

### 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**  
**Helen Mulhearn, Berlingford Drive**  
**Eily Lees, Dunlocha Cottages**  
 May the light of God surround them forever.



### Come and See

Our gospel text at Mass this weekend is more notable for what it doesn't say rather than what is included. This is often the case and is the reason why we need to take time to listen carefully rather than rushing to apply it.



The simple words of Jesus are to 'come and see'. There is no long discussion, the enquirers are not referred on. Nowadays, they might be referred to a website somewhere! They are simply invited by Jesus to spend time in his presence in the Eucharist, as we do each weekend, or in prayer at home or in the church.

We have a beautiful parish church and many people drop in to pray. People often say that they get great peace and comfort being in the church in prayer and with their own thoughts.

The invitation is always to 'come and see'. It's also the invitation to people who would like to be at Mass but for many reasons have fallen out of the habit. The best words are the three words of Jesus in our gospel this weekend to 'come and see'.

May God bless us all as we enter a new year in hope and faith. St. Michael, pray for us.

Fr. Michael

### Diocesan Needs Quarterly Collection

The last Diocesan Needs Quarterly Collection in October 2023 amounted to €45,607 throughout the Diocese, which is much appreciated.

The next quarterly collection will take place on this weekend of 13th/14th January

This quarterly collection allows the Diocese to provide ongoing supports to parishes in many areas. It contributes to the day-to-day running costs of the Diocese including the cost of personnel, utilities (light & heat, phone, postage & stationery, repairs & maintenance, insurance), professional fees, primary and secondary school religious advisory costs, safeguarding, data protection, mission and ministry and levies paid by the Diocese for national hierarchy costs in Maynooth.

People continue to be very generous to these quarterly collections over the years and your support would be greatly appreciated this weekend.

### A brief introduction on today's readings

#### First reading 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19

When God tries to get through to us, sometimes we are not ready, deaf in some way. This experience is reassuringly mirrored in today's story in which the young Samuel needs help to recognise that it is God who is calling him.

#### Second reading 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20

Corinth in the time of St Paul may see a long way away from twenty-first century reality. Human nature is, nevertheless, the same and the same issues that come up now came up then: how to bring together my Christian values and my everyday life? In this particular example, notice the reasons given—are they still valid for us today?

#### Gospel John 1:35-42

Today's gospel challenges us with a simple phrase: "come and see." How did the first disciples get to know Jesus? How do we get to know him today?

### St. Ignatian Spiritual Exercises for Men

Led by Fr Stephen Kennedy, IVE, Fri Feb 2nd to Mon Feb 5th (bank holiday) in De La Salle retreat centre, Castletown, Laois, R32N6D8. Cost €200 - includes all meals and ensuite single rooms. Call Sr. Constance 089 - 2152307 or [c.puertadelaauroral@gmail.com](mailto:c.puertadelaauroral@gmail.com)

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 Launch

In 2023 almost 400 pilgrims from Cork and Ross travelled to Lourdes as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage, the first such one since the pandemic. The hope is to build and grow this number in 2024. If you are interested, you might contact Fr. Michael very soon as the 2024 Pilgrimage will be launched on this Thursday 18th January in the Cathedral.

### Reflection/Meditation on Sunday's Gospel.

Presented By Ruah Retreat Team. Join us for free online weekly sessions to strengthen our hope and nourish the soul. Sunday Evenings 6.45p.m. (Online via Zoom). Further enquiries & bookings to [info@ruahrest.com](mailto:info@ruahrest.com)

The **Blackrock St Vincent de Paul** January collection was **€2815** and we are very grateful for the continued support - Thank You

### 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>

**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](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)

### 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.

### Observations

In this year of Mark, it can still surprise that the Gospel for the Sunday after the Baptism is from John. There was an old tradition of three epiphanies: the Magi, the Baptism and the Wedding Feast of Cana. But instead of the wedding feast each year, we an "epiphany" story from John, this time showing John the Baptist pointing out Jesus as the Lamb of God. Jesus then goes on to ask a great, a really great question.

### The Papers Say.....

**Sacred Heart Messenger.** (1). 'His own people did not accept Him'. -- Fr. John Cullen's reflection keeps the Christmas message in mind as we move into 2024. (2). Bl. John Sullivan -- An extraordinary life. (3). Childrens Pages. (4). Illness -- The Hope and the Pain

**Tablet.** (1). Austen Ivereigh: The Holy Father is alive, alert, calm and very much in charge. His greatest test in the year ahead will be how successfully he is able to hold the tension between truth and mercy. (2). LGBT and the Church -- The new rules of the game. (3). 198 Nigerian Christians die in Christmas terror. (4) Archbishop Eamonn Martin points out that in countries where ending life is now legal, this has proved to be a 'slippery slope'

**Irish Catholic.** (1) Senator Ronan Mullen -- Government 'allergic' to speaking up for persecuted Christians. (2). Future of Mary Immaculate College up in the air again (3) The Archbishop of Malta has called for a 'serious discussion' about married priesthood. (4) Fr. Rolheiser: Preserve us from false piety!

### Medjugorje Pilgrimage

Medjugorje May 29th (7 nights) from Cork airport. €879.00 pps. €50 discount if deposit paid by 15th Jan. Contact Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380

### Hearers of the Word

*A favour asked...*

In 2024, it is my hope to expand the outreach of this service, with your help.

If you happen to know of just one other person, who might like and benefit from these weekly emails, please consider please logging on to [www.tarsus.ie](http://www.tarsus.ie) with an invitation to subscribe (free as usual). The current number of subscribers is 1,700. Together, let's break the 2,000 barrier in 2024!

K. O'Mahony OSA

### 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 Cailíní
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

It is good to stop from time to time and ask myself, what am I looking for? This can be answered in the ideal: "what do I think I should be looking for?" or in the real: "what do I actually want as evidenced by my choices and actions?" To move from one to the other we need the grace of dissatisfaction. In the words of Augustine, "You must be dissatisfied with the way your are now, if you ever want to get to where you are not yet." (Sermon 169)

### Prayer

Shake us up, Lord, and help us to see ourselves as we truly are, often settling for less, for the moderately good and the reasonably faithful. Give us a long- ing for more, for all you have in store for us, and on the way bless us with exhilaration that we may be joyful bearers of your Good News. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

### Reflections

1. John pointed the disciples towards Jesus as the one they should follow. Remember the people in your life who have pointed you in a new and life-giving direction? Perhaps in some cases this may have involved directing you away from your association with them—e.g., leaving home, changing jobs, etc.

2. Accepting an invitation to "Come and see" may be part of exploring a new path in life. When has this been so for you? Who issued you the invitation? What benefits came to you from accepting the invitation?

3. Andrew did not keep the good news to himself but also invited his brother to join him in following Jesus. What is your experience of receiving, or giving, an invitation to join in some worthwhile venture?

4. Jesus looked at Peter and could see what he would become. Who have been the people who have been able to name for you your potential? For whom have you been able to do this?

### PRAYER

From our earliest days, O God, you call us by name. Make our ears attentive to your voice, our spirits eager to respond that, having heard you in Jesus your anointed one, we may draw others to be his disciples.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

### RALLY TO THE ROCKIES

Now that we are starting off a brand New Year why not join us for our monthly Chat and a Cuppa at The Rockies GAA Club on FRIDAY JANUARY 26TH from 10.30am to 12.00noon. TEA, COFFEE & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. MEET OLD FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES AT THE ROCKIES. This is a new initiative by the Rockies Club and has proved very popular so why not come along and join us, you'll be very welcome.

### 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