

Mass Times

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



Baptism

Shane Richard Coakley.
Conall Joseph Kelleher.
 We welcome them into the Christian Family



Recently Deceased

Colette O'Connell, Blackrock
 May the light of God surround her forever.



GOD IS WITH YOU

The readings and the Word of God this weekend can touch our lives and hearts.



In the gospel Jesus goes into Galilee after the arrest of John the Baptist. He is launching into the unknown and He is a lone voice. In the first reading there is a similar narrative where Jonah enters the 'great city of Nineveh' to preach to them. It is a description of witnessing to the existence of God against almost impossible odds.

In both readings, there is a positive outcome. Despite the impossible odds, 'the people of Nineveh' listen. In Galilee, Jesus reaches the hearts of the first disciples who respond.

This is a word for our time. People of faith can feel pressure to remain private and not to speak of their faith. This can be the case in families as well as in the public space. Young people of faith often speak of this isolation and pressure.

In both readings, there is a positive outcome. Despite the impossible odds, 'the people of Nineveh' listen. In Galilee, Jesus reaches the hearts of the first disciples who respond.

Take heart from this Word. Trust that God is with us at all times. We are never on our own, God is with us. We experienced this at Christmas with the Emmanuel. God is with us now and we celebrate that when we gather for Mass here in our parish and beloved church. St. Michael, pray for us.

Fr. Michael
frmichael@corkandross.org

Vacancy – Parish Secretary

Mahon Parish is inviting applications for the role of Parish Secretary. This is a part-time role fulfilled within 12 – 15 hours per week. Please contact Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP (085 8735905) or frmichael@corkandross.org for the role description details and information for applicants.

VOCATIONS AFTERNOON

Saturday 3rd. February, 2024. 2 – 4 pm.
 POOR CLARE MONASTERY, COLLEGE ROAD. CORK.
 For young women considering a vocation.
 Email: vocationspoorclarescork@gmail.com
 Or write to : Poor Clare Monastery, College Road, Cork.

A brief introduction on today's readings

First reading **Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

The book of Jonah was written when society tended to be closed to non-Israelites. This short story has a surprise: an unwilling Jewish prophet preaches with spectacular success to people outside the faith. Two changes follow.

Second reading **1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

This very short reading is provocative. If all we say about Jesus is true, if we really believe the alternative vision of the Gospel, what difference could it, or would it or should it make?

Gospel **Mark 1:14-20**

Every so often, we need to touch base with the important people and values in our lives. In today's gospel we touch base with the founding proclamation of Jesus. All sorts of question arise. What did he mean by "believe"? by "good news"? And most important, by "repent"?

Prayer for the Formation of a Parish Council

Heavenly Father, we come before you with grateful hearts as we embark on the journey of forming our parish Council. We seek your guidance, wisdom, and grace to build a vibrant parish council that reflects the love and teachings of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Lord, bless our efforts and help us to recognize the unique gifts and talents you have bestowed upon each of us. May we be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we discern the needs of our community and strive to fulfill your mission here on Earth.

We entrust the formation of our parish council to the intercession of Mary, our Mother, who stood by your Son in moments of joy and sorrow. May she guide us in imitating her example of faith, humility, and loving service.

We offer this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Cork Alzheimers Café a safe place

for people with Alzheimers and other dementias, their carers, family and friends along with social and health professionals to meet. Last Friday of each month 11-12.30 pm in St Finbarrs Hospital, Douglas Road. Light refreshments provided free of charge. All welcome.

Friday 26th January the next meeting.

Speaker - Dr. Tim Dukelow - Geriatrician on 'New drug treatment for dementia'.



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>

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

Sunday of the Word of God Just five years ago, Pope Francis established the third Sunday of the Year as the Sunday of the Word of God. This Sunday was chosen because it marks the moment when we begin reading the Gospel for the year more or less from the beginning. As we embark on our journey with Mark, it is timely to reflect on why we read such ancient documents in the first place

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Brendan O'Regan: RTE's 'last priests and nuns' swings from sympathy to cynicism. (2). Michael Kelly: Sometimes State 'care' can be the most dangerous place for vulnerable children (3) Church in Ireland needs 'mindset shift' over lay ministry. (4). Rolling out the red carpet for those who suppress religious freedom. (5) Elise Ann Allen: Pope in new interview talks health, resignation, future travel plans.

Tablet. (1). Post Office Scandal: The Dishonouring of Honour in Britain. (2). Assisted Dying -- No laughing matter. (3). The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity -- Days of hope. (4) Letters Page -- Topic of the Week: Evangelism at funerals.

Support the Catholic press and keep in touch with the Church Buy and read a Catholic publication weekly!

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*

Medjugorje Pilgrimage

Medjugorje May 29th (7 nights) from Cork airport. €879.00 pps.

Contact Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380

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.

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

The journey of life inevitably brings up the question what should I be, who should I become? Is life a maze or a labyrinth? Is it just round and round or is there a way out? How will I be as a spouse, a parent, a partner, a church member? Within the Christian project, do I feel myself called to "activate" my baptism is some particular ministry or contribution? Such discernment will take in the grateful acknowledgement of my gifts as well as an examination of my inner generosity of spirit. In reality, we are all called by the Lord to build up the body of Christ. It is not a question of if but rather of how.

Prayer

God of surprises, take me by surprise once more and let me see how my special gifts could be part of your project of the Kingdom in Jesus.

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. "The time is fulfilled" – this is a decisive moment in the life of Jesus. His public ministry is about to begin. Recall turning points in your own life when something new happened and with hindsight you can say the time was ripe for it to happen, "the time was fulfilled."

2. "Repent and believe the good news". Jesus called for a change of heart, as a response to the good news of the gospel message. A new level of faith in yourself leads to a new way of seeing yourself. A new way of understanding God leads to a conversion in how we relate to God, a change of heart. A growth in awareness of how we are can lead to a new level of self-confidence, another change of heart. Can you recall times when "good news" led you to a change of heart?

3. The Spirit of God, who was at work in Jesus calling the disciples, continues to work in our day and in our lives. That is why the gospel message is one of good news. In the everyday events of our own lives we can see the grace of God at work. When have you had what you would consider a "call experience" that led you to a different style of life? Who was the "Jesus person" through whom the call came to you? To whom have you been a "Jesus person" in this way?

PRAYER

Your sovereign rule, O God, draws near to us in the person of Jesus your Son. Your word summons us to faith; your power transforms our lives. Free us to follow in Christ's footsteps so that neither human loyalty nor earthly attachment may hold us back from answering your call. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Fr. Michael has generously offered the poor box near the exit as a collection point for SVP.

If you wish to contribute any time, it would be appreciated.

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