of this potpourri, this outpouring of New Age good will? (3) Edward Kerwin: St. Dominic Savio -- A Path to Hidden Holiness.

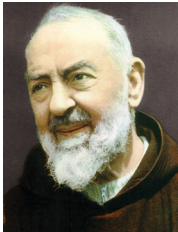
Tablet of 21/1. (1). Sally Read: St. Theresa of Lisieux -- Finding Therese. (2) Fr. Anthony Curri: Christian Unity - Loosening the ties that bind. (3). 2017 London Bridge Skateboard hero on path to sainthood.

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



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.



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on
w/e 4/5 February 2023

Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

Do This in Memory 2023

6.00 Vigil on 4th February



AWA/Pat Schneider Method Creative Writing Workshops

Spring Series 2023 – Online or blended Facilitator:
Maire O'Donohoe 12 Weeks x 2-hours;
Start-date: Last week Jan. Options: Thurs. evg; or Fri. morn.
Fees: Waged: €200; Unwaged: €150; Non-refundable
deposit of €50 secures place. Info: Maire: 087 6420135 after
8.00 p.m. For registration-info: mairefod55@gmail.com

Study Theology

Study Theology, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register before February 8. Find out more on our website, prioryinstitute.com

Special Cork Pilgrimage to Fatima last remaining places
9-14th June 2023 ex Dublin for Feast Day of Saint Anthony
Patron Saint of Portugal visit Saint Anthonys birthplace and
baptismal font in Lisbon contact James Treacy 061921470

Observations

Happiness is...well what? There is indeed a Christian "philosophy" of flourishing...which speaks to our deepest needs. Yet it is deeply paradoxical...with "quite different things going on" (in the words of RS Thomas).

There are plenty of false routes around (self, power, addition, possessions, violence and so forth). Aristotle got some of it right: happiness and virtue go together. In the Christian vision, it becomes a journey of conversion of heart and life, rooted in faith and in the person of Jesus.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Alzheimer Social Club.



The Social Club takes place on the second Wednesday of each month from 1p.m to 3p.m in our Day Care Centre in Bessboro,Blackrock.

Our next Saturday Social Club takes place on Saturday 11th of February. Everyone is welcome and we would appreciate all the support.

Sycamore Series for Young Adults- Exploring Catholic Faith

Have you ever questioned why you are Catholic and wondered why we Catholics believe what we believe? The Sycamore Series is an informal course for those aged 18-35. Join us as we deepen our understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith. Each session involves a short film and time for discussion, with a meal also included. Everyone is welcome. Start date Wednesday February 1st, 6.00 - 7.30pm at Presentation Brothers Mardyke House, Cork T12 W8RP. The course runs for 10 consecutive weeks. The course is free, but places are limited. Please email chaplaincy@ucc.ie or ring 0214902459 to let us know you are interested.

Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 1st February 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.



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

Who doesn't want to be happy? As St Augustine writes, "all persons want to be happy; and no persons are happy who do not have what they want." (De beata vita 2.10) Augustine knows that is is not so simple: having what and how do we keep it so that we don't lose it? The question really becomes what do I desire? In the final analysis, there is a hunger of the human heart for God, often recognised only slowly, and a hunger for goodness and virtue, also a slow conversion. In God, we find a source of happiness which nothing can take away; in virtuous living, chiefly seeking the good of others, we come to our true fulfilment and contentment.

Prayer

God our true happiness, help us recognise our need of you that we may be blessed in your kingdom. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

The blessings in the Beatitudes are primarily future blessings, but there can be an anticipation of the blessings in the present. At first reading some Beatitudes may seem to describe circumstances that you would like to avoid at all costs. Read them slowly. Stay with each one for a while. Let yourself get a sense of the paradox involved in each one. Perhaps you have had an experience of a deeper and more authentic life, a blessing, when...

1. You were poor - you knew your need of God.
2. You mourned – could feel for others.
3. You were meek – not emotionally out of control.
4. You hungered and thirsted for some cause.
5. You were merciful rather than vengeful.
6. You you were pure in heart – a person of integrity, whose actions and intentions correspond.
7. You were a peacemaker.
8. You were persecuted because you stood for something.

PRAYER

O God, teach us the hidden wisdom of the gospel, so that we may hunger and thirst for holiness, work tirelessly for peace, and be counted among those who seek first the blessedness of your kingdom.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

Have you ever dreamed of doing the Camino de Santiago. Breakthrough Cancer Research are taking on the Camino Ingles from the 15th-22nd May 2023. Enjoy this amazing adventure with our experienced guide and help us Make More Survivors. For more information, please contact Mary@break-cancer.ie or phone 021 422 66 55 for more details.

We would like you to swing by the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on Sunday 5th February for a tea and refreshments and a chat. Everyone welcome!



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 and register to receive the emails.