

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm
Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am
Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP



ROAD CLOSURE SUNDAY 20TH. AUGUST, 2023.

St. Finbarr's A.C. annual 10 mile road race takes place on **Sunday 20th. August 2023** with gun time 9.30am. This year the race is being rerouted onto the Blackrock Road due to works taking place on the Marina. There is a road closure in place on the Blackrock Road from just above the turn off to Beaumont from 09.45 – 10.30am on the morning.

Welcome

This weekend, we welcome two new priests to our area.

Fr. John Denvir SMA is the new Co-Parish priest in SMA Blackrock Road and Fr. Rafal Zielonka will be the curate residing in Holy Cross. We look forward to meeting them in St. Michael's as our new Family of Parishes with Ballinlough, Blackrock Road and Mahon takes shape.

Fr. Jerome Sassou SMA resident in Blackrock Road continues as curate and we also look forward to meeting **Mons. Gearóid Dullea** from Ballinlough as well.

Fr. John Denvir SMA has worked in Tanzania, The Philippines, The United Kingdom and most recently in Zambia since Ordination.

Fr. Rafal Zielonka is a priest from the Diocese of Tarnow in Poland has worked in the Diocese of Cork and Ross since 2017 spending three years in the Parish of Upper Mayfield and most recently another three years in Dunmanway Parish. As we gradually and gently get used to the working together as neighbouring parishes we look forward to meeting the new priests. In time, groups from the four parishes will also meet to share as well.

These are new beginnings for all our parishes, so we trust in God to guide us and ask the blessing of Mary our Mother to help us all serve people together.

Fr. Michael

Feast of the Assumption – Tuesday 15th August – Mass @ 9.30am

Holy Cross Repainting

While the repainting Holy Cross Church continues, weekday Masses on **Monday 14th & Wednesday 16th** will be celebrated in St. Michael's.

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

The hand of God is a human hand. Jesus reaches out to guide us, steady us, support us - all the things a touch of the hand can do. Peter found that also in Jesus - when he took his eyes off the Lord on the water, he began to sink. The Lord then held him close. Like Peter, we are always walking on water, putting our trust in Jesus Christ. We trust in him for protection in the most frightening times of life, like at the hour of death. At times we can do nothing for those we love except place them in the hand of God, knowing that God loves them more than we do.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Vandalism reawakens desire to see Little Nellie's grave moved. (2). Pope calls for new Marian devotion. — "Our Lady in a hurry". (3). Pope calls to recover Eucharistic adoration in the Church. (4). Fr. John Harris OP: Ireland needs witnesses not detached observers.

Tablet of 5/8. (1). Sin and Synodality —. The laity and the revolution in spirituality. (2). Sinéad O'Connor. — Love beyond compare. (3). Archbishop Eamon Martin warns of dangers to the young of 'unlimited choices'

Tablet of 29/7. (1). Dr. Vincent Twomey SVD: Pope Benedict's legacy —. Is it too late for liturgical reconciliation? (2). Orthodox cathedral in Odesa in ruins after night of missile attacks. (3). Church history. — A century and a half ago the Capuchins began their mission in England and Wales, living among the poor and rebuilding the Church

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Children's pages and crossword. (2) Pope Francis in his own words on heaven, saintliness and creation. (3). Our immigrants — Fr. Peter McVerry SJ writes on the situation of our immigrants in Ireland.

Catholic Voice. (1). The Uncomfortable Parable of the Sower. (2). Mary Kearns: The Ancient Practice of bringing Holy Communion to the Sick. (3). Fr. Fergal Cummins: What is your new life in Christ worth to you?

Inspiration

The gospel for today is not lacking in drama and emotion. It is intense, detailed, and almost cinematographic. As well as that, the picture of the faltering disciples is reassuring and that of the sinking Peter doubly so — so fragile and human. Still, the story can also seem very remote from our experience.

For the original readers, this Gospel story would have resonated powerfully. The gospel was written about ad 80 or 85, in a time of separation, upheaval and turmoil. The community had recently separated from the mother religion of Judaism, echoed as well in today's second reading. Judaism itself was undergoing a time of upheaval: the Romans had destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, ending all sacrifices and priesthood. Surviving Judaism and break-away groups like Matthew's community all wondered how to rebuild, how to be faithful in a drastically new situation. Stormy times!

In that context, the storm at sea is a perfect metaphor for the community of faith in times of upheaval and turmoil. The destructive force of water is familiar image from the Old Testament. The boat points to the fragile community of faith — and somehow, they sense the absence and then the presence of Jesus. In biblical culture, water symbolises both life and death; walking on the water is not to be taken literally but is a metaphor for Jesus risen from the dead, master of life and death. The message is clear: the call for a renewed faith in Jesus himself, a faith evidently weakened by the times they were living through.



Young Rockies enjoying the **Blackrock Hurling Club Summer Camp** at Church Road well done to all the Boys and Girls, Coaches Supervisors and Co ordinator Paudie O'Neill pic George Hatchell

Thought for the day

"Do not be afraid" is one of those expressions which goes straight to the heart. Who has not sometimes been afraid? The command not to fear combines two things: firstly, it is a recognition that yes, sometimes we are afraid; secondly, it proclaims that in the community of faith, with Jesus, God-with-us, our companion on the way, we ought really to be free from deep fear, because "all shall be well." Let us hear again the words, "Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid."

Prayer

Lord, save us when circumstances seem to overwhelm us, when we can- not see our way forward, when we find ourselves sinking. Take us by the hand and lead to the open space of freedom and confidence in you.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. The story illustrates the power of faith. Have you noticed that when you believe in someone, or something, you can do things that would not be possible when you are full of doubts? Recall moments when your faith gave you strength and courage? Name for your- self the different kinds of faith that had this effect: belief in yourself, trust in an- other, faith in God.
2. When Jesus got into the boat the winds ceased. Who has been a Jesus per- son for you and helped to calm a storm that frightened you or made you anx- ious?
3. The experience of Peter gives en- couragement to us when we waver in our trust and belief in God. In his doubt and fear Jesus reached out to him. Who has reached out a helping hand to you when you felt you were sinking?
4. The story ends with a profession of faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Have you had experiences of being rescued from some hazard or danger, experi- ences which deepened your faith in the presence and compassion of God for you?

PRAYER

God of all power, your sovereign word comes to us in Christ. When your church is in danger, make us firm in our trust; when your people falter, steady our faith. Show us in Jesus your power to save, that we may always acclaim him as Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

72nd Annual Mass & Devotions

HOLY ROSARY SHRINE Lee Road, Cork

Feast of the Assumption 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 15th August 2023
Chief Celebrant: **Bishop John Buckley**, Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Cork & Ross

Preacher

Fr Marius O' Reilly, Ss Peter & Paul's Parish & Rosary Stories, Radio Maria

Part of Cork's Heritage of Faith. All are welcome.

Special Annual Mass to celebrate Padre Pio's ordination to the Priesthood will take place on **Sunday August 13th @3pm in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross, Cork.** Confessions, Rosary and other devotions from 1.30pm. Priests will bless people with Padre Pio Mitten and heart bandage after Mass. Anointing of the Sick also during Mass.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection last weekend raised €2461
We are grateful for the ongoing support for SVP -
Thank you