

Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Jerry O'Donovan, Beaumont Drive
Eileen Lynch, Beaumont
May the light of God surround them forever.



The Baptism of the Lord

Our church 'clock' is still somewhat on Christmas time which concludes this weekend with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Our family clock is already set for school and work with parents and grandparents back on routine duties.



Why this feast of the baptism of the Lord? Very simply, Jesus takes his place in the queue at the River Jordan to be baptized. He shows that he is of one nature with us? In a sense, He demonstrates what is really possible for the rest of us. He shares his nature with us and shows that we can be 'born' of God as well.

Baptismal ceremonies are beautiful. Smiles on the faces of parents, grandparents, great grandparents. We see new life and hope in front of our eyes. Each one is a special moment. Every time a new baby is brought through the door of the church is a special moment. It is not easy for parents and families and yet through the grace of God, many ceremonies are celebrated in our parish.

This weekend we celebrate the wonderful blessing of our own baptism, the joy of each baptismal celebration in our parish and Family of Parishes and that Jesus elevates our nature in His baptism in the River Jordan. Happy New Year.

Fr. Michael.

Do This in Memory 2023 - 2024

The next Mass for the First Holy Communion Children and their families will be celebrated on Saturday 10th February at 6pm.

Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on **Tuesday 16th January 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

A brief introduction on today's readings

First reading Isaiah 55:1-11

Our Gospel today is Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom and his call to conversion. The first reading explores the experience of conversion using a rich variety of experiences and images. The very last lines about God's word offer us great confidence and hope.

Second reading 1 John 5:1-9

Who was Jesus? Who is Jesus today? These modern-sounding questions lie behind this reading. It was written at a time of failing faith in Jesus, both in his real humanity and his real divinity. The very first line puts it up to us today: if we claim to know who God is, then we must also have faith in Jesus, the Son of God.

Gospel Mark 1:7-11

Again and again, we Christians need to go back to the core teaching of Jesus, in all its simplicity and richness. Jesus began his ministry with this ringing proclamation about the Kingdom of God and conversion of heart.

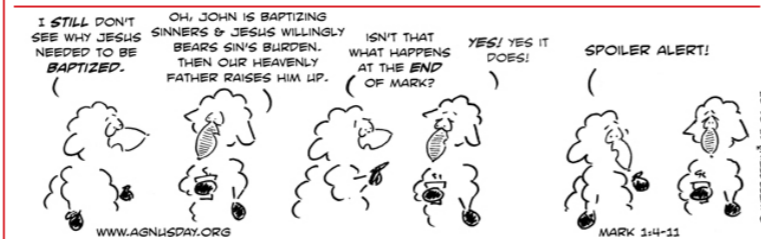
The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic (1). Mary Kenny: Jacques Delors 'Mr. Europe' and his Catholic faith. (2). David Quinn: Government ignore deep ethical problems of surrogacy (3). Young people 'hunger' for faith say college chaplains (4). Daniel O'Donnell reflects on the role of faith in his music. (5). AI poses 'grave risks' Pope says in Peace Day message

Tablet. (1). The real purpose of our life. -- The God who loves questions. (2). Adeste Fideles. -- The secret behind the world's most popular Christian carol. (3). New doctrinal declaration. -- Pope Francis approves same sex blessings possibility

Alpha Training Day – Saturday 27th January in Blackrock Parish Centre

The Alpha programme helps people to not just know about the person, Jesus, but to come to know him, to come into an encounter with him, and into a relationship with him. Alpha can bring new life and energy back into the parish community because people form friendships, experience Christian community, and experience God in a new and life-giving way through Alpha. Please contact Fr. Michael if you hope to be present. Also more details from <https://corkandross.org/alpha-training-day>



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



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.

Observations

The baptism of Jesus — perhaps better the "immersion" — was clearly a key moment in Jesus' life. From then on, he takes over, so to speak, from his mentor John the Baptist and begins his own ministry of preaching and healing.

The inner experience is of its nature beyond our inspection. The Gospel writer makes it somewhat available by symbols and words. There are echoes of creation and the end of the flood. Perhaps the clearest indication is found in the words, echoing this time Psalm 2: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' Word spoken over us every day by God: *You are my Son/Daughter, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.*

Reflections

1. John gives an example of humility as a person confident in his own role but not seeking to claim to be more than he is. He is able to acknowledge that Jesus is greater. There is a freedom in being able to acknowledge the gifts of others without losing a sense of one's own giftedness. Recall times when you were able to do this.

2. The baptism of Jesus was an extraordinary religious experience for him. Something happened that was a major step forward for Jesus in coming to know that he was the beloved Son of God. We all have events in our lives that are milestones along the road of discovering who we are. What have been these milestones for you?

3. "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Bring to mind memories of experiences in which you knew you were the beloved (of God or of another person) and that the one who loved you was well pleased. Bring these experiences to mind with gratitude, knowing that the only proper response to love received is thankfulness. Perhaps you have also given that experience to another.

PRAYER

God of salvation, in the river Jordan you bathed your Son Jesus in glory and revealed him as your obedient servant. In spirit and in power rend the heavens and come down to us. Strengthen us to acknowledge your Christ, that we who are reborn in his likeness may we walk with him in newness of life. Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Confirmation 2024

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 10.30am.

First Holy Communion 2024

Saturday 27th April	Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí
Saturday 18th May	Scoil Barra Naofa Cailiní
Saturday 25th May	Scoil Ursula, St. Michael's, School of the Divine Child.

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.

Thought for the day

In all our lives, there are "before and after" moments, whatever they might be (parenthood, marriage, career etc.). In my life as a disciple, can I name any particular "before and after" moments? This probably won't include baptism, because mostly we were just babies. But later, what happened to bring faith alive and to help me grow up as a believer? Such reflection may help us grasp the significance of John's baptism for Jesus himself. For him, it was a true "before and after" event, sustained by the ringing affirmation, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Prayer

Father, we are all your beloved sons and daughters; we dare to say that with us too you are well pleased. Help us embrace our new reality by letting ourselves be loved by you. Amen.

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.

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