

Mass Times

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



Wedding

Congratulation to **Saerlaith O'Keeffe and Dan Dennehy** who were married in our Church on Saturday 16th. March, 2024.
 Fr. James McSweeney officiated.



Recently Deceased

Carmel Murphy nee O'Callaghan
Passage West. Formally Blackrock
 May the light of God surround them forever.



The Great Week

We look forward to Holy Week, The Great Week, An tSeachtain Mhór. There is something special about these days as we begin on this Palm Sunday. There is a drama about the liturgies of Holy Week. There is also a unique peace and calm as we follow the journey of Jesus entering Jerusalem on this Palm Sunday, in the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane on Holy Thursday, the steps of the Via Dolorosa on Good Friday and proclaiming the Resurrection of Jesus on Holy Saturday Night and Easter Sunday morning.



Here in our own church and parish, many people prepare and participate in the Holy Week liturgies. We are grateful to them all as we experience the drama of Holy Week. These are beautiful days ahead. In life, we often say that we would love to have a break or have a retreat. These coming days are the structure for our own personal retreat each day in the parish. St. Michael, pray for us and guide us this Holy Week.

Fr. Michael
frmichael@corkandross.org

Holy Week 2024

Holy Thursday

7pm – Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

12noon – Stations of the Cross (with young people)
 3pm – Solemn Ceremony of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday

7pm – Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

Masses @ 9am & 11am

Confessions this weekend after each Mass



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 Cailiní
Sat. 25th May	Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's
Sat. 25th May	Gaelscoil Mhachan (Holy Cross Church)

A brief introduction on today's readings

First reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The crucifixion of Jesus was a real challenge to the first Christians. When trying to understand the "what" and the "why", they went back to their bible (our "Old Testament"). Four poems in Isaiah, called today the Songs of the Suffering Servant, were very helpful to them and today we hear the third of these poems.

Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Like the first reading, this is poetry, really a kind of hymn. In it, we hear the very feelings of the very first generation of Christians as they reflection on the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Gospel

Mark 14:1-15:47

Today we hear the story of salvation in Mark's Gospel: the shortest and the most stark. The account is familiar, of course. If we are to hear it "again for the first time", we need to listen out for what speaks to me in this story. Mark wrote the story of the death of Jesus because he believed Jesus to be risen from the dead. Paradoxically, the story of Jesus' death is a life-giving story even today.

The Papers Say.....

Tablet of 9/3. (1). Impassioned Pope renews call for end to Gaza conflict. (2). Is the UK about to introduce assisted dying just when good end of life care could be in reach for all? (3). Joanna Moorhead: International Women's Day need look no further than the Catholic Church for heroines.

Tablet of 16/3. (1). Race for the White House -- The elusive Catholic vote. (2). Record numbers set to join Church as 450 adults are now completing the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults in the Southwark diocese.

(3). Ukraine/Rome -- 'Dismay' over Pope's call to negotiate.

Irish Catholic. (1). Mary Kenny: My sister had 'assisted dying' -- support and care, not killing. (2). The Church in the light of the referendum result -- We might have passed peak anti-Catholicism, writes David Quinn. (3). Dr. Michael Sanfey: Pope's call for courageous negotiation a red flag to critics. (4) Elise Ann Allen: Vatican Cardinal hints at possible rethink on two-state solution in Middle East.

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). A refugee and survived of gender-based violence says 'I emigrated to save my life'. (2). The twists of grief. (3). Children's pages and junior crossword.

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.

First Confessions

Well done to all the Second Class children, their families and their schools who have celebrated the Sacrament of First Confession in St. Michael's and Holy Cross over the last two weeks. We look forward to the celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in both churches in late April and May. These are very special days for the children.

Our next *Do This in Memory Mass* will be celebrated on Saturday 13th April @ 6pm.

Trocaire Boxes –

Please return to the Church in the coming week.

Observations

On this Sunday, exceptionally, we hear not one but two Gospels. The chief one is the Passion according to Mark but before that we have the Gospel of the Entry into Jerusalem. The Gospel of the Entry is an invitation to each one of us, too, to make our entry once again into the events of Holy Week. The story we are about to re-enact, to re-tell ourselves, is familiar, strange and always new. It is familiar, familiar to us all our lives — each element, each character, each anecdote is known to us. At the same time, the story is also always new simply because we are different with the passing of another year.

