

Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Frances Casey, Mount Rivers, Castle Road
Dan (William) Flynn, Convent Road
Máiréad Quinn, Skehard Road
May the light of God surround them forever.



Christ the King

Unexpectedly during the past week, events unfolded in Dublin which have deeply affected people. We think of the children involved, their families, their carers and school community. The subsequent street violence has shaken people sowing fear, doubt and vulnerability. We all continue to be grateful for the dedication and bravery of our emergency services and gardai. We depend on them at all times but especially in times of crisis and danger.

This Sunday we come to celebrate the last weekend of the liturgical year in the Feast of Christ the Universal King. In families, homes, schools and communities, attention is drawn to the run-up to Christmas. However, we take time this weekend to reflect on Jesus as the Lord of all events particularly in a world of danger and suffering.

In the gospel text Jesus is depicted sitting 'on a throne of glory'. This is the Cross of Jesus and the suffering of life. We can be comforted and reassured in this as we take our time before looking into Advent next weekend.

Fr. Michael.



Medjugorje 7 night pilgrimage May 29th 2024 ex Cork airport.
Discounted cost of €779.00 pps offer end Dec 1st.
Contact Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING, RAFFLE & CAKE SALE.

In aid of MARYMOUNT HOSPICE.

Sunday 3rd. DECEMBER, 2023.

BALLINLOUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE. Starting 9.30am.

FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT On Friday 1st December

is cancelled due to a wedding on that day.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1) A Finnish case shows the dangers hate speech laws pose for Irish Christians. (2). Nuala O'Loan: Synod calls for accountability and all to participate in Church's mission. (3). Mary Kenny: Tubridy's story shows nobody is indispensable (4). What battles are we losing when the holy water fonts are dry?

Tablet. (1). The death of John F. Kennedy. --A week after the death of Pope John XXIII, in a remarkable speech echoing many of the themes of his last encyclical, Pacem in Terris, the president of the United States switched from cold warrior to peacemaker (2). Ireland --- Priest crisis to enhance lay leadership. (3). UK. --- Antisemitic acts soar by 500 per cent

Synodal Times. In the November issue 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 Synodal Times takes you to the Eternal City from the comfort of your home.



Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding it's monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 6th December 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



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

The history of the feast and its contemporary relevance are explored in this week's podcast (see below). As you can see from the notes, there are two readings or ways of looking at today's Gospel, Matthew 25:31-46, a didactic tableau rather than a parable as such.

The first reading (the "universalist" one) is traditional: those who serve encounter Christ in anyone in need. The second reading (the "particularist" one) is new(ish): Believers who disclose their vulnerability by allowing themselves to be served thereby disclose Christ to others. In one sense, both readings are "valid". In my opinion, however, the second, particularist reading is more likely to be what Matthew intended at the time of writing. It has great potential for the church today.

Reflections

1. This judgment scene contains surprises for us. One is that nobody is condemned for doing wrong, but for their failure to do good. Jesus is telling us that being his disciple is a positive choice about how we live and relate to others. Perhaps sin avoidance has sometimes dominated your view of what was being asked of you. What difference has it made for you when you viewed your Christian life as a daily opportunity to make a positive difference to others?

2. Another way of saying this is that the aim of Christian living is not me-centred (about my personal sanctification) but other centred (about responding to the needs of others). What happens to you when you get caught up yourself? Is your life not better, and often more enjoyable, when you can look beyond yourself to others?

3. The standard of love and concern that Jesus presents challenges us to look beyond our comfort zone to those who are most in need. Who are those most in need in your world? When have you been able to move beyond your comfort zone in reaching out to them?

4. Another surprise is to hear Jesus tell us that when we do something for another, he considers it as done to himself. When has seeing Christ in others helped you in your dealings with them?

5. The story is about the judgment of the whole of humanity. It presents an ideal of society in which human relationships at all levels are governed by the law of love. In your experience what difference has it made to a group to which you belonged when there was a definite sensitivity to the needs of all members?

PRAYER

A mighty God, you have conferred upon Christ Jesus sovereignty over every age and nation. Direct us, in the love of Christ, to care for the least of his brothers and sisters, that we may be subject to his dominion and receive the inheritance of your kingdom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Everyone welcome!



Totus Tuus Magazine is a Catholic magazine, full of articles from Irish priests and laity, which aims to highlight the beauty and joy of our faith. It is going into its 7th year and is run by donations. If you haven't come across Totus Tuus Magazine and would like a free copy please contact Fiona Kiely on 086 8760058.

Thought for the day

The image of the king is a foundational metaphor in the Bible, which in ordinary usage suggests power and glory. But even in the ancient biblical tradition, there are two significant modifications. According to an Old Testament vision, a king is meant to be a shepherd to his people, a true shepherd who cares for and who knows and even loves his sheep. According to a New Testament vision, Jesus our king rules paradoxically by loving service, humility and the gift of himself. This example and teaching of Jesus have lost none of their power.

PRAYER

Wake us up, O God, and rouse us from the slumber of the every-day that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person, each day of our lives. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

How Great Thou Art - Entrance

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart; Then I shall bow, in humble adoration, And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.

CHORUS:

Hail Redeemer King Divine – Recessional

Hail Redeemer, King divine!
Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine;
King, whose reign shall never cease,
Prince of everlasting peace.

*Chorus: Angels, saints and nations sing :
"Praise be Jesus Christ our King;
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,
King of love on Calvary!"*

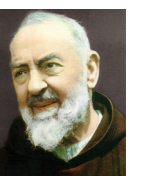
2. Eucharistic King, what love draws thee daily from above, clad in signs of bread and wine : feed us, lead us, keep us thine!

Chorus

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*

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.



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on

Week ending 2nd/3rd December 2023

Your support as always is greatly appreciated.