



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

Cora Horgan, Dundanion Court
May the light of God surround her forever



Baptism

Liam McCabe Kennedy.
Welcome to the Christian Family.



Christ is Risen, He is Truly Risen! Alleluia!

Thank You

We were blessed with prayerful and well attended ceremonies this year for Holy Week and Easter. There was a lovely atmosphere in the church during those days.



We are grateful to so many people who quietly give their time and talents to parish for Holy Week and throughout the year. We have a very special parish with so many volunteers making it so. We thank our volunteer sacristans, flower arrangers and those who lovingly maintain the church, our church choir, folk group, cantors, music groups, ministers of the Word and Eucharist, church collectors, Parish Finance Committee, the young people along with Sr. Mary for the beautiful Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and all those who ensure that our church and grounds are well maintained. Thank you for your generosity and time.

We are working towards the formation of a new Parish Council in May and June this year. Please contact Fr. Michael if you would like to be part of this and to be more involved in the faith life of our parish. May God bless you this Eastertime.

Fr. Michael

frmichael@corkandross.org

Cork Scripture Group

'And God saw that it was good.....' Genesis 1:31
Care of Creation & the Scriptures

7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on Monday nights in the Scala Centre, Blackrock
8th/ 15th/ 22nd/ 29th April 2024



Monday 8th April 2024 "In the beginning..."
[Genesis 1:1]: The Creation Stories and Care of the Earth
Rev. Elaine Murray

Monday 15th April 2024 Noah and the Flood: From Cataclysm to Covenant.
Lorna Downey

Monday 22nd April 2024 Creation in Peril: Famine in the Old Testament.
Rosalie Moloney

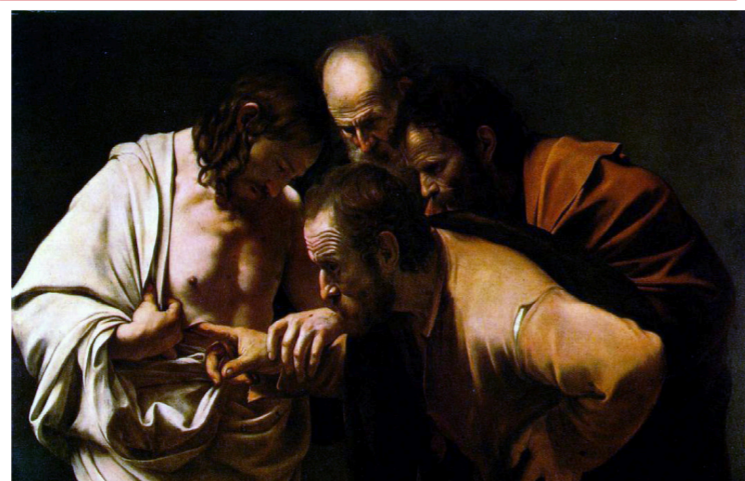
29th April 2024 'Look at the lilies in the fields.....': Jesus' Nature Parables in the Gospel
Seán O' Sullivan

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Acts 4:32-35
What does being a follower of Jesus mean? In this reading, we see that it includes a new "belonging" to the family of the faith, a belonging which implies community of goods and gifts.

Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6
If someone said to you, what does "loving" God mean, what would you reply? There is a threefold response in today's reading – the first two are what you would guess but the third one is challenging.

Gospel John 20:19-31
This is a justly famous and remembered story. Why was it written? To reassure people that later generations in the faith were not less fortunate than earlier generations. Perhaps we too may suspect that for people before us faith was somehow easier or more accessible..



'Synodality Explored: Facing the Future Together'

International Conference at Knock Shrine in association with Notre Dame University, Australia.
Keynote Speaker: Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops Friday 19th and Saturday 20th April 2024 at St. John's Welcome Centre, Knock Shrine
Further details are available on www.knockshrine.ie
Tel: 094 93 88100 email: communications@knockshrine.ie



Surgeon Noonan proudly presents *Harmonies and Hits*, featuring international award winning chamber choir 'Ancór' and 'Irish Doctors Choir'. Join us for a family Sunday afternoon musical extravaganza featuring classical choral repertoire as well as your favourite Broadway shows and blockbuster movies. Find us at St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, Washington Street, Cork on Sunday April 14th at 15:30, with all proceeds going directly towards underfunded rural hospitals in Sub-Saharan Africa. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at <https://bookings.scopetickets.com/event/11961>
Children under 12 go free!

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 7th April for tea and refreshments and more chat! Cheaper than the Village!! Everyone welcome!



Observations

Our Gospel this Sunday is remembered as the story of doubting Thomas — this in spite of the fact that Thomas makes the most resounding act of faith in Jesus in the whole Gospel of John. It should really be remembered as a story of faith — believing Thomas. But that will never catch on, simply because we identify more readily with the figure of doubt — just a bit nearer to our experience.

When it comes faith and doubt, it is not either/or. We are not either doubting Thomas or believing Thomas. Instead, we inhabit both realities, within ourselves, in a living tension. To put it in other words, it is not that we believe in spite of doubts but rather because of our living doubts we believe.

Reflections

1. "Peace be with you" was the greeting of Jesus on meeting his frightened apostles. Who has come to you bringing peace at times when you were afraid? To whom have you been able to bring peace?
2. Thomas, doubting and questioning, is possibly a person with whom we can identify. What part have doubting and questioning played on your faith journey? How has your faith been strengthened by such moments?
3. Note the way that Jesus dealt with Thomas. He did not give out because he doubted. He accepted how he felt and led him along to see the truth of his resurrection. Who has been that kind of teacher for you, gently taking you where you were and leading you to a deeper knowledge about some truth about life? For whom have you been that kind of teacher?
4. "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believed". That requires great trust. Perhaps you have had the experience of being trusted without having to justify every step along the way. What was it like to be trusted in that way? Who have you been able to trust in a similar manner?

PRAYER

God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism you have raised us up in Christ and given us life that endures.
Day by day, refine our faith that we who have not seen the Christ, may truly confess him as our Lord and God, and share the blessedness of those who believe. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Fr. Michael has generously offered the poor box near the exit as a collection point for SVP.
If you wish to contribute any time, it would be appreciated.

The second collection w/e 20th/21st April is for Diocesan Needs.

First Holy Communions 2024

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)

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS
There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is 2017

Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Tuesday **16th April at 7:20 pm 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



Thought for the day

How did any of us make the journey towards faith in Christ? No doubt a great part of it is simply what we received — usually from family. At some point, did I make a conscious choice? Perhaps at other times, I felt like walking away the faith project? What kept me going? Did a more personal ownership of faith result? Perhaps I can identify with the intuition of John O'Donahue, "Faith is helpless attraction to the divine." In spite of everything, in spite of myself, somehow it is part of who I am.

Prayer

Mysterious God, we are those who have seen and at the same time not seen. Help to look beyond the simple gifts of each day to see you the giver behind — and in — every gift. Help us embrace the grace that we may know true blessedness in believing.

K O'Mahony OSA

Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here. Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found. We stand on holy ground. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart; Then I shall bow, in humble adoration, And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art. CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee etc.

Meals on Wheels need a driver for every second Thursday. Full training will be given. Ring Eleanor 087 9741355 or Anne 087 9569236

Easter Dues Envelopes have been delivered to homes and sincere thanks to so many people who have returned these during Holy Week. It's also possible to contribute Easter Dues via the parish website www.stmichaelsblackrock.ie/donate/

Trocaire Boxes – Please return to the Church very soon. Trocaire envelopes are also available in the church if you wish to contribute in that way.

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.