



### Mass Times

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



### Baptism

**Sara Mary Donovan.**  
We welcome her into the Christian Family



### Recently Deceased

**Keith McCarthy, Mahon**  
**Deirdre Horgan, McGrath Park.**  
**Carmel Dennehy, Skehard Road.**  
*May the light of God surround them forever.*



### The Joy of the Gospel

At the heart of our gospel this weekend at Mass is the declaration of faith by Peter in Jesus, 'You are the Christ'. It's a turning point for Peter as well as his friends. Once Peter speaks these words of faith, the mood changes for everyone. The other disciples are reassured and strengthened. They believe and Peter's words are a big help to them.



When we say we believe, when we come to Mass, when others see us 'acting justly walking humbly' they believe too. Nowadays, we hear the word 'inspire' everywhere. Peter's words do more than inspire, they bring others to faith in the Person of Jesus. It's more than just inspiration.

We have opportunities everyday to bring people to faith, to speak words that change lives. We do so in the name of Jesus.

These days the children are returning to school, parish and social activities are resuming, we will all be with others young and old. We can speak words of faith in Jesus. May we use every opportunity that the Lord gives us to witness to our faith and the joy of the gospel.

Fr. Michael

### Bless the Children

Best wishes and every blessing to the children in our parish who are returning to school this week. May the Lord bless them in their great educational journey, bless their teachers and school communities.

As a parish, we look forward to preparing and celebrating the Sacraments of First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation with them throughout the coming year.

Fr. Michael

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



### The Papers Say.....

**Tablet Double Issue.** (1). World Youth Day -- Suddenly there's belief in the future of the Church. (2). Christopher Lamb: Pope Francis is pulling every available lever to ensure that his reforms are irreversible. Might there even be a change in the way his successor is elected? (3). The conversion of St. Augustine -- True confessions. (4) 'Miracle cure' and alleged racism at WYD.

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Brendan O'Regan's TV?Radio: Fresh focus on need for priests is welcome. (2). Mother Teresa's essential lessons for living. (3). Elise Ann Allen: Pakistan's Christians again face fire after blasphemy allegations. (4). Fr. Bernard Cotter: Baptism is the hot button issue in Irish parishes.

**Catholic Voice.** (1). World Youth Day Miracle? Teen's astonishing blindness recovery at Fatima (2). Pope St. Pius X and Frequent Communion. (3)Modernism always includes Narcissism. (4). Mary Kearns: Can Extraordinary Ministers give Holy Communion on their own authority?

Support the Catholic press and keep in touch with the Church  
Buy and read a Catholic paper/magazine weekly.

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

No Gospel text has been scrutinised more carefully than this, because it describes Jesus founding a church, and giving primacy to Peter. Let me imagine myself in that setting, under the cliff-face in Caesarea Philippi, as Jesus asks his momentous question: 'Who do you say that I am?' Suddenly the dimensions of his mission expand. He is handing over to us (the ecclesia, or people of God) the task of continuing his mission. We are not, as is sometimes phrased, 'followers of the church.' We are the church, served by bishops and others, but with our own wisdom.

### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Friday 1st September 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.



### 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.

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on Sunday 3rd September for tea and refreshments and more chat! Everyone welcome!



Each year, I undertake one charity cycle for the homeless -- the Peter McVerry Cycle. This year, there is a new circular route around the Dublin and Wicklow mountains. Please do consider making a donation.  
[www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/Wexford2023Kieran](http://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/Wexford2023Kieran)  
Personal update: an eye problem is preventing me from cycling at the moment. It is possible to do the distance privately at another time, which is my intention. It doesn't mean you can't donate!!! Thanks, Kieran



The giving of the keys (Pietro Perugino, Sistine Chapel)

### The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Alzheimer Social Club.

Cork Alzheimers Café a safe place for people with Alzheimers and other dementias, their carers, family and friends along with social and health professionals to meet.

Last Friday of each month 11- 12.30 pm in St Finbarrs Hospital, Douglas Road.

Light refreshments provided free of charge. All welcome.



### 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

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 2nd/3rd September 2023 Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

### Thought for the day

When Jesus presses the question, who do you say I am?, we feel him speaking to us. Naturally, we think of our faith now in the light of our own journey of life and pilgrimage of faith. How did I start out? What was my image of Jesus then and how did I relate to him? Have there been major turning points for me and can I name one or two? How have I deepened my familiarity with Jesus and who is he for me now? If I were to choose an image or a metaphor what would come to mind? If I were to explain to someone what my faith in Jesus is, what words would I use?

### Prayer

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. (Eph. 3:14-17)

K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. This marks a turning point in the life of Jesus, and of the disciples. It is the first time that his disciples recognise him as the Messiah. Recall turning points in your own journey of faith when you came to some deeper understanding of who Jesus is.

2. "Who do you say that I am?" This is possibly the most important question that Jesus puts to us. In your heart of hearts, how do you answer this question today?

3. Jesus praises Peter for his faith and comments that this was not his own doing but a gift of God. Perhaps there have been times when you have been conscious of the gift nature of your faith. Be thankful for the gift you have received.

### PRAYER

Living God, you sent your Son among us to reveal your wisdom and make known your ways. Increase our faith, that we may confess Jesus as your Son, take up his work on earth, and trust his promise to sustain the Church.

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.

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. K O'Mahony OSA

Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 6th September at 7:15pm in the Maryborough Hotel, Maryborough Hill, Douglas, T12 XR12.

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

