

### 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 **Shane Ian Wright and Shannon Mary Carty** who were married in our Church on 20th. January, 2024.

Fr. Michael Keohane officiated at the ceremony.



### Brigid Brings the Spring

How often do we hear that 'January is a long month'. Those words say many things about the darkness that surrounds us and the slight doubt that things will not improve. However, February comes this week. In schools, the children will sing the 'Brigid brings the Spring' and all our spirits will be raised.



There is a crucial line in the gospel reading this weekend when the people remark about Jesus that 'here is a teaching that is new and with authority behind it'.

What makes this teaching new? Surely they have heard it in some different way. In some way the words of Jesus have 'landed' or have reached their lives and their hearts. It is fresh, different and exciting. It was personal and they could see themselves, their problems, their joys, their happiness, their past and their future. They could see a meaning and purpose to their life. They could see a meaning to their suffering and to the events of their life. It was real and not boring.

It's as if February has come, January is gone, the children are singing, nature is reawakening, the evenings are brighter, the authority of Jesus is real and we place our trust in God. St. Brigid, pray for us. St. Michael. Pray for us.

Feast of St. Blaise, Saturday 3rd February, Blessing of Throats after 6pm Vigil Mass

Fr. Michael  
[frmichael@corkandross.org](mailto:frmichael@corkandross.org)

**Anam Cara Cork**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 7th February 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.



### Day for Consecrated Life

To mark the Day for Consecrated Life, Bishop Fintan inviting members of Religious Communities throughout the Diocese of Cork and Ross to join him in praying Evening Prayer on **Thursday, February 1st at 5pm** in the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne. All are welcome to this special Diocesan celebration. Please let the Office for Mission and Ministry know if you wish to attend at 021-7355517 or scan the QR Code with your phone camera.



### 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.

### A brief introduction on today's readings

**First reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

In this passage, Moses' life is drawing to a close, but he offers reassurance to the people of Israel: God will raise up a prophet like himself for the people. God's continued presence through other figures leads eventually to the fulfilment of that promise in Jesus, as we see in today's Gospel.

**Second reading 1 Corinthians 7:22-25**

With all the discussion we have today about the celibacy of the clergy, here's the opinion of St Paul, based closely in his experience. He himself was by then single again, probably a widower, and he recommends celibacy but does not impose it. The reasons given should provoke some thought and discussion!

**Gospel Mark 1:21-28**

Perhaps in your own experience, there was a particular teacher who made an impact on you. Can you remember why was that the case? In today's Gospel, Mark notices that Jesus the teacher made a huge impact. The Gospel story illustrates why.

### 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.**

### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 2nd February 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. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.



### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on **Week ending 3/4 February 2024**

Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 4th February 2024 for tea and refreshments and more chat! Marvellous turnout last time!! Everyone welcome!**



### Observations

**M**ark chooses to open the story of Jesus with a story which can unsettle us as moderns: the healing of the man with an unclean spirit. Of course, there is much more to the story — Mark wants us to recognise our own need of healing in our lives, in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection.

### Reflections

1. In the first chapter, Mark familiarises his readers with the type of things Jesus did to proclaim the kingdom, the Reign of God. Our passage today touches on two of these, the first being that 'he taught as one having authority'. It makes a difference when you listen to someone who is clearly speaking from experience and personal knowledge. Remember people who impressed you in this way.

2. Jesus' combined teaching with healing, and he drove the evil spirit out of the man. The power of God that worked this wonder through Jesus is also at work in and through us today. When have you been freed from some bad habit?

3. The evil spirit convulsed the man before it left him. The path to liberation can be a painful struggle. If you have found it so, who was the Jesus person that helped you through the struggle to freedom?

4. It is not only individuals but groups that can be struggling with an evil spirit – jealousy, rivalry, malicious gossiping, abuse of power, etc. Sometimes a Jesus person comes into the group and drives out that evil spirit. Have you experienced this? Perhaps you yourself have been this person on some occasion?

### PRAYER

*Faithful God, your Holy One, Jesus of Nazareth, spoke the truth with authority, and you confirmed his teaching by wonderful deeds.*

*Through his healing presence, drive far from us all that is unholy, so that by word and deed we may proclaim him Messiah and Lord and bear witness to your power to heal and save. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Mary Kenny: Why St. Paul went out of fashion (but why I think he's fascinating ....). (2). David Quinn: We have a government that does not like public debate going out of their control. (3). 'Synodality: A renewed call to the prophecy of hope' --- Interview with Sr. Mary T. Barron, OLA, president of UISG. (4). Introducing euthanasia 'regressive' for disability rights

Tablet. (1). The ethics of surrogacy --- The power of the call to parenthood. (2). Catholic ethos not discussed. --- Sisters of Charity leader asked on RTE about planned new hospital. (3). The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. -- (a). Ecumenism's new horizon and (b). Time to move closer

### St. PIO Prayer Group of Our Lady of the Rosary

We meet on the last Wednesday of every month with Rosary at 7.45pm followed by Mass at 8pm. In Ardfoyle Convent. Why not join us for a quiet unrushed hour? ALL WELCOME.

**Wednesday 31st January**



### Thought for the day

**H**ow often do we meet people whose words and deeds match? Sometimes at least, but it may be rare enough. In the old expression, when all is said and done, more is said than done. Jesus is a teacher with authority — not the authority of position or force but power from within. This is suggested by the Greek word for authority *exousia*, from within (my) being. Even today, there are religious leaders who speak from within, whose word is genuine, whose deeds match what they say. These are the one we listen to; these are the ones we would love to be like.

### Prayer

*Loving God, you love us wholly and your desire is that we become both whole and holy. Help us to take the Good News to heart. May we become fully mature in Christ, so that our inner and outer selves are one.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### ENTRANCE - Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord

Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here. Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found. We stand on holy ground. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

### RECESSIONAL - Christ be beside me

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me, Christ be on all tongues telling of me. Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, In ears that hear me Christ ever be

### Sycamore Series for Young Adults- Exploring Catholic Faith

Have you ever questioned why you are Catholic and wondered why we Catholics believe what we believe? The Sycamore Series is an informal course for those aged 18-35. Join us as we deepen our understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith. Each session involves a short film and time for discussion, with a meal also included. Everyone is welcome. **Start date Wednesday January 31st 2024, 6pm-8pm at Presentation Brothers Mardyke House, Cork T12 W8RP.** The course runs for 10 consecutive weeks. The course is free, but places are limited. Please email [chaplaincy@ucc.ie](mailto:chaplaincy@ucc.ie) or ring 0214902459 to let us know you are interested.