



Mass Times

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



Baptism

Sadie Emma Ogaz Riordan.
Fionn Lucas Sandham.
We welcome them into the Christian Family



*Mary of Nazareth - Our Lady of Palestine,
Queen of the Holy Land*



On a pilgrimage to the Holy Land a number of years ago, one of the pilgrims in our group asked the guide if a certain place that we were passing through was in Palestine or Israel. The guide who was Arabic and worked as a teacher in Nazareth memorably replied, 'this is all the Holy Land'. It put members of the group thinking and I always carry that response with me.

We continue to pray for peace in Gaza and Israel as well as Ukraine where people suffer unbelievably without reason or logic.

It is so easy to give up on prayer and peace-making. Our faith urges us on to keep hoping, keep faithful and keep praying. We do so in our church, parish, schools and wherever people of faith and goodwill gather.

Mary of Nazareth - Our Lady of Palestine, Queen of the Holy Land, intercede for peace in your beloved homeland.

Fr. Michael

Do This in Memory

Thanks to the parents who helped with the Do This in Memory Mass last weekend. It was a lovely Mass with a special family atmosphere. We look forward to the next Mass on **Saturday 9th December at 6pm**. May God bless the First Holy Communion children, their families, their schools and our parish. *St. Michael, pray for all of us.*

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 Ardfoyle Convent
Why not join us for a quiet unrushed hour?
ALL WELCOME.



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. Friday 24th November the next meeting.** Last one of 2023, join us for our Christmas celebrations. bettycogan@hotmail.com



<https://www.facebook.com/Cork-Alzheimer-Cafe-136469209819937/>

The Papers Say.....

Synodal Times. The November issue of the Synodal Times is arguably the most fascinating yet as fresh from their trip to Rome the ST team reports on the ins and outs of the hotly-anticipated first assembly of the Synod of Bishops. With exclusive interviews, unrivaled analysis and in-depth coverage, the ST takes you to the Eternal City from the comfort of your home.

Tablet. (1). Austin Ivereigh: Conversations in the Spirit -- How the Synod will change the Church. (2). Jennifer Lipman: As a British Jew I have never felt more afraid, for my family and the Jewish future. (3)France -- Church horrified by Macron's right-to-abortion plan.

Messenger (1). Fr. Donal Neary SJ : Christmas Novena from 16 to 24 December. (2). Wisdom in Later Years.

Catholic Voice. (1). Pope Benedict XVI. -- Advent calls us to silence. (2). Mary Kearns: Mindfulness is not Prayer.

Irish Catholic. (1). Fr. Bernard Cotter: Priests' funeral involvement decreasing in every parish. (2). Fr. Patrick Briscoe: Anti-semitism is a deadly diversion that must be wholly condemned.



Anam Cara West Cork

the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Tuesday 21st November 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



Advent 2023

The theme of this Advent Scripture Course is **"Stories of Hope,"** and will focus on how hope is found in three very different texts in the Bible: Esther, Romans, and Mark.



Advent is a time of expectation, and the hope of salvation that came with the birth of Jesus Christ.

With recent news headlines of increasingly dangerous weather events, hostilities in various parts of the world, and further humanitarian crises, today's world is very much in need of the hope that Scripture can help us find in our lives.

The course will feature a total of six prerecorded presentations, two from each of the three presenters, which can be enjoyed at your own pace once the course goes live.

In addition to the presentations, there will also be two live Zoom webinars: a Q&A session, and a meditation session based on the texts and themes of the course.

Cost: €20 per household
www.tarsusscriptureschool.ie and follow the link to register.

Observations

In spite of the image below, a talent was not a coin. How much was a talent worth? In the New Testament, a talent was a monetary unit roughly equal to 6,000 drachmas, greater than sixteen years' wages for an ordinary labourer! Of course, no coin of such huge denomination could ever be minted. Still, in terms of the parable, even one talent was very much!



Reflections

1. A gift given in love, is given to be enjoyed, treasured, and used. Through fear, one servant failed to recognise the loving trust being shown to him and buried the talent. When have you found that overcoming fear helped you to make the most of opportunities in life?

2. On the level of our own personal life, faith is not given to us to be locked away, but to be "traded" with. We trade with it when we believe in its value, trust it, and use it, bringing it into the experiences we have in daily life. Can you recall times when relying on your faith has brought you rewards?

3. Likewise with our own personal gifts and talents. We can fall into the trap of seeing these as our personal possession so that we can do with them as we like, rather than share them as gifts so that they can be multiplied. What is your experience of hoarding or sharing your own gifts? When did you feel most alive?

4. Pope Francis in his letter The Joy of the Gospel wrote, "I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelisation in their respective communities. ... The important thing is to not walk alone, but to rely on each other as brothers and sisters." EG (33) How is your parish responding to this call?

PRAYER

O God, from whose own abundance, all gifts and skills are lavishly bestowed, encourage us to use our talents as generously as you have allotted them, so that, being faithful to your purpose, we may become sharers in your glory. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Theology Online Open Evening. Is this for you?

The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Email enquiries@prioryinstitute.com to find out more about our Online Open Evening on Wednesday 29 November.

Second Collection w/e 18th/19th. November Marriage Support.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Fr. Michael has 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.

Thought for the day

What does God desire of us? This simple question is perhaps not asked frequently enough! It can be made quite personal: what does God want of me, from me? In the end, the answer has to be—in the words of the song—"all that I am," precisely because God loves all that I am. This will mean allowing ourselves to be loved. It will also mean responding with my whole self, including all the gifts of body, mind and soul that God has bestowed upon me. In the end, God does hope that we may be and become our true selves. Nothing less is adequate to God's own love for us.

PRAYER

We are truly grateful to you, God our creator and redeemer, for your many gifts. We ask your help that we may use all you have given us for your glory and for the good of our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE - Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

RECESSIONAL – Hail Queen of Heaven

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean Star:
Guide of the wand'r'er here below,
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care;
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the wand'r'er, pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,
We sinners make our prayers through thee;
Remind thy Son that He has paid
The price of our iniquity.
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,
Pray for the sinner, pray for me.

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

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