

## Mass Times

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



**Fr Colin Doocey Adm.**

## Recently Deceased

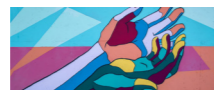
**John Casey, Meadowgrove**  
**Marguerite Cox, Marian Park**  
**Ellen Walsh, Silverdale**  
**Sheila Sheehan, Beaumont**  
**Thomas Linehan, Cork City**  
**Timothy Healy, Ashleigh**  
May the light of God surround them forever.



## Baptisms

**Tom Diarmuid Cotter.**

We welcome him into the Christian Family



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

**C**an you imagine what life was like for the man who was born blind? Growing up, he never knew what he or anyone else looked like. He never knew the colors and visual textures of the everyday things we take for granted. His experience of the world was primarily auditory and tactile; he could only hear or feel what was going on around him. This meant a certain vulnerability. When you're driving or walking in an unfamiliar place, don't you feel more anxious when you can't see clearly? What was it like, then, for the man to overhear a conversation between Jesus and his disciples, then suddenly to have Jesus crouch down in front of him, spit on the ground, and smear the resulting saliva on his eyes?

**W**e imagine the man may have been quite scared, as the questions ran through his mind—Who is this man? Why is he so close to me? What is he putting on my eyes? The man's ability to hear and feel, but not to see, meant a vulnerability to the world around him. But he could clearly hear Jesus' voice—"Go to the pool in Siloam and wash."

**F**aith is often defined as believing without seeing. The man could not see Jesus, nor could he see the way to the pool to which he was directed. Yet he had faith that doing what this enigmatic stranger told him would be worthwhile. His faith was rewarded with the restoration of his sight.

## THE PAPERS SAY.....

The Irish Catholic and Tablet mark the first decade of Pope Francis with a number of articles including -  
**Irish Catholic:** (1) Michael Kelly: Synodality is the big project of this Papacy. (2) Pastoral and practical -- Francis seeks healing, hardline against abuse (3) Pope's Curia reform complete, financial reform ongoing and (4) Pope from 'ends of the earth' brings new style to Rome ... AND  
**Tablet:** (1) A Pope for a new epoch (2) Francis and the abuse crisis -- The existential Pope and (3) Ten years that shook the Church.



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



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.

**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

**O**ne of the ways we get to know ourselves better is to observe how we react under pressure. And there is no lack of opportunity in work, families, friendships, and in what we may call the "events" of life. Pressure is a good test of character: what it does to us and how we deal with it and with others, in the whole process. Pressure is not confined to family or work or career. It can also happen that our faith can be under pressure, from outside and from inside. There too, how we react in that context is worth observing and considering.

**O**n thing is central to the journey of the man born blind: he is unable to deny his personal experience of healing through his encounter with Christ. *All I know is I once was blind but now I see.* It is likely that a corner stone of our faith is also some such foundational experience. It would be very good for us all if we could name that experience and own it as we go forward in faith. In this way, we may be able to fulfil the words in the first letter of Peter: *always be ready to give an account of the hope that is in you...* in the first place, to ourselves and only then, perhaps, to others.

## Mass of Thanksgiving

Covid was a very difficult time for all of us, and in particular, the church community.



In this context, we were blessed to have to support of many of our parishioners, including yourself, to help and support Parish through this difficult period. Now that Covid would appear to have abated, the priests of the Parish and the Parish Assembly would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help supporting the church, and its parishioners when the call came. We are painfully aware that the repercussions of the pandemic will live with us for many years and in this context, a Mass to remember all parishioners who were impacted by Covid and to thank those who supported the parish, will be celebrated on **Friday 24th March 2023 at 9.30 am.** We hope that you will be able to join us for this special occasion. Again, thank you for your help, and may God bless you.