Reflections

1. The injustice and brutality of the Passion of Jesus make it a difficult story to read as good news. Yet in the midst of that cruelty the courageous, faithful and self-sacrificing love that Jesus shows for us shines through. Recall moments when the account of the passion has moved you in a special way. How have you experienced blessing through it?

2. Human love can also be painful. When have you experienced the courage, fidelity and self-sacrifice of others in their love of you? When have you shown that kind of love to others as a parent, a spouse, or a friend or in some other relationship?

3. We read the Passion story in the light of resurrection. What seemed a humiliating and shameful failure for Jesus was not the end of the story. Perhaps with hindsight you can look back on something that seemed like a tragedy at the time but out of that tragedy new life and new possibilities followed for you.

4. For each of us there arise situations in which we feel things are outside our control and we are utterly helpless and powerless. We are not alone in this experience. In his Passion, Jesus is one with us in this human helplessness. When have you found that the presence of another helped you through a crisis? When have you been able to help another with your presence?

PRAYER

O God of eternal glory, you anointed Jesus your servant to bear our sins, to encourage the weary, to raise up and restore the fallen. Keep before our eyes the splendour of the paschal mystery of Christ, and, by our sharing in the passion and resurrection, seal our lives with the victorious sign of his obedience and exaltation. We ask 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.

Meals on Wheels

need a driver for every second Thursday. Full training will be given.

Ring Eleanor 087 9741355 or Anne 087 9569236



Matt Talbot Novena: 7.30 The Way of the Cross Church Togher

Monday 25th March -

Guest Speaker Olive Foley and Celebrant : Fr. John Walsh

Easter Dues

envelopes will be delivered during the week. They are also available in the church. Thank you.

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 Quaker Meeting is holding a Silent Vigil for Peace on Saturday March 30 between 2 and 4 pm, at the Cork Quaker Meeting House on Summerhill South, T12 XW8R. We invite anyone who wishes to drop in for any length of time during the vigil

Thought for the day

There is a core similarity between the four accounts of the death of Jesus in the New Testament. However, they differ in sequence and in details, allowing various understandings of the cross to unfold. Because the death of Jesus was and is such a deeply mysterious and indeed perplexing event, different dimensions are explored and laid bare by different New Testament writers. None is more stark than Mark's Gospel: all who knew Jesus have failed him; his only "helper" is a complete outsider, Simon, the unknown passerby. The only acknowledgment comes from the unnamed Gentile soldier, accidentally present.

Prayer

O Lord, we tell again of the death of your Messiah, Jesus the Christ. In his story we see the story of your love as you reach out to us in the darkness of tragic death and tremendous suffering. Touch our hearts again with your compassionate love that we may be return to you with all our hearts.
 K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE – Hail Redeemer, King divine!

Hail Redeemer, King divine!
 Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine;
 King, whose reign shall never cease,
 Prince of everlasting peace.

Refrain:

*Angels, saints and nations sing :
 "Praised be Jesus Christ our King;
 Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,
 King of love on Calvary!"*

King, whose name creation thrills,
 Rule our hearts, our minds, our wills;
 Till in peace, each nation rings
 With Thy praises, King of kings.

Refrain:

*Angels, saints and nations sing :
 "Praised be Jesus Christ our King;
 Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,
 King of love on Calvary!"*



Fr Michael celebrated Mass at the **Blackrock Community Assocations** premises in the village this week. What was once an Annual event, the practise was suspended due to the Covid pandemic and a fire at the center. A large section of the membership attended and enjoyed a chat and a cuppa afterwards
 pic George Hatchell

Cork Alzheimers Café a safe place for people with Alzheimers and other dementias, their carers, family and friends along with social and health professionals to meet. Last Friday of each month 11- 12.30 pm in St Finbarrs Hospital, Douglas Road. Light refreshments provided free of charge. All welcome. Friday 29th March - Next meeting



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 will take place on

Week ending 6/7 April 2024

Your support as always is greatly appreciated.