

Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Brian McAdoo, Dublin.
Pat O'Riordan, Ballintemple

May the light of God surround them forever



Baptism

Jude Joseph Fenton.
Welcome to the Christian Family.



I am the Vine



In the gospel this weekend, Jesus declares, 'I am the vine'. In other parts of the gospel he declares 'I am the Good Shepherd' the 'Resurrection and the Life', the 'Way the Truth and the Life', the 'New Covenant'.

His listeners understood the code that those words 'I am' are saying that He is different, He is the Son of God and things have changed.

We are described as the branches of the central stem of the vine. It is also compared to the central stem of the cross. If you like we are 'branches' of the Cross. We understand the Cross much better than the vine. We also know what it is to be a broken branch of the vine.

In the Eucharist this weekend, we are nourished and strengthened as branches of the vine.

Fr. Michael
frmichael@corkandross.org

Mt San Antonio College Chamber Singers USA

On Sunday 05 May St. Michael's Church will welcome the **Mt San Antonio College Chamber Singers, USA**, to sing at the 11:00am Mass. They will be in Cork to perform and compete at the 69th Cork International Choral Festival and perform in Blackrock as part of the Festival's Sacred Trail. The Chamber Singers consists of thirty-eight auditioned singers who perform works from the Renaissance through new works of the Twenty-First Century. During the past twenty-nine years, since the arrival of their director Bruce Rogers, the Mt. San Antonio College Chamber Singers, have been extremely active, winning numerous national and international awards and receiving many special performance invitations. The Chamber Singers are the main performing choir at Mt. San Antonio College, giving numerous concerts on campus and throughout the local community.

FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 3rd May 2024

There are sheets on the tables in the Church where Parishioners can indicate the times most suitable for them to be present. We would like that there would be at least 2 people present for each period. If there are vacant periods we would appreciate volunteers to fill these times by putting their names on the list. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.



A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Acts 9:26-31
Paul's "welcome" to Jerusalem
Paul's persecution of believers gained him a fearsome reputation. As you can imagine, this made it hard for people to welcome him wholeheartedly and his return to Jerusalem was, putting it mildly, uncomfortable. In particular, Greek-speaking Jews—the Hellenists—were so upset they wanted to kill him. Even for early Christians it wasn't all light and joy...

Second reading 1 John 3:18-24
What God wants of us
Sometimes we wonder what is expected of us as disciples. In this wonderful reading the different dimensions of being a follower of Jesus are explored.

Gospel John 15:1-8
The True Vine Discourse
Today's Gospel is very like the second reading: how do we bear fruit as disciples? Using the biblical metaphor of the vine, faith is presented as a relationship, dynamic and life-giving.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Nuala O'Loan: The answer to loneliness, addiction and despair should not be death. (2). Senator Ronan Mullen: What to say when the visitors come knocking. (3). Facebook's Catholic problem -- The tech giant has a surprisingly long history of suppressing Catholic speech. (4) Report. -- Investment, divestment needed urgently to safeguard Catholic education. (5) Editorial -- Church must jump or be pushed into change.

Tablet of 20/4 (1). Uniting of dioceses in Ireland 'biggest structural change for centuries'. (2). Dignitas Infinita (On Human Dignity) has offended progressives and traditionalists (3). Francis Campell, from diplomat to educator -- A working life that is open to the world (4). Discipline in UK schools. -- The never-ending battle (5). The Commission of European Union bishops' conferences denounces 'right to abortion' ruling.

Tablet of 13/4. (1). Assisted Dying. -- Why legislation is wrong. (2). Fr. Timothy Ratcliffe OP: God's way. -- The Spirit of the Synod.

Congratulations to the Second Class pupils from Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday 27th April. May the Lord bless the children, their families, their school and our parish.

Thinking about the Diocesan Priesthood? - There is a special 'Come & See' afternoon for men aged between 18 - 40 who may be thinking about Priesthood for the Diocese of Cork and Ross. It will take place from 2-5pm on this Sunday 28th April 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

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.

Choir Interchange

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

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.

Observations

April is almost over and we are slowing moving into May. Even if the temperatures don't quite match, spring has definitely sprung and there is a sense of anticipation, new life in the air. In the community of faith too, we are experiencing a springtime in the synodal pathway, a beacon of hope.

