

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 **Sarah Walsh and Patrick Doyle** who were married in our church On Saturday 9th. March, 2024.
 Fr. Michael Keohane officiated.



Baptism

Thomas Michael Cronin.
Charlie Liston O'Donovan.
 We welcome them into the Christian Family



St. Patrick – Pray For Us

This weekend we will celebrate St. Patrick and may even wear our shamrock. Next weekend we will have palms at Mass and listen to the gospel of the Passion of Jesus. In two weeks time we will be celebrating Easter at the end of Holy Week or the Great Week. So in a very short space of time, we will have the shamrock, the palm and the Cross.



During the past week here in the church we celebrated First Confessions for three parish schools as well as the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday last.

Many things are happening and each of these is a special moment for all involved. While the faith landscape is changing, these celebrations are proud moments for parents and families. You can see these things in people's faces and they are lovely to witness.

On this St. Patrick's Day, we pray for our young people, their families, schools and our parish that we will always value our faith in God and experience the love and mercy of God.

Fr. Michael
frmichael@corkandross.org

First Holy Communions 2024

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

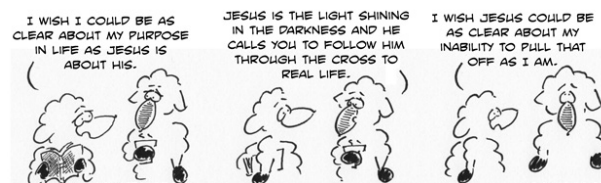
SVP St. Michael's Conference, Blackrock

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 **Jeremiah 31:31-34**
 What is God like? Here's a great passage from Jeremiah in which we hear a deeply reassuring word of God. This is what God is like: endless compassion, endless forgiveness, love without end.
Second Reading **Hebrew 5:7-9**
 Was Jesus really like us? Here's a passage, echoing the prayer in Gethsemane, which shows him struggling with God's will. Because he is like us, he can help us.
Gospel **John 12:20-33**
 Some Greeks wish to see Jesus. His reception seems to be almost a warning: are you sure you want to be a follower because there are consequences?



Holy Week 2024

Holy Thursday
 7pm – Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday
 12noon – Stations of the Cross
 3pm – Solemn Ceremony of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday
 7pm – Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday
 Masses @ 9am & 11am



Confessions next weekend 23rd/24th March after Masses

Chrism Mass: Bishop Fintan invites parishioners to join in the celebration of the Mass of Chrism on **Holy Thursday (March 28th) at 10am at the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne, Cork.** At this Mass with priests and parishioners from the Diocese the Oils of Baptism and the Sick are blessed. Bishop Fintan will also consecrate the Oil of Chrism which will be used in parishes during the year. Bishop Fintan and the Priests of the Diocese will renew their priestly promises during this Mass. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Cork Scripture Group

"And God saw that it was good"
 Care of Creation and the Scriptures
 4 Monday nights (8, 15, 22, 29 April), Rev Elaine Murray, Lorna Downey, Rosalie Moloney and Sean O'Sullivan.
 Saturday workshop on "The Gospel of John: Good news for our Earth Home" with Dr Margaret Daly Denton TCD.
 Cost €50.
 To book a place please email corksripturegroup@gmail.com

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

In this Gospel, there is a profoundly rich teaching about the death and resurrection of Jesus. The writer knows nothing of the traditional story of redemption found in the western church: Adam's sin, God's anger, Jesus' death as punishment paying the price for human sin, literally redemption, buying back. Instead, the key text is John 3:16: God so loved the world, the Gospel we heard on the 3rd Sunday of Lent this year. For the Gospel writer, salvation is a love story, disclosing the breath-taking love of God. So far, so familiar, at least nowadays. But, in the Gospel writer's mind, the is more: the love of God is both a gesture of healing (see the citation above from Numbers) and act of service (see John 13, the washing of the feet).

