

Mass Times

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



Wedding

Congratulations to David Barnett and Jennifer McCarthy who were married in our Church on Friday 1st. December, 2023. Fr. John C. O'Donovan officiated.



Baptism

Noah Anthony Fernandez Zebo. Isabella Kate Fernandez Zebo. We welcome them into the Christian Family



Recently Deceased

Thomas (Tom) Twomey, Ballinlough Jim Cremin, Meadow Grove Estate Yvonne Dinan-Lawlor, Skehard Road May the light of God surround them forever.



Sounds and Voices of the Children

It's important to say that we are still in Advent. Over the next two weeks our church will be a very busy place as schools practice and celebrate their carol concerts and nativity plays. There is always great excitement and energy as the children prepare with their teachers and schools. We will have very proud parents and grandparents in attendance as well.



It's always a joy to hear the sounds and voices of the children in our church. We look forward to the same sounds and voices as we celebrate the Incarnation during the Christmas Season from the Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve which falls on Sunday this year.

We hope and pray that the children will experience the joy of Christmas as the joy of the Birth of the Infant Jesus. That is why we prepare and that is why we will celebrate.

May God bless the children, their families, their schools and our Parish this year.

Fr. Michael

Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road, Mahon Family of Parishes

Representatives from the Office of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese will speak at all Masses across the four parishes during February. In preparation for this we will pray at all Masses during January asking God's blessing so that Parish Councils will be formed in a spirit of prayer and discernment to specifically serve the prayer and faith lives of the parishes.

This will not be rushed and will be a more synodal way of discernment, prayer and eventually Parish Council formation.

Afternoon of Reflection

On this 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.

The Papers Say.....

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Re-Link is a Resource for Junior Certificate Religious Studies. The theme in the current issue is 'Non-Christian Festivals' (2). Simeon. -- Living in Anticipation. (3). Corkman Fr. Tony O'Riordan SJ directs the Jesuit refugee service in Syria and writes on 'Christmas in Syria 2023'

Irish Catholic. (1). John L. Allen Jr. : Kissinger was counsellor to popes as well as presidents. (2). Bishop Kevin Doran: The ministry of catechist is important for evangelizing modern Ireland. (3). David Quinn: The idea that so-called assisted dying can be limited is a dangerous lie. (4). Niamh Uí Bhrianin: Pro-life frontline organizations must be supported as abortions surge.

Catholic Voice. (1) The battle for our eternal destiny. (2). Catholic trustees in Northern Ireland warn that sex-ed program promotes abortion.

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.

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

Rally to the Rockies

The Rockies GAA Club takes pleasure in extending a Hearty Céad Míle Fáilte to it's Friends and Followers to a general Get-Together at the Rockies Club, Church Road on Thursday December 21st from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be served. Meet old friends and make new ones at the Rockies



Advent Talks

Prepare well for the coming of Jesus this Christmas with Advent Talks on Tuesdays at 7pm in Saints Peter and Paul's Church. Fr Marius O'Reilly will speak on Tuesday December 5th, Fr Sean Crowley on December 12th, and Fr Shinu Angadiyil. on December 19th. Each talk will be followed by 30 mins of silent adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar. All are most welcome



St. PIO Prayer Group of Our Lady of the Rosary

Due to the season of Advent, 1 our December Mass will be brought forward to Wednesday 13th December. Why not join us for a quiet unrushed hour? ALL WELCOME.



Observations

The beginning of the Good News

Welcome to the Second Sunday of Advent. The figure of John the Baptism is presented in Mark 1:1-8. For the podcast, by way of exception, I'm offering a brief, but close reading of Mark 1:1-8,9-15 (his prologue). The hope is to delve beneath the superficial simplicity of the telling in order to explore the powerful resonances of Mark's writing. He invites us to read the story of Jesus within the story of Israel and within our story too. Lots of layers.



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 9th/10th December 2023 Your support as always is greatly appreciated.



Roger Ryan, who has given a lifetime of service to the Rockies as a player, Mentor, Officer at many levels, has been elected as Club President succeeding the late Jimmy Brohan. Roger is well respected figure within and outside of the club. Best wishes Roger, a well deserved honour for yourself and your family. Pic: George Hatchell

Anam Cara Cork, Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, Anam Cara is holding a Parent Evening on Tuesday 19th December 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

Christmas Dues

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

Thought for the day

As Christmas approaches, we could ask ourselves: how can we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour? The proclamation of John the Baptist points to the preparation that really counts: conversion of heart and life. The deeper meaning of metanoia is a change of vision, a radically new outlook, in the light of the Gospel. God is our compassionate father, our Abba, who desires nothing less than our hearts, our whole selves. We are accepted and loved by him, while we are still sinners (Romans 5:8). Receiving his forgiving love means a revolution in values, beliefs and direction in life.

Prayer

Loving God, as we your children prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour, help us to prepare our hearts too. May the coming birth of the Son of David encourage us to true repentance and genuine conversion of heart. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

- 1. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord? To whom have you been such a messenger?
2. The voice cries in "the desert" or wilderness...a reminder to us that when we feel that we are in a desert place in our lives, we should not give up hope. It may be that God's grace will come to us at any moment. Have you had an experience of God's grace coming to you when you were in a desert place?
3. John calls the people to repentance (= a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you?
4. John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart - write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?
5. John did not claim to be greater than he was and freely acknowledged the greater role that Jesus would play. When have you seen yourself, or others, act with that kind of humility, freely acknowledging the place of God and of others in what is happening? What difference does it make to you when you are comfortable with your own important, but limited, worth?

PRAYER

With tender comfort and transforming power you come into our midst, O God of mercy and might. Make ready a way in the wilderness, clear a straight path in our hearts, and form us into a repentant people, that the advent of your Son may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals. We ask 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 forever and ever. Amen.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is 2017