

Mass Times

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



Baptism

Molly Frances Attridge.
Harry Jack Bruen.
Ted Eamonn Bruen.
Alexander Mark Clune.



We welcome them into the Christian Family

Recently Deceased

Tom O'Brien, Skehard Road
May the light of God surround him forever.



Happy New Year

We had a wonderful celebration of Christmas in our parish and throughout our Family of Parishes this year. We had huge attendances at all Christmas Masses in St. Michael's. There was a sense, this year, that attendances continue to return to normal after the pandemic. Please God, this will continue to be the situation as we prepare for the coming year with the formation of a new parish council and other initiatives to grow and develop our parish.



Christmas is a huge collaborative effort in our parish. We are deeply grateful to all who give their time voluntarily to do so much for the parish in so many different ways. You make our parish welcoming, prayerful and attractive for everyone. To all our volunteers, we say thank you and may God bless you and your families for your generosity and in your parish ministries.

It has been lovely to see so many people and families come to the church in recent days to kneel and pray in front of our crib. It is always special to see children visiting with parents or grandparents. This is how we shape faith memories for the children and we hope that they all have a time of rest over Christmas and the new year.

May God bless you and your family for 2024 and the words of the first reading on 1st January, the Feast of Mary the Mother of God and World Day of Prayer for Peace be special for you and your family:

*'May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.'*

Fr. Michael

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

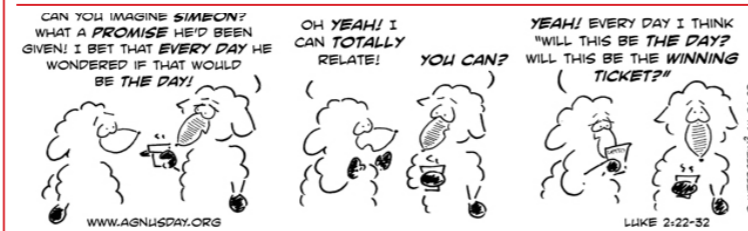
There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is 2017

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic (1). Fr. Rolheiser: Fear of God as wisdom. (2). 2023 Review of the Year. (3). My faith is everything -- MMA fighter Ciaran Clarke. (4) Bro. Bob Macke SJ is playing a pivotal role in NASA'S most recent groundbreaking successes. (5) A Catholic guide through anxiety this Christmas season.

Christmas Dues

Dues envelopes have been delivered to homes and are also available in the church. Contributions can also be made via the donate button on the parish website. Thank you always for your generosity which is much appreciated.



**Saturday 6th January, Feast of the Epiphany
Mass @ 9.30am**

**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish
Centre after 11 am mass on 7th January
2024 for tea and refreshments and more
chat!
Everyone welcome!**



**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.

Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 3rd January 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

Happy New Year to all

Every new year, we pray for peace, in our hearts, in our families and in our world. Perhaps this year, our prayer will be more urgent than ever before, given the number of tragedies unfolding around us. As we pray again and again for peace, the words of Pope Francis on Christmas Day (the Urbi et Orbi address) can sustain us, so that we do not lose heart. Evil contains within it the seeds of its own destruction, as the book of Revelation teaches. The "yes" of God in Jesus is our guarantee that goodness will prevail.

Reflections

1. It was a day that started without any expectation of something unusual. It turned out to be a day with a meeting they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you have had significant meetings on what you expected to be just an ordinary day?
2. Simeon gave thanks because his eyes saw the salvation God had prepared. In what ways have you experienced God's salvation in your life: an experience of being loved, or discovering a sense of purpose in life, or being touched by the wonders of creation? Give thanks for those memories.
3. Simeon also acknowledged that not all would accept the light that would shine through Jesus, and this rejection would be a cause of pain to Mary. It can be a source of pain to parents, teachers, church ministers, and all who work for others when some reject values, projects, advice which would be for their good. Even within ourselves we can be aware of division, at times being open to the light of God and at other times resisting it. Have you known the pain of that struggle? What has helped you to keep seeking the light of God in your life?
4. The final sentence speaks of Jesus as one who grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom. Recall times when you had a sense of growing up in some way. What brought that about? Think also of how you have seen growth in another person.

PRAYER

O God, you cradle us at the beginning of life and embrace us at our journey's end, for you love us as your own. Bind our families together and deepen our faith, that, like the Holy Family of Nazareth, we may grow in wisdom, obedient to your word. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 5th January 2024

There are sheets on the tables in the Church where Parishioners can indicate the times most suitable for them to be present. We would like that there would be at least 2 people present for each period. If there are vacant periods we would appreciate volunteers to fill these times by putting their names on the list.



Thought for the day

Our Gospel today describes two very old people—Simeon and Anna—who are very attractive in their old age. They have lived prayerful lives of faith and, in particular, of hope and expectation. Being wise, they are people of discernment and they recognise the moment of grace, the coming of the Messiah. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be like them in old age? The secret is to be now what we hope to be then. If we wish to be serene, wise, discerning, full of faith—then now is the time: See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! (2 Cor 6:2)

Prayer

Abba, Father, God of all time, you call us to become your children. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may live our faith serenely in the present moment and give us grace to recognise the time of your appearing.

K O'Mahony OSA

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

Adeste Fideles

Adeste Fideles laeti triumphantes,
Venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte, Regem Angelorum;

Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
venite adoremus, Dominum!

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 6th/7th JANUARY 2024
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.