

BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office.
MARRIAGES: Minimum 3 months notice required by Church and State.
 Pre-marriage course required.

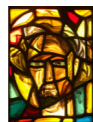
Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Breda Jordan, Dunlocha Cottages
Joseph Long, Woodvale Road
 May the light of God surround them forever.



God Bless the Children

The coming week will be a very busy one in the parish.

On this Wednesday 13th March, Bishop Buckley will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with 78 sixth class pupils from the local schools. It will be a very special day for the pupils, their families, sponsors, schools and our parish.

On this Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings we will celebrate the Sacrament of First Confession with second class children from the local schools. This is a special moment for the children and their families. There is a beauty and innocence about these moments that remains and hopefully will always be so. May God bless the children.

We are all deeply grateful to the teachers and whole school staffs of our local schools. Their commitment to the preparation of the children in supporting families and the parish is powerful. May God bless them always.

Fr. Michael
frmichael@corkandross.org

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)

First Holy Communions 2024

Sat. 27th April	Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí
Sat. 11th May	Scoil na Croise Naofa (Holy Cross Church)
Sat. 18th May	Scoil Barra Naofa Cailíní
Sat. 25th May	Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's
Sat. 25th May	Gaelscoil Mhachan (Holy Cross Church)

Trocaire Boxes are available in the church.

Please take one to your home and keep it prominent there during the coming weeks of Lent.

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.

A brief introduction on today's readings

First Reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

The great Exile in Babylon was a huge watershed in the life of ancient Israel, comparable perhaps in Irish history to the Great Famine. Naturally, it caused a lot of soul searching and questioning. In a brisk reading, the whole seventy years are compressed into three paragraphs.

Second Reading Ephesians 2:4-10

What is God like? Before the Mystery we all wonder and we hope. In today's reading, there is very warm and inviting picture of God, full of goodness and love, grace and gift. It is a message we can never hear too often.

Gospel John 4:14-21

The reading today is a favourite passage: God so loved the world. After the lovely thoughts, the reading gets more difficult. It may help to remember that the writer is not talking about anyone at all who does not believe, but rather people who really experienced what it is to encounter Christ and then walked away. All the same, a challenging reading.

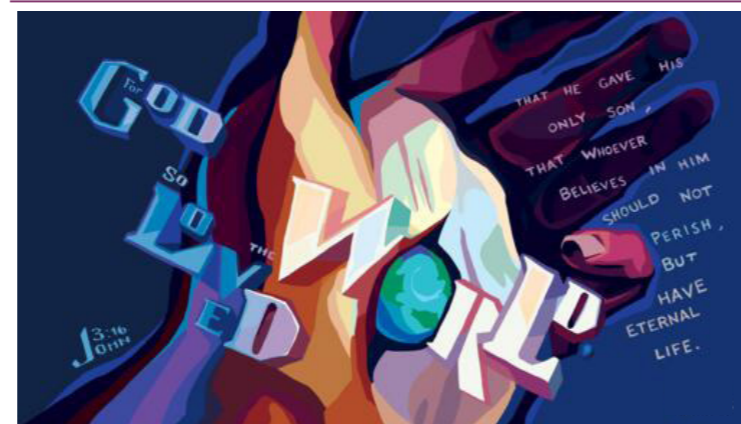
The Papers Say.....

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Archbishop Eamonn Martin opposes the Oxford Union motion 'This house would move beyond Organised Religion'. (2). Funerals without a priest. (3). Peter the Apostle. --- David Breen continues his series on people of the Gospel

Irish Catholic. (1). For Ukrainians, there is still hope within horror (2). David Quinn: A strange Dublin March for nuns to take part in. (3). Michael Kelly: No one should be afraid of hearing different opinions. -- many universities are fast becoming cold houses for people who want genuine debate. (4). Lent --- Staying nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist.

Blackrock Community Association

Mass will be celebrated at The Community Centre, Convent Road on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 2 pm. All welcome.



