

### Mass Times

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



Fr Colin Doocey Adm.

### Recently Deceased

**Pat O'Mara, Woodvale Road**  
**Mary Scally, Ashleigh Gardens**  
May the light of heaven surround them always.



### Baptisms

**Lucy Jane Mulcahy.**  
We welcome her into the Christian Family



### CHURCH COLLECTIONS

Church collections reverting back to original form on weekend  
**11th. February, 2023.**

There will be 2 collections: The Offertory and the Communion collections will be the basket format.

**SECOND COLLECTION W/E 11th/12th FEBRUARY**  
**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.**

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Collection last Sunday raised **€2705**  
A great response and support from parishioners.  
Thank you.

### Do This in Memory 2023

6.00 Vigil on 4th March 2023

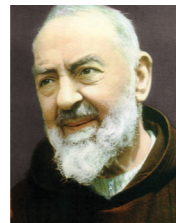


### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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.

### 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.



### 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

### SPRING ZOOM MEETING.

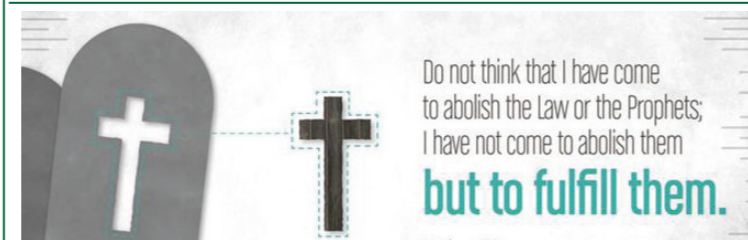
For those wishing to explore a Poor Clare vocation  
**Saturday 18th. Feb. @ 3pm.**  
Email: vocationspoorclarescork@gmail.com to receive the link.  
www.poorclarescork.ie

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

**T**hese sayings of Jesus, part of the great Sermon on the Mount, are among those which would eventually lead to his crucifixion. He is recalling the teaching of Moses, the great Law-giver, with the expression, "You have heard it was said of old...." But He now adds, "But I say to you..."

**T**he implication here is that He is a more authoritative person than Moses. The influential leaders who were unsympathetic to the person of Jesus met his saving message with hostility. They were resistant to his preaching of a kingdom which demanded a higher standard of human conduct than that called for by Moses. Jesus is proclaiming a new era.

**G**od, however, never commands what He does not empower us to do. Help is offered to us through grace, strengthening us to carry out what He asks of us. This empowerment is something to be asked for. "Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you". An old Irish saying here is appropriate: "The help of God is closer than the door".



**Anam Cara West Cork** the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on **Tuesday 21st February 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



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

### THE PAPERS SAY.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Letter from Rome -- Top ten practicing Catholic countries: It's an African story. (2) Pope travels to Africa in bid to promote peace. (3). Breda O'Brien: Attempts to co-opt St. Brigid are offensive (4) Mary Kenny: Holy Matrimony - the good and the bad news.

**Catholic Voice.** (1) Fr. Paul Scalia: A Catechism for Troubled Times. (2) Ireland's Vocation Crisis -- Time to stop downplaying the problem. (3) Fr. Michael Muller: Defending the Real Presence -- Two true stories. (4) Following the German bishops lead -- to disaster.

**Synodal Times.** (1). Introducing Synodality -- A new ecclesial model. (2) Sister Dorothy Stang. -- The legend considered a symbol of the fight for human rights in Para (3) Listening with an open mind and heart -- The Synodal practice in the Church in Africa.

### Observations

**T**he gospel for this Sunday — the very next part of the Sermon on the Mount — may feel both confining and freeing. Confining because of the emphatic affirmation of the full Law, the Torah. Freeing because the subsequent 6 antitheses (of which we hear 4) go beyond the Torah. As usual, some idea of the historical setting is a help.

**T**he tragic "parting of the ways" with Judaism happened unevenly and not all at once. In the case of Matthew, he has two "events" in view: the destruction of the Temple and the later re-organisation of rabbinic Judaism. As a break-away Jewish sect, his community claims to be the authentic evolution of Judaism. Also, he may have been writing to a chiefly Jewish-Christian group, keen to assert its roots in the mother religion. At the same time, the subsequent antitheses are in tension with the tradition — throwing new light from Jesus, on what God is now asking of us. It seems the earlier big debate over circumcision etc. is now in the past and it is noticeable that Matthew never mentions it.

**W**hat to keep and what to discard — an issue every time the Church faced new challenges. The Continental Document of the Synodal Pathway reflects the tensions between tradition and modernity. Perhaps we can learn from Matthew to give priority to love, mercy and justice as we put new wine into new wineskins.

**The Cork Regional Pioneer Council** will hold their AGM at 8p.m. on Wednesday next, 15th February 2023, in the SMA Parish Centre, Wilton

The Novena in honour of Matt Talbot will begin on *Monday 27th February 2023 at 7.30 p.m.* in The Way of the Cross Church, Togher.  
The Novena will be held each Monday during Lent.

### World Youth Day 2023

The Diocese of Cork and Ross is delighted to announce that Bishop Fintan will travel with 20 young people (18 - 30 years) from around the Diocese to **World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon (July 31st to August 7th).** Two to four million young people from around the world are expected to attend and to pray with Pope Francis. It will be an experience of faith, fun and friendship.



A special "Information Evening" will take place on **Monday February 13th at 8pm in Mardyke House Cork City (T12 W8RP).** The cost is €500 per person including flights, accommodation, food vouchers, tickets for transport within Lisbon, travel insurance, and bag allowance. Places are limited so if you are interested, please come along on February 13th to register your interest.

### Cork Scripture Group

4 Monday nights (27th Feb, 6th, 13th, 20th March) on "Treasures Old and New: The Bible as the Heart of our faith." Presenters: Sean O'Sullivan, Luke Macnamara OSB, Sr Mary T. Brien PBVM, Phil Mortell. Saturday workshop (March 11th) on Matthew and Justice facilitated by Sr Sheila Curran RSM. Cost €50. To book a place, please email corkscrepturegroup@gmail.com

### Thought for the day

**I**t is clear already in the Old Testament that it is not our misdeeds which accuse us before God, but our hearts, fractured and divided as they are. Consistent with Israelite teaching, Jesus insists that we go deeper than our external deeds. The important question is what is going on in our hearts, the source of inner thoughts and motivations? The teaching is presented using various examples, presented sometimes with great simplicity, other times with irony and wit.

### Prayer

*O God, you read our hearts and you know us even better than we know ourselves. Let us trust your knowledge of us and your call to true conversion of heart, for you desire only our good that we may be both whole and holy.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus proposes standards that go beyond external ways of behaviour but challenge how we feel in our hearts. When have you found that living out of inner conviction is more life-giving than keeping up appearances?
2. Jesus applies his teaching to feelings of anger and sexual desire. He suggests that if we do not keep an eye on our feelings and thoughts we will not be able to control our actions. Perhaps you have experienced the truth of this. What has helped you to integrate your feelings so that you were able to live in right relationship with yourself and others?
3. For Jesus, persons with genuine authenticity do not need to swear an oath to be convincing. Their 'yes' or 'no' suffices. Recall people who had this kind of credibility for you. When have you found that your simple, direct and honest communication had a positive persuasive force?

### PRAYER

*All-seeing God, you alone judge rightly our inmost thoughts. Teach us to observe your law from the heart even as we keep it outwardly. Purify our desires, calm every anger, and reconcile us to one another. Then will our worship at your altar render you perfect praise. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



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



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.