Reflections

1. Jesus seems to sense that a crisis point has arrived, and he agonises over saying 'yes' to what lies before him. He opts to stay faithful to the mission given him by God. Can you recall decisions over which you agonised? What was that like for you? What was it like when you made a decision that you dreaded, or were anxious about, but believed it was the right one for you?
2. The parable of the grain of wheat reminds us of a truth that any parent can testify to, namely that it is in dying to ourselves that we can give life to others. We will never be of benefit to others if we remain wrapped up in ourselves. In what ways has your dying to yourself brought life to another? How has the generous giving of another brought life to you?
3. Sometimes our emotions rebel at the thought of what lies ahead and we feel like praying to Father, save me from this hour. Then a realisation may come for you as a parent, a teacher, a spouse, a friend: No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Recall times when you have accepted pain or hassle and been a source of life to others for doing so.
4. The story presents the death of Jesus as the moment of his glorification by God. It is the moment when the love of Jesus for us is shown in its greatest depth in his gift of himself, a gift he was able to make because God enabled him to do it. We are also glorified when the grace of God enables us to give generously of ourselves. When have you experienced this in yourself or in another?

PRAYER

*In our hearts, O God, you have written a covenant of grace, sealed by the obedience of Jesus your Son. Raise us up with Christ, the grain fallen to earth that yields a harvest of everlasting life. Bring us to glorify your name by following faithfully where he has led. For you we wait; for you we listen.
 We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Trocaire Boxes

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

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



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

Thought for the day

It has sometimes been remarked, in lighter vein, that **none of us gets out of here alive.** Death is part of the human condition and we are aware of death and feel the threat of ultimate absurdity. How shall we confront it? Denial—often lived in frenetic distraction—is no help. Christian faith, in contrast with all other faiths, has a distinctive claim: in Jesus' death, God reached out to us in tender and vulnerable love, becoming our companion on the way. Both John 12 and Hebrews 5 affirm that. It is astonishing to the point of being almost incredible.

Prayer

Great and loving God, we are surrounded by mystery—the mystery of ourselves, of death, of creation, of you. You are our companion on the way and we place our hand confidently in your outstretched hand.
 K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE - Dóchas Linn Naomh Pádraig

Dóchas linn Naomh Pádraig aspal mór na hÉireann, Ainm oirdhearc gléigeal, solas mór an tsaoil é. D'fhíll le soiscéal grá dúinn d'ainneoin blianta i ngéibheann. Grá mór Mhac na páirte, d'fhuascail cách ón daorbhroid.

Sléibhte, gleannta, máighe, 's bailte mór na hÉireann: Ghlan sé iad go deo dúinn, míle glóir dár naomh dhil. Iarr'mid ort, a Phádraig, guí orainn na Gaela, Dia linn lá 'gus oíche 's Pádraig Aspal Éireann.

RECESSIONAL -Hymn to Saint Patrick

Hail, glorious St. Patrick, dear saint of our isle,
 On us thy poor children bestow a sweet smile;
 And now thou art high in the mansions above,
 On Erin's green valleys look down in thy love.
 On Erin's green valleys, on Erin's green valleys,
 On Erin's green valleys look down in thy love.

Ever bless and defend the dear land of our birth,
 Where shamrock still blooms as when thou were on earth,
 Our hearts shall still burn wheresoever we roam,
 For God and St. Patrick, and our native home.
 On Erin's green valleys, on Erin's green valleys,
 On Erin's green valleys look down in thy love.

Blackrock National Hurling Club 140th Celebrations



Back row l-r: Ger Coughlan, Club Chairman; Pat Horgan, Chairman Cork Co. Board; Ger Ryan, Chairman Munster Council; Tom Riordan, MC.
 Front row l-r: Frank Murphy, Executive Chairman Blackrock Hurling Club, Micheál Martin, Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs. Cllr Kieran Mc Carthy, Lord Mayor; Larry McCarthy, former President GAA, Roger Ryan, President Blackrock Hurling Club.
 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.