All through Eastertide, we have been listening to the story of the church coming to birth in the Acts of the Apostles. The history is idealised, of course, but even Luke cannot hide the fact that all was not all sunshine and light. This is evident in many stories, including today's first reading. The recognition of Paul after all the harm he had done was not easy for everyone. The crisis over circumcision — apparently arcane to us — was really about the universality of the Church. What are the conditions of belonging?

Still, in the Acts of the Apostles, there is a remarkable energy and an enviable vitality. I would pick out three marks of the early church: *they had something to say, many were really gifted people and they listened to and were guided by the Spirit.*

For us in our time, the synod process is already well underway. The risk is always that it might just come and go and be a missed opportunity, a talking shop. It depends on us — all of us — to make our voices heard. The international one is already at the half way mark with the rest to come in the coming autumn. The international synod is obviously important.

No less important will be our own national synod, which will surely plot the direction of the church in Ireland for the foreseeable future. Jesus is the vine, but we are all the branches.

Reflections

1. In a relationship connectedness is important. Relationships cannot be taken for granted and need time and care to be life-giving. What does your experience tell you of the truth of this in your relationships with God, with your friends, with your family, with communities or groups to which you belong?

2. "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit". In what ways do you see that you have been 'pruned' by the experiences of life, or by the word of God, to be a more fruitful person? Perhaps you have also experienced the need for "pruning" in significant relationships in your life.

3. The parable also reminds us that we are not the source of our own life. It is a gift from God, from our parents, and from all who have nourished us. Give thanks for those who have been a source of life for you.

4. God is glorified by our being fruitful. When has human fruitfulness reminded you of God at work in our world?

PRAYER

O God, you graft us on to Christ, the true vine, and, with tireless care, you nurture our growth in knowledge and reverence. Tend the vineyard of your Church, that in Christ each branch may bring forth to the glory of your name abundant fruits of faith and love. 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.

Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its monthly Parent Evening for bereaved parents on **Wednesday 1st May at 7:15pm in the Maryborough Hotel, Maryborough Hill, Douglas, T12 XR12**. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. We also offer an online service. For more info call 01 4045378



Thought for the day

In the Bible, things from everyday life are used to speak of God. Two good examples would be those staples of the Mediterranean, the olive and the vine. In particular, the vine lends itself to metaphorical reference. It takes great tending; at the same time, it is obvious that even the furthest tendril "must with the vine be one." By staying connected and with careful pruning, the fruit itself is "pleasant to the sight and good for food" (Genesis 2:9). No need to mention the wine!

Prayer

Help us, God of all growth, to be one with the true vine, Christ our Lord. May the difficult experiences which prune us make us more abundant in the fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

EASTER CREED

Do you believe in God, Source and incarnating power of the immense cosmic space and time, who personally knows and cares about each person in the small and most intimate moments of our lives? **I do.**

Do you believe in God who is intensely personal, Taking flesh in fathers, but is much more than fathers, Taking flesh in mothers, but is much more than mothers, who is ultimately MYSTERY and before whom we must stand wordless and in awe? **I do.**

Do you believe in the divinely human Jesus, born of Mary, Who emerged from among us to open our eyes to the presence of God working in all creation? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus as the special revelation of our knowledge of God, Who sometimes used images of women and men, birds and trees, seeds and weeds to help us sense the incredible power and earthy intimacy of God's love? **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus who from the cross in agony found the strength to love and forgive those who betrayed, tortured, reviled and executed him, And who rose to offer comfort, love, forgiveness and hope And to entrust his mission to us? **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit of God working in and through creation to forgive and comfort, heal and rebuild Communities of hope and love in universal solidarity? **I do.**

Do you believe that you are a part of this community in Christ's Spirit, called every day to spread this hope and comfort in rebuilding our communities, our Church, our nation, our world? **I do.**

We, in and of your immense universe of cosmic time and space, give you our deepest thanks, our Loving God, through Christ our Lord and in the Living Spirit. Amen.

Christ is Risen, He is Truly Risen! Alleluia!

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 5th May for tea and refreshments and more chat! **Cheaper than the Village!!**
Everyone welcome!