The Mondays of Lent Novena in honour of Matt Talbot

in The Way of the Cross Church, Togher at 7.30 p.m.

www.churchservices.tv/togher

Next Monday we will be on Week 4

11th March: Fr. Nicholas Motherway SPMS Cork
 18th March: Fr. John Walsh Co P.P. Togher Parish
 25th March: Olive Foley, wife of the late Anthony Foley, Munster Rugby Coach and an ambassador for the Children's Grief Centre
 Fr. John Walsh will be the celebrant

SATIAGO DE COMPOSTELA CAMINO 2024

Join Focus Ireland 'In the Footsteps of St James' on a fully guided walk from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela along the Camino de Frances and help support families in our community's experiencing homelessness. **Dates 27th May to 3rd June. Ex Dublin.** Contact Monica on 087 954 7007 or email events@focusireland.ie for details and bookings

Observations

The Moses story is a story of healing. In the Book of Numbers, the Israelites were healing by looking at the bronze serpent. John's Gospel teaches that Jesus looked death in the face for us and that we, by looking at him, that is by believing in Jesus, are healed of death, the power and death and the fear of death. Thus, John's Gospel is offering us a "therapeutic" model — God the healer, rather than a mercantile model, God demanding the payment of a price. In fact, the movement is not at all up to God from us to turn off his anger but down from God to us to disclose the breath-taking, not to say incredible dimensions, of his love for us.

Reflections

1. Jesus speaks of himself being lifted up, a term that can mean a physical lifting, or also exaltation. By this play on words the evangelist explains to us that Jesus' gift of himself in the passion was a glorious revelation of love, despite all its injustice and brutality. Bring to mind occasions when the love shown by Jesus in his passion was a sacrament of God's love for you.

2. It would be very cushy for us if we could be a source of life to others without cost to ourselves. The true life-givers know that they need the generosity of being lifted up by giving their lives so that others may have life. Recall when you have had that generosity and give thanks for others who have been like that for you.

3. We receive life from God when our faith enables us to trust in God's love for us. We give life to one another when the love between us is trustworthy. Recall memories of that kind of trustworthy love. For whom have you been able to be a 'Jesus person' and give a love that another could trust? Who has shown that kind of love to you and been for you a sacrament of God's love?

4. When people cannot find a love in which to trust they are truly in darkness rather than light. Perhaps you have had such moments. What was it like to be in that darkness, and what was it like to come into the light again when you found a love you could trust?

5. People loved darkness rather than light...so that their deeds may not be exposed. Judgement and condemnation are very inhibiting forces and we easily slip into them. Occasionally we meet someone who is non-judgemental, who does not come into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved. What has it been like for you when you met a non-judgemental person? What has it been like for you, and for other people, when you have been able to adopt a non-judgemental approach them?

PRAYER

O God, rich in mercy, you so loved the world that when we were dead in our sins, you sent your only Son for our deliverance. Lifted up from the earth, he is light and life; exalted upon the cross he is truth and salvation. Raise us up with Christ and make us rich in good works, that we may walk as children of light toward the paschal feast of heaven. 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.

Cork Lions Club are holding our annual **Patrick's Hill Ball Run** in aid of the People of Gaza and Local Cork Charities at 2pm on **Monday March 18th**. It is a fun family event and all are welcome. We will also be collecting old spectacles for recycling to the third world so bring along any old glasses and give them a new lease of life. Please support the fundraiser by buying balls on www.corklionsclub.ie

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.

Thought for the day

What does it mean to be saved? We have the secular sense of being rescued or spared somehow. The root meaning of the word in Greek and Latin is to be healed. So, the beginning is some recognition of need, of something fractured, unwell in my life. It includes faith in God who wants us to be both whole and holy, fully alive. The big "sickness" is death itself— from which we are saved/healed through God's love to us in the lifting up of Jesus in death into resurrection.

Prayer

Heavenly physician, heal whatever is us is dead or wounded or unfree that we may know the wholeness, freedom, life and joy of the Gospel.

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

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

Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on **Tuesday 19th March at 7:20pm in the Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty, P85 X322**. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. We also offer a free online monthly support meeting. For further information please contact us on 085 288 8888 or info@anamcara.ie



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.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection last weekend came to €2075
 Many thanks for your generous continued support.