



Mass Times

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



Baptism

Jasper Pio Keohane.
Pia Ottilie Keohane.
Beauden Evan Johnston.
Darcey Lily O'Sullivan.



We welcome them into the Christian Family

Recently Deceased

Val Hughes, Upper Beaumont Drive
May the light of God surround him forever.



O COME EMMANUEL

Happy New Year or, more correctly, Happy New Church Year! Yes, we start the new year this weekend on the First Sunday of Advent as we light the first candle on the church Advent Wreath. This one candle looks a bit lost and isolated for a week or two until the full circle of light is complete on the Fourth Sunday of Advent which falls on Christmas Eve.



This year, more than ever we call out for the birth of Our Saviour. We need the help and presence of the Infant Jesus in our lives. While technology and science rapidly develops, so many more people feel isolated and suffer. Perhaps your own situation has changed since this time last year and Christmas may be daunting. Then just look at the new light on the Wreath, look forward to the night when the Newborn Infant Jesus is placed in the crib. Don't be on your own, the Emmanuel, God-with-us will be with you.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel this year.

Fr. Michael

Christmas Arrangements 2023

Sunday 24th December

Morning Masses @ 9am & 11am

Vigil Masses @ 6pm & 8pm

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

Masses @ 9am & 11am

St. Stephen's Day, Tuesday 26th December

Mass @ 9.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available after weekend Masses on Saturday 16th/Sunday 17th December.

Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road, Mahon Family of Parishes

This weekend

Fr. Rafal will celebrate weekend Masses in St. Michael's. Mons. Gearoid will be in Holy Cross Church Frs. John Denvir SMA & Fr. Jerome SMA will be in Ballinlough Fr. Michael will be in SMA Blackrock Road for all Masses.

Within our Family of Parishes, we are beginning to prepare for the formation of Parish Pastoral Councils in 2024. The four parishes will work together in this with the support of the Office of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Pope Francis and the 'German Synodal Way': Five takeaways. (2) Bishop says African Pentecostals are waging 'guerilla war' against Catholicism. (3). Michael Kelly: We cannot allow the trouble in Dublin to be reduced to a one-dimensional obsession with the far-right. (4). David Quinn: Everything must be done to ensure no repeat to the riots in Dublin but first we must fully understand what happened.

Tablet. (1). Open Letter-- Bishops 'recognize important role of the laity but are not yet ready to let go of clericalism or control'. (2). Perhaps our political leaders could try some experiments in truth. (3). France's unfinished religious war -- President Macron's confused response to the Gaza crisis has its roots in divisions going far back in French history.

Catholic Voice. (1). Bishop Strickland has become a victim of the Church he loves. (2). Catholic trustees in Northern Ireland warn new sex-ed program will promote abortion. (3) The battle for our eternal destiny.

Support the Catholic press and Keep in touch with the Church Buy and read a Catholic publication every week!

Do This in Memory Mass

The next Mass for the First Holy Communion children and their families will be celebrated on **Saturday 9th December at 6pm Vigil Mass.** The children will bring their Do This in Memory candles with them to this Mass which they have received from the Parish as they prepare for First Confession and First Holy Communion next year.

Afternoon of Reflection

On Sunday 10th December from 3pm – 5.30pm there will be an afternoon of reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist from the Family of Parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road, Mahon in Blackrock Parish Centre.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM. Cap will guide the reflection.

All Ministers of the Word of Eucharist are invited to attend to join in prayer and take the opportunity to meet together.

Cork Lions Club are delighted to announce that they will be running an Online Auction in aid of the Christmas Food Appeal. Bidding opens on **Monday, 4th December** and closes on **8th December at Midnight.** We are grateful to the Cork Business Community, who have donated items to date for the auction - visit www.corklionsclub.ie for details.

The proceeds from the auction will go towards the Cork Lions Club Christmas Food Appeal. Every year Cork Lions Club distributes food hampers to deserving families in Cork City, with over 500 hampers distributed in 2023.



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



Observations

Advent 2023

Welcome to the season of Advent and the start of a new church year. Advent offers us a season of both longing and hope. The themes of the season are rich and below are several resources: podcasts, Tarsus Scripture School for Advent and a volume of Hearers of the Word series. *A happy new year to all!*

Reflections

1. The coming of the master is not just the moment of death, but any moment of grace. Recall unexpected graces — good things that happened when they were not anticipated.

2. Recall times when you were particularly alert and aware of what was going on in you and around you and the contrast with moments when such alertness and awareness were not present.

3. The servants were given charge of the household "each with their own job." Identify with the servants as people given a responsibility within the household of God's people. What has it been like for you when you have been shown trust in this way by another person? What is it like for you to see yourself trusted in this way by God?

4. Your experience of good "doorkeepers," people who were there and ready to receive you even when you came at an awkward or unexpected time. Also your experience of being a good "doorkeeper" for another.

5. Jesus says that what he is saying to his disciples he is saying to all. Have there been times when you have been a messenger of hope to others, encouraging them to wait for a moment of grace. Who have been the ones to encourage you?

PRAYER

*Rend the heavens and come down, O God of all the ages!
Rouse us from sleep, deliver us from our heedless ways, and form us into a watchful people, that, at the advent of your Son, he may find us doing what is right, mindful of all you command.
Grant this through him, whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.*

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING, RAFFLE & CAKE SALE.

In aid of MARYMOUNT HOSPICE.

Sunday 3rd. DECEMBER, 2023.

BALLINLOUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE. Starting 9.30am.

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.

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



Christmas Dues

These envelopes will be delivered to homes this week. Your generosity and loyalty is profoundly appreciated in this.

Thought for the day

Beginning again is an invitation to look in two directions. What happened for me in the last year, both in my ordinary life and in my life as a believer, a person of faith? For what do I ask forgiveness? For what do I give thanks? We also look forward and the new beginning gives us a chance to start again on the Way of discipleship. Both thanksgiving and renewal are to be found in today's readings. The Gospel is an invitation to wake up, to keep watch, to live fully the present moment under God, in whom we live and move and have our being. Amen.

PRAYER

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

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE – O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
To free your captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel,
To you shall come Emmanuel.

O royal branch of Jesse's tree,
Redeem us all from tyranny;
From pain of hell your people free,
And over death win victory.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel,
To you shall come Emmanuel.

RECESSIONAL – THE LORD MADE KNOWN TO ISRAEL

The Lord made known to Israel,
His great redeeming plan.
He speaks to us his people now
Through Christ his Son made man.
We have been called like Israel,
To witness to God's grace,
A people he has made his own,
A royal priestly race.

God brought his people to the mount,
As we are gathered now,
To hear His holy word proclaimed
And their allegiance vow.
We have been called like Israel,
To witness to God's grace,
A people he has made his own,
A royal priestly race.

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*

