

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

Finn Patrick Ahern.
Ruairi Alan Gleeson.
Sam Benjamin Olden.



Welcome to the Christian Family.

An invitation to the 98th Cork Eucharistic Procession

The 98th Cork Eucharistic Procession to mark the feast of Corpus Christi will take place on **Sunday May 26th**. The procession will leave the North Cathedral at 3pm and make its way through the city to Saints Peter and Paul's where there will be a short liturgy and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Parish groups are encouraged to gather at the Cathedral and to process together under their parish banner. For those who may have mobility issues, you will be able to join the procession at the river side of the Opera House under a Eucharistic Banner. The