

### Mass Times

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



### Baptism

**Pippa Grace Stubbs.**  
We welcome her into the Christian Family



### Our Schools

It's lovely to hear the sound of children back in the school yards these days. During the past week, I have visited a number of the local primary schools and look forward to touching base with the others this week. We are blessed in our Catholic schools especially in this parish and beyond.



Our schools are very positive places underpinned by the gentle presence of Jesus each day. While we prepare for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation so much more happens as well in classes throughout the school as a community centred on the Person of Jesus.

May God bless the children, their families, their school communities and our parish throughout the coming school year.

Fr. Michael

This weekend, we remember and pray for Emily Roman who lost her life in Fountainstown. We pray for her parents, her brother and sister, her friends and their families, her school community in Crosshaven and all those in grief. May the gentle presence of Jesus console them and accompany them in a time of profound grief.

Fr. Michael

### 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.



### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection last weekend raised €2400  
We are grateful for the ongoing support for SVP -  
Thank you

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Government restrictions are making housing crisis worse. (2). St. John Henry Newman's knew that the Catholic Church was the Church of the earliest Christians. (3) Autumn Legacy Supplement — A Gift that endures in challenging times.

**Sacred Heart Messenger.** (1) Kevin Hargaden addresses the challenges, outcomes and sometimes snags of dealing with with the problem of drugs. (2) Mary McAleese recounts the life of Irish martyr Bl. Dominic Collins SJ. (3). Three Parables — David Breen introduces Jesus' words about entry to the Kingdom of God in Matthew.

**Synodal Times.** (1). Learning from the women of St. Paul — Our own Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA discusses the ordination of women. (2). Cardinal who forbade same-sex blessings in diocese believes topic should be addressed at Synod. (3). Traditionalist Cardinal Raymond Burke claims Synod will foster 'confusion, error and division'.

**Tablet.** (1). Human Rights in Crisis — A painful paradox lies behind the suppression of Nicaragua's Jesuits under an authoritarian regime. (2). A writer's religion — Tolkien's old-fashioned faith. (3) Churches and homes burned down by mobs in Punjab.

**Catholic Voice.** (1). Fr. Sean Sheehy: Persistent faith in Jesus always pays off. (2). Miraculous Healing at Eucharistic Adoration. (3) Mary Kearns: Without the Crucifix we become disoriented.

### St Michael's Church Choir

Our choir sings at the 11:00am Sunday Mass and other important occasions during the church year. Pre-mass rehearsals and participation at Mass resumes on **Sunday 17 September**. Maybe you are new to the Parish, or have always wanted to join? We are a female choir and presently number 12 singers. We are actively seeking new members and you will be made very welcome. Prior knowledge of musical notation is not required but you should be able to sing in tune and be open to becoming part of a special and dedicated group of existing members. If interested why not meet us on the balcony before or after mass. See separate handout for fuller information.

**Blackrock Community Association Registration** takes place on Monday 11th September between 2 – 4 pm at the Community Centre, Convent Road. Cost remains at €15 for the year. New members are always welcome – members enjoy discounted outings e.g., recent trip to banquet at Bunratty with lunch at the Old Ground Hotel, Ennis; trip to Michael Collins Museum, with dinner at Fernhill as well as numerous classes (e.g., Dance and Exercise to music, arts and crafts, crochet) and socials at the Centre and elsewhere.

