

Mass Times

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



Baptism

AJ Aidan Joseph Healy.
 We welcome him into the Christian Family



Recently Deceased

Kathleen Goldsmith, Avonlea Court
 May the light of God surround her forever.



Remember the Words of Jesus

This weekend in our gospel, 'remember' is used twice. The disciples remember the words of scripture when they see Jesus act. They also remember the words of Jesus after they hear him speak. Therefore, they know the words of scripture and of Jesus but do not understand.



You and I are the same. We know far more of the words of Scripture and the gospels than we realize. Often we remember them and are amazed at the wisdom of these. Maybe at a funeral we hear the words, 'there are many rooms in my Father's house' and we see the wisdom of it only then. We know the words but fail to understand the wisdom. There is wisdom in the readings. There is wisdom in our faith. There is wisdom in the Ten Commandments.

Listen to the wisdom of God this weekend and remember the words of Jesus.

Fr. Michael
frmichael@corkandross.org

Parish Council Formation

We are grateful to Eilís Casey from the Office of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese for speaking at Masses last weekend. In her words, she encouraged people to offer their gifts to support the faith life of our parish which is the clear mission of a parish council. Please contact Fr. Michael (frmichael@corkandross.org 085 8735905) if you would like to take up this invitation in Blackrock Parish.

A brief introduction on today's readings

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17
 Sometimes people wonder if the Ten Commandments have gone away. While some of the content naturally reflects the culture of the time, the fundamental picture of human rights and duties remains valid today. We could even say it is the foundation of the western development of law and human rights.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
 At the centre of Christian faith stands the difficult, enigmatic teaching of the cross. St Paul goes so far even to speak of God's foolishness and weakness. This paradox yields a deep insight into the heart of Christian teaching.

Gospel John 2:13-25
 The Temple Action was a powerful prophetic gesture of Jesus. He challenged not just the financial side of temple worship, but the principle of this kind of worship at all. It prepares the reader a later sentence of Jesus in this Gospel: God is spirit and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Bishops do their bit in calling out referenda. Now parishes must follow. (2). Wendy Grace: Unrealistic beauty standards forcing stress on young girls. (3). Irish bishops to hold inaugural national synodal assembly (4). Sr. De Pazzi Finn of Cork. -- eight decades preparing children for life. (5). Fr. Bernard Cotter: A total ban on eulogies seems cleaner.

Tablet. (1). Surviving conflict. --- Hope amid the ruins in Ukraine. (2). Faith and politics. --- The Orthodox conundrum. (3). Germany: Vatican letter halts vote on statutes for synodal committee. (4) Bishop Michael Duignan: Irish Church 'is at a crossroads'. (5). Hatred of Jews -- Antisemitism must be addressed.

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

SVP St. Michael's Conference, Blackrock Appeal for New Members

If you have 2 hours free on a Monday night, and would like to help those in need in our community, you can do so by Home Visitation with St. Vincent de Paul. Please visit svp.ie and complete a Volunteer Application. Or ring the SVP office in Tuckey Street, 021 427 0444, for further details of training sessions, etc. Please note that all volunteers will be Garda Vetted.

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

On our journey through Lent, we began with Noah, moved on to the alarming story of Abraham and Isaac and now we come to Moses and the Ten Commandments. The reading from Exodus 20 is heard just once every three years in the Sunday readings. These "laws" have played a fundamental role in the lives of believers and in the evolution of what we may call Western ethical values. In a word, although infrequently heard, the Ten Commandments retain their power and meaning.

As a practice for Lent, may I suggest taking one commandment each day for the next ten days. If you have a Bible with decent notes in it, so much the better. Spend time with each commandment, asking how it sheds lights on your experience and how each one might be a source of ever greater "setting free", as you mull over these great "signposts for freedom."

K O'Mahony OSA

Reflections

1. We all tend to confine God to received traditions (places, images, words) but we know that "God is greater than our conscience." (1 John 3:20) How do I experience that "more" of God and keep it before my eyes?
2. Jesus himself is the "locus" of God's presence for us, a presence found in life, through others, in the Word of God and in the sacraments. What have been my own moments of encounter, with him who gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction?

PRAYER

Holy God, the folly of the cross mocks our human wisdom and the weakness of the crucified puts worldly power to shame. Banish from our hearts every pretence of might and knowledge, that, by the power flowing from Christ's resurrection, your people may be raised up from the death of sin and fashioned into a living temple of your glory. Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.



Praying of the Stations of the Cross immediately after the 9.30 Mass on Fridays, starting Friday 8th of March and continuing for the 15th and the 22nd.

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.



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

In the Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox traditions, faith and reason are not in fundamental contradiction. At the same time, there is something radically irreducible and paradoxical in our faith. It was expressed a long time ago by Bishop Robinson, the scandalous particularity of the incarnation. And we may add, of the crucifixion. The Christian vision, for us, is indeed something wonderful. Nevertheless, let's not forget that for many today, it is in a way too wonderful, too strange and actually unbelievable. That natural resistance can be part of our faith too!

Prayer

God, we come to you through the cloud of unknowing, because you are always greater, greater than our minds, greater than our hearts. Help us to stand before the bright darkness of your mysterious Being that we may come to know you as you really are.

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

Twice 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

Come to Lourdes as a Young Adult Helper in September
 A special Information Evening will take place in Mardyke House, Cork, (T12 W8RP) for those aged between 18 and 25, who would like to travel with the Diocese of Cork and Ross to Lourdes (Sept 20th to 25th) as a Young Adult Helper. The Information Meeting will begin at **7pm on Tuesday 12th March.** It is a wonderful opportunity for a young person to help those pilgrims who require assistance and to grow deeper in their faith by experiencing the unique spirituality of Lourdes. For more information call Sheila on (021) 490 2459 or email sheilakelleher@ucc.ie

First Confessions 2024

Mon. 11th March	Beaumont Girls School
Tue. 12th March	Beaumont Boys School
Thurs. 14th March	Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's
Wed. 20th March	Scoil na Croise Naofa (Holy Cross Church)
Thurs. 21st March	Gaelscoil Mhachan (Holy Cross Church)

Confirmation 2024

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

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.

Blackrock Community Association

St. Patrick's Day Social for all members will take place at the Community Centre, Convent Road, on **Tuesday 12th March at 7.30 pm.** le ceol, craic, rinnce gaeilge agus sólaistí.

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!



Medjugorje ex Cork May 29th (7 nights). Last few places available €879.00 pps. Contact Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380