

Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Finbarr Crowley. Beaumont.
Kathleen Sheehan. Skehard Road.
 May the light of God surround them forever.



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 2/3 March 2024
 Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

It is Good For Us To Be Here

Over the years serving in different parishes, I have met many people in times of joy such as baptisms and weddings and frequently harder times of sadness and heartbreak through bereavement, illness and the challenges of life. Life can be wonderful and it can also be very hard. We never know what life can throw at us.



People face life with resilience, courage, worry, fear, doubt and hopefully faith. It is a wonderful mixture and all very real. Jesus understands us very well and knows that we need strengthening. We need courage, resilience, trust, hope, faith and so much more. Jesus saw it in his own disciples and shows them what is possible. He shows them a glimpse of the glory of God. They get a glimpse of Easter Sunday in this weekend's gospel and early in Lent, for us too. They need it and we certainly need it as well.

Peter says 'it is good for us to be here'. Please God we can say the same at Mass this weekend.

Fr. Michael
fmichael@corkandross.org

Finding hope in a hopeless world – Lent 2024

This is a seven-week programme for Parish groups or individuals available on the Diocesan website (<https://corkandross.org/lent2024>). A different aspect of hope will be explored each week. The resource is available as a presentation, video, and podcast (all of which can be used online or downloaded for off-line use).

Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 6th March 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.



Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road, Mahon Family of Parishes
 Eilis Casey from the Office of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese at Masses in Blackrock this weekend 24th & 25th February

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on **3rd March** for tea and refreshments and more chat! Marvellous turnout last time!! Everyone welcome!



A brief introduction on today's readings

First reading Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18
 Abraham is for Jews and Christians the man of faith, often called "our father in faith". In the biblical story, this faith is frequently tested and never more so than in the story we are about to hear. Even though Abraham "passes" the test, the story bristles with difficulties and remains very challenging for hearers today, both Jews and Christians.

Second reading Romans 8:31-34
 The challenge of the first reading sets us up for a shock in the second reading. God's astonishing love for us is measured by a comparison with Abraham: Abraham was not asked, in the end, to give up his only son, but God did give up his only Son... so much does he love us.

Gospel Mark 9:2-10
 We all have our moments of spiritual experiences and so did Jesus, as we are about to hear. The core message for us today, however, comes from the voice the cloud, a great invitation.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Four articles on the referendums including (a) David Quinn: Legal minefield awaits 'durable relationships' referendum and (b) Fr. Raphael Gallagher: Faith can have a positive impact on our vote. (2). Fr. Martin Delaney: Poorly proclaimed readings lose richness of God's word. (3) Over 200 young Catholics connect with Christ in Cork. (4) In spite of threats and torment, Navalny never lost his faith.

Tablet of 17/2: (1) Human trafficking — Listen, dream, act. (2) Accord launches widely revised marriage preparation programme. (3) Lent reflections: "Father, forgive them".

Tablet of 10/2: (1) Martin Sixsmith: Soviet politics and the Russian Orthodox Church — Putin's holy war. (2) Fr. James Martin addresses Irish bishops' conference on 'Fiducia Supplicans'.

PARISH WEBCAM

Unfortunately due to technical issues, our webcam will be out of action this weekend. We have our IT people working on it and hope to have it back as quickly as possible. We apologise for the inconvenience during the breakdown.

St. PIO Prayer Group of Our Lady of the Rosary

Our **FINAL** meeting will take place on Wednesday 28th February in Ardfoyle Convent, Blackrock. Rosary 7.45pm followed by Mass at 8pm. All Welcome and thanks.



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.

Observations

There are many gems in the Jewish tradition from which we can learn. It is the practice of faithful Jews to say the great prayer, the Shema Yisrael, taken from Deuteronomy 6:4-5, three times a day.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You must love the Lord your God with your whole mind, your whole being, and all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

It is remarkable that this great prayer is not a petition for this or that, but a call to have an open ear, a listening heart. Perhaps we can learn from this as we hear these words today: *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.*

Reflections

1. When have I really felt, spontaneously and deeply, "it is good to be here". Was this moment of grace also a confirmation of yourself in some way?
2. There is a sense in which life is always "on the move" and we cannot freeze even special moments. They do continue to influence us, but are not under our control. This is the mystery of human relationship and of our relationship with the Mystery.
3. Listening and being listened to are necessary but perhaps all too rare human experiences. What have I learned about listening which can help me "listen to him"? The words of Augustine come to mind: "You called, shouted, you broke through my deafness" (Confessions 10.27.38).

PRAYER

Ever-faithful God, you were well pleased with Abraham's obedience and you accepted the sacrifice of your son, who gave himself up for the sake of us all. Train us by Christ's teaching and school us in his obedience that as we walk his way of sacrifice we may come to share in your glory. We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 1st March 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.



Trocaire Boxes are available in the church from this weekend. Please take one to your home and keep it prominent there during the coming weeks of Lent.

Thought for the day

We live in a very noisy, busy world, a culture marked by constant distraction. Even at the ordinary level of relationship, attending to the other— really hearing him or her—is a challenge. It happens when we choose to make space, to shut out the other noises and graciously attend to each other. Something similar may be said of the life of the spirit. To listen to the Son happens when we choose it and, in a practical way, create spaces in our lives for such encounters.

Prayer

Revealer God, you open your heart to us in your Son Jesus. Help us to open our hearts to you, as we contemplate your living word. May the Scriptures be for us a place of true encounter and may we, hearers of the Word, listen with our hearts and lives to him, the Word made flesh.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE – O God You Search Me

O God, you search me and you know me.
 All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
 When I walk or lie down you are before me:
 Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising
 You discern my purpose from afar;
 and with love everlasting you besiege me:
 in ev'ry moment of life and death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
 You have known its meaning through and through.
 You are with me beyond my understanding:
 God of my present, my past and future, too.

RECESSIONAL - Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me
 I once was lost, but now I'm found
 Was blind but now I see

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
 And grace my fears relieved
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
 I have already come
 This grace that brought me safe thus far
 And grace will lead me home



The girls of Blackrock who brought glory home received the Intermediate Championship and Intermediate League medals at a very enjoyable function in Pairc Uí Chaoimh recently
 Pic George Hatchell

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