## Matt Talbot Novena:

On Monday 20th March: Fr. Gerard Dunne O.P. Chaplain UCC will be the celebrant and preacher at the Matt Talbot Novena which continues in the **Way of the Cross Church, Togher at 7.30 p.m.**

## Mothers Prayers Annual Weekend 2023

Friday 24th - to Sunday March 26th St John's Rest and Care Centre, Knock. (No cover charge). You don't have to be a mother to attend and if you can come for a short time, please feel free to do so, this will bring many blessings. Contact Marie 087 618 4110

## Medjugorje Pilgrimage

ex Cork May 31st to June 7th 2023. Only 9 places remaining. Spiritual Director Fr. Ted Sheehan. €849.00 pps. €300 deposit secures place. Contact Sean O'Shaughnessy 086 2959380 or contact Joe Walsh Tours 012410800

**St Michael's Wall of Prayer** will give people the opportunity to express their faith and to be inspired by the faith of others. You can place your prayer on the Wall of Prayer using the cards provided. Each card has a peel off adhesive on the back which will easily stick to the board. Everyone is invited to view and read the Wall of Prayer.

## Thought for the day

**H**ow we respond to pressure can vary very much from person to person. In John's Gospel, there are two related stories of people being healed, one in chapter 5 and the other in chapter 9, today's reading. The man at the pool eventually betrays Jesus. The man born blind resists pressure and even grows on the strength of it. Part of his energy comes from his experience— no matter what others may say about Jesus, he himself once was blind and now he sees! His courageous attachment to what he knows from his personal encounter with Jesus leads eventually to a full act of faith.

## Prayer

*Faithful God, you call us to be faithful even in times of trial. Teach us to embrace the challenge of faith today, that we may have the courage to grow and give courage to others by our witness.*  
K O'Mahony OSA

## Reflections

1. The blind man makes a journey of faith, rooted in an experience of healing from the hand of Jesus. This experience has potential to grow and deepen. What has been my experience of the healing presence of Jesus in my life? *Prayer of thanksgiving.*
2. Under pressure, the blind man and the community he stands for are obliged to reflect again and again on what they really believe. What has happened to my faith in times of pressure against believing? *Prayer of faith.*
3. Amazing Grace has the words: *I once was lost, and now I'm found.* Jesus goes out of his way to find the blind man and bring him through the next stage of faith. What has my experience of finding my "self" been? When have I been touched by Jesus? Is he reaching out to me now? *Prayer of conversion.*
4. The blind man witnesses to his experience, in spite of conventional, even orthodox opposition. Perhaps this has been part of my experience too? Prayer of witnessing

When taking a gospel story for prayer, it is often helpful to break the story up into its individual sections. Each section represents a movement, an interaction between the characters. This is particularly true of a long story such as the one we have today. There are six different scenes in this story. Any one of them could be the focal point for your prayer. Try to identify the movement in the section you take for prayer. The objective is to discover the Good News in the story. The Good News is that the story of grace is deeper than the story of sin, both in the gospels and in our lives. One should also note the different characters in the story, for each of them could be a character with whom you can identify. In this story we have Jesus, the blind beggar, the disciples, the neighbours, the blind man's parents and the Pharisees.  
**PRAYER**

*God our Creator, show forth your mighty works in the midst of your people. Enlighten your church, that we may know your Son as the true light of the World and through our worship confess him as Christ and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.*

DIOCESE OF CORK AND ROSS  
**Turkey & Syria Earthquake Collection**  
Bishop Fintan has given approval for a diocesan collection to be taken up in support of people affected by the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.  
This will take place on Saturday 18th March/Sunday 19th March.  
All funds raised will be channelled through Trócaire who are working with the Caritas Internationalis Network in Turkey and Syria.

The AGM of the **Blackrock Community Association** will be held at the Community Centre, Convent Road on Monday 20th March 2023 at 12 noon. Everybody welcome.

## Wearing of Face Coverings No Longer Necessary

It is no longer required to wear a face covering while distributing Holy Communion for either priests or Ministers of the Eucharist.

Please note that the wearing of facemasks is optional.

## Reception of Holy Communion on the Hand and on the Tongue

The faithful have a right to receive Holy Communion either on the hand or on the tongue. This will be facilitated by all priests and Ministers of the Eucharist.

**Holy Land Christmas 2023** Ex Dublin, taking in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Dead Sea, Sea of Galilee, Last Supper Room, Garden of Gethsemane, Mount of Olives with full day in Bethlehem on Christmas Day.  
Payment can be made by instalments contact James Treacy 061921470 [jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com](mailto:jamestreacyphotography@gmail.com)

**Stations of the Cross** will be prayed every Friday after the 9.30 Mass in St Michaels Church.

## 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.