### Cork Scripture Group

4 Monday nights (25th Sept, 2nd, 9th, 16th Oct) on "When you pray . . . (Matthew 6:5): Exploring Prayer in the Bible Presenters: Pauline Byrne, Marian Mortell, Fr John Newman, Phil Mortell  
Saturday workshop (Oct 7th) on Praying the Psalms facilitated by Ciaran O'Callaghan CSsR  
**Cost €50.**  
To book a place please email [corksripturegroup@gmail.com](mailto:corksripturegroup@gmail.com)

**SECOND COLLECTION 23rd/24th SEPTEMBER.**  
**Priesthood Education.**

### Sycamore Series for Young Adults- Exploring Catholic Faith

Have you ever questioned why you are Catholic and wondered why we Catholics believe what we believe? The Sycamore Series is an informal course for those aged 18-35. Join us as we deepen our understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith. Each session involves a short film and time for discussion, with a meal also included. Everyone is welcome. Start date Wednesday October 4th 2023, 6pm-8pm at Presentation Brothers Mardyke House, Cork T12 W8RP. The course runs for 10 consecutive weeks. The course is free, but places are limited. Please email [chaplaincy@ucc.ie](mailto:chaplaincy@ucc.ie) or ring 0214902459 to let us know you are interested.

**St Michaels Conference SVP Blackrock** are currently seeking new members. We would welcome interested persons to contact either a conference member, Fr Keohane or SVP Tuckey Street.

*Lucette Murray Conference President.*

**The Totus Tuus Men for Christ Conference 2023** - a Catholic Conference for Men will be LIVE & EXCLUSIVE on *Radio Maria Ireland Saturday 16th September from 2pm*. Speakers for this years Conference are Fr. Billy Swan, Fr. Chris Hayden, Anthony Crossey & Fr. John Harris OP



### 40TH. ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSURE OF IRISH DUNLOP CO.

The 6pm Mass on Saturday 30th. September will be offered for the living and deceased ex-employees of Dunlops, Cork. Please spread the word on social media or any other means. Everyone welcome in the Parish Centre after Mass for a cuppa and a catch up.

**Anam Cara West Cork** the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on **Tuesday 19th September at 7:20pm** in the Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty, P85 X322.

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)

**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 Gospel reading today has some harsh dimensions and most likely it reflects not the teaching of Jesus directly but the practices in the church for which Matthew was writing. People who refuse to acknowledge their failures are to be treated as pagans and tax collectors! But just how are pagans and tax collectors treated by Jesus and in the Gospel of Matthew? They are welcomed and forgiven! Any permanent exclusion is to be resisted on the example and teaching of Jesus himself.

#### Prayer

*We believe your word to us that where two or three are gathered in your name you are in our midst. Help us to recognise you in all our brothers and sisters, whatever their failures or sins. Help us to recognise you in ourselves, whatever our faults.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. At the time Matthew was writing his gospel local church communities would have numbered no more than fifty people. They would be known to one another. Matthew presents the instructions of Jesus for dealing with people whose behaviour disrupted and harmed the community. Note the steps suggested. Simple directions but many of us do otherwise. We avoid difficult confrontations. We talk about the faults of others to everyone but themselves. We go over the head of someone who displeases us and make complaints. In your experience, which approach is life-giving for you and for others?
2. While Jesus is referring to a group situation, the advice can be applied also to personal difficulties and problems with others. What lessons has life taught you about constructive ways of dealing with conflict?
3. Jesus also recognises that there are limits to what we can do in resolving conflicts. We may reach out, but if the other person does not respond the matter is out of our control. Let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector suggests having nothing more to do with that person. But that is not the last word because Gentiles and tax collectors were precisely the kind of people to whom Jesus reached out. So while for the moment we may have nothing more to do with a person who has hurt us, we leave the door open for the future.
4. As individuals and communities we have the power to bind and to loose, to exclude people from relationship, or to open up and include others in relationship. When have you found it important to acknowledge this power in your own life?
5. There is great assurance in the promise of Jesus in v. 19, but he seems to promise more than we experience. What has been your experience of praying with others for something you wanted God to grant?
6. Jesus also promises to be with his followers when they gather together. What does that mean to you? How have you experienced the presence of Jesus in his followers gathered together?

#### PRAYER

*Confirm, O God, in unity and truth the Church you gather in Christ. Encourage the fervent, enlighten the doubtful, and bring back the wayward. Bind us together in mutual love, that our prayer in Christ's name may be pleasing to you. Grant 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*

