

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm
Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am
Fr Colin Doocey Adm.



Wedding

Congratulations to **Stephanie Loftus and Ryan Carroll** who were married in our Church on Friday 21st. July, 2023.
Fr. Colin Doocey officiated.



Baptism

Emily Marie Kiely.
Caitlin Noreen Russell.
Danny Allan Russell.
We welcome them into the Christian Family



Recently Deceased

James (Jim) Fitzgerald. Templevale.
May the light of God surround him forever.



Recent appointments and changes from Saturday 12th August 2023

Family of Parishes of Ballinlough,
Blackrock, Blackrock Road and Mahon

- Fr. John Denvir SMA Co-PP resident in Blackrock Road.
- Monsignor Gearoid Dullea Co-PP resident in Ballinlough.
- Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP resident in Blackrock.
- Fr. Jerome Anoumou-Sassou SMA CC resident in Blackrock Road.
- Fr. Rafal Zielonka CC resident in Mahon.
- Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP will fulfil the role of Moderator. Healthcare Chaplaincy
- Fr. Colin Doocey to be Chaplain in Cork University Hospital.
- Monsignor Gearoid Dullea Co-PP to be Diocesan Chancellor.
- Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP to be Diocesan Education Secretary and continue as Diocesan Secretary pro tem.

The Papers Say.....

Catholic Voice. (1). Canon Anselm J. Gribbin: St. Francis of Assisi and Creation. (2). Michael Leahy: The Decline of Catholic France and lessons for Ireland (3). The Hate Speech bill and the importance of Free Speech. (4). Cultivating our Personal Relationship with Jesus in ritual.

Tablet. (1). Chris Patten: We must overcome the moral, political and economic damage wrought by Boris Johnson. (2) The nine provocations of Dorothy Day No. 7 —. Laughter the best balm. (3). Frs. Timothy Ratcliffe and Lukasz Popko, both OP. — The joy of conversation.

Irish Catholic. (1). Fr. Billy Swan: Sunday obligation —. Do I have to go to Mass? (3). Fr. Patrick Briscoe OP: World Youth Day is all about Christ or it's about nothing at all. (3). European bishops condemn EU's drafting of 'right to abortion' (4) *The core of Catholic moral theology is under pressure from quarters within the Church itself*, writes David Quinn.

Keep in touch with the Church and support the Catholic press BUY and READ a Catholic publication weekly!

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

Think about this hidden treasure: it inspires, enlivens and opens horizons of new plans and dreams. Not everyone should be told about it immediately but the excitement that it brings cannot always be hidden. I thank God for what gives meaning to my life.

Reflection
Perhaps God looks at me and sees a hidden treasure, wondering when I might discover it.

Synod 2023/2024

The working document for the first session of the Synod has just been published. This is a crucial moment and the document itself is inspiring. We should all give it our attention. www.synod.va



From Working Document -

17. An original scene appears, in its fundamental structure, as the constant of the way in which Jesus reveals himself throughout the Gospel, as he announces the coming of the Kingdom of God. Essentially, three actors (plus one) are involved. The first, of course, is Jesus, the absolute protagonist who takes the initiative, sowing the words and signs of the coming of the Kingdom without "showing partiality" (cf. Acts 10:34). In various ways, Jesus pays special attention to those who are "separated" from God and those "abandoned" by the community (the sinners and the poor, in gospel language). Through his words and actions, he offers liberation from evil and conversion to hope, in the name of God the Father and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Even in the diversity of the Lord's calls, their receptive responses, the common trait is that faith always emerges as a valuing of people: their plea is heard, their difficulty is helped, their availability is appreciated, their dignity is confirmed by God's gaze and restored to the community's recognition.

18. In fact, the work of evangelization and the message of salvation would not be comprehensible without Jesus' constant openness to the widest possible audience, which the Gospels refer to as the crowd, that is, all the people who follow him along the path, and at times even pursue him in the hope of a sign and a word of salvation: this is the second actor on the scene of Revelation. The proclamation of the Gospel is not addressed only to an enlightened or chosen few. Jesus' interlocutor is the "people" of ordinary life, the "everyone" of the human condition, whom he puts directly in contact with God's gift and the call to salvation. In a way that surprises and sometimes scandalizes the witnesses, Jesus accepts as interlocutors all those who emerge from the crowd: he listens to the impassioned remonstrances of the Canaanite woman (cf. Mt 15:21-28), who cannot accept being excluded from the blessing he brings; he allows himself to dialogue with the Samaritan woman (cf. Jn 4:1-42), despite her condition as socially and religiously compromised woman; he solicits the free and grateful act of faith of the man born blind (cf. Jn 9), whom official religion had dismissed as outside the perimeter of grace.

Inspiration

Today's Gospel about the treasure in the field and the pearl of great price invites us to a double reflection. What do I really desire, deep down? Ultimately, we are all searching for something more, on a quest for God. Would I be prepared to give my all, as we see in today's Gospel?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21) The best way to know "where my treasure is" is not to contemplate my ideals, usually unassailably noble, but to examine my practical use of time and energy. To what do I actually devote my best self? That's were my treasure is.



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 5th/6th August 2023
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on **Sunday 6th August** for tea and refreshments and more chat!
Everyone welcome!



FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 4th August 2023

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.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K PetrolStation. The code to operate both is 2017

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



Thought for the day

Our conviction is that God loves us wholly, in the double sense that he loves us fully and completely and his desire is that grace should touch every dimension of our lives. Anyone who has made the discovery of faith, like the merchant in search of fine pearls, will know what is meant: it is so wonderful that it leads to a discipleship costing not less than everything. It can be daunting, of course, but it leads to life in abundance (Jn 10:10).

Prayer

God of the covenant, faithful and true, you offer us both love and a way of living. As we embrace your love for each of us, help us so to live that we may fully alive with your Good News.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. Have you ever found yourself saying "that was worth it" after giving up something (time, pleasure, money, etc.)? What was the treasure that made the sacrifice worthwhile?
2. The "kingdom of heaven" is when God is really the ruler in our life. What treasures have you obtained when you allow God to be at the centre of your life?
3. In life, we gather a lot of things, some good and some bad. The wise person in the kingdom of heaven, knows how to sit down and make decisions on what to keep and what to discard. When have you undertaken that kind of discernment? What have you discarded? What have you retained?

PRAYER

God of eternal wisdom, you alone impart the gift of right judgement. Grant us an understanding ear, that we may value wisely the treasure of your kingdom and gladly forgo all lesser gifts to possess that kingdom's incomparable joy. We make our prayer 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.



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The priests have 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.

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. K O'Mahony OSA