



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



Baptism

Finley Barry Kelleher.
Maximilian Edward Sutton.
Welcome to the Christian Family.



Recently Deceased

Marian Budden, Willowbank
May the light of God surround her forever



Christ is Risen, He is Truly Risen! Alleluia!

The Good Shepherd

This weekend, we listen to the Word of God about the Good Shepherd. It describes the heart of the shepherd who loves the flock and gives everything for them. It's the same as a parent for children. It's a relationship so deep that it's nearly impossible to capture it in words. That's why the image of the shepherd helps us.



The children preparing for First Confession learn about the Good Shepherd and are easily able to connect with it. It's a lovely image to explore with them. Often the children love to illustrate their understanding of the love and care of the Shepherd.

It's an image of vocation and religious life which is changing and evolving. This weekend, we pray that the Lord will move hearts to religious life. We never give up, we keep going, we trust in God and may experience the tenderness and care of the Shepherd in our lives and families.

Fr. Michael
frmichael@corkandross.org

Parish Visitation of the Sick

If you are know of someone in the parish and area who would like to receive Holy Communion in their home, please let us know by contacting Fr. Michael - 085 8735905 or frmichael@corkandross.org

Choir Interchange

St. Michael's Church Choir has been invited to sing in the Church of the Incarnation, Frankfield on Sunday April 28th. The church choir from St. Mary and St. John's in Ballincollig will be with us for 11 am here in St. Michael's on that day. The choir interchange is part of the Annual Cork International Choral Festival this year.

Rockies Monthly Get-together

Our regular monthly get-together for a Cuppa and Chat at the Rockies Club, Church Road, has proved to be a very popular event. We are now approaching a gathering of 50 but we still have room for more. So, if you would like to join us on Friday, April 26th, we would be delighted to welcome you to our little gathering. It's always nice to meet up with some old friends and hopefully make some new ones. Bridge Céad Míle Fáilte Romhat to the Rockies.

Thinking about the Diocesan Priesthood?

There is a special "Come and See" afternoon for men aged between 18 and 40 who may be thinking about Priesthood for the Diocese of Cork and Ross. It will take place from 2-5pm on Sunday April 28th in Mardyke House, Cork City (T12 W8RP). The afternoon will include time for prayer, reflection, discussion and a social dimension. For more information email vocations@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Acts 4:9-12
The last sentence of this reading puts it up to us today. At the same time, the teaching is based on experience, which again puts it up to us.

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2
In this brief reading we as believers are affirmed as the children of God. At the same time, we are challenged in an amazing way: our future is to become like him, no less!

Gospel John 10:11-18
Sometimes we get so used to a passage in scripture that we miss the oddness of it. In real shepherding, shepherds do not lay down their lives for the sheep!!

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Mixed feelings after largest diocesan shake up for 900 years. (2). Michael Kelly: Ecclesiastical structures are only useful if they allow our parishes to be vibrant places where people encounter God. (3). Malaysians mourn Irish nun who pioneered girls' education. (4). Fr. Rolheiser: God's exuberant energy. (5). Brendan O'Regan: RTE bias on abortion on full show

Tablet of 6/4. (1). Austin Ivereigh: In a revealing new book, Pope Francis not only speaks frankly about his relationship with Pope Benedict but suggests a key to understanding the relationship between all pontificates. (2). Young people and gender identity. -- I couldn't keep it to myself. (3) French Church welcomes rise in new baptisms as 7,135 adults and over 5,000 teenagers baptised at Easter Vigils

Tablet of 13/4. (1). Assisted Dying -- Why legislation is wrong. (2). Fr. Timothy Ratcliffe OP: God's way -- The Spirit of the Synod. (3). Nigeria's abductions - The lost girls. Ten years ago Boko Haram kidnapped 276 schoolgirls. About 100 are still missing. Today the survivors are trying to rebuild their lives in ways that sometimes troubles their families and community. (4). Vatican -- DDF affirms 'infinite' human dignity

Diocesan Needs Quarterly Collection

The last Diocesan Needs Quarterly Collection in January 2024 amounted to €51,765 throughout the Diocese, which is much appreciated. This quarterly collection allows the Diocese to provide important ongoing supports to parishes in many areas from Education, School Religious Advisory, Mission & Ministry, Youth Ministry, Governance such as Data Protection, Safeguarding and Finance as well as the related staff costs and ongoing utilities.

People continue to be very generous to these quarterly collections over the years, for which the Diocese is most grateful. Your support to this weekend's collection would be greatly appreciated.

75th Anniversary Procession to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Glanmire

The annual procession to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto takes place on Sunday, 5th May. It leaves St. Joseph's Church, Glanmire at 3.00 p.m. and proceeds to the Grotto. The event will conclude with Benediction. We look forward to a fine day and a big turnout. Church gate collection for the upkeep of the Grotto will take place on 27th/28th April.

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.

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)

Observations

Good Shepherd Sunday is part of the Easter celebrations every year. The picture of the good shepherd is familiar, immediately appealing and naturally consoling. None of this should blind us to its strangeness.

And strangeness there is in plenty. You have mixed metaphors: in John's Gospel, Jesus is addressed as the Lamb of God — and now he becomes the shepherd — a fruitful mixed metaphor. In real life, shepherds do not "lay down" their lives for their sheep, however caring. And so on. With such caveats in place, perhaps we can hear the familiar passage with fresh ears!

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 4/5 May 2024

Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

Cork Alzheimers Café

A safe place for people with Alzheimer's 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 26th April - Next meeting.

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS w/e 27th and 28th April, 2024.

Reflections

1. There is a qualitative difference between a casual acquaintance and a relationship characterised by understanding and care. What changes have you experienced in your relationships as your love and knowledge of the other increased? What was it like for you to experience that change?

2. The good shepherd "lays down his life for the sheep". When has your care for another led you to "lay down your life" for that person, e.g., as a friend, parent, spouse, son or daughter? When you have known another to do this for you?

3. The parable also suggests that relationships should not be closed but open. Perhaps you have experienced the truth of the saying that love shared is love strengthened.

4. Jesus speaks of the freedom of the Good Shepherd in laying down his life. Faced with the needs of others, we can at times feel trapped into looking after them, caught by duty, obligation, or guilt. We can become like the hired hands who do a job without care for the person. Perhaps you have experienced both attitudes, caring for others under duress and by free choice. What difference did it make when you chose to care for the other, even in circumstances where you had little option?

5. What do these experiences of love and care in human relationships reveal to you about God's love for you?

PRAYER

God of lasting love, fulfil your plan of salvation to gather into one fold the peoples of the whole world. Let everyone on earth recognise your Christ as the Good Shepherd who freely lays down his life for all to take it up again in power.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God for ever and ever. Amen.

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

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

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

Thought for the day

The image of the Good Shepherd is profoundly reassuring. We hear it today in John's gospel and elsewhere in the Bible. It evokes a tremendous feeling of being cared for—the consolation of faith. Even in these difficult days, we need such reassurance. At the same time, the metaphor is used in a dissonant way: no regular shepherd, however caring, gives his life for his sheep! Cosy familiarity can dull the sense of shock: what is going on here? The gentle pastoral language suddenly gives way to sacrifice, as the shepherd becomes the lamb of God.

Prayer

Jesus our shepherd, we know your care for us was costly as you laid down your life and took it up again. Help us to know again "the great events that gave us new life" in you, that we may hear you and follow you in all we do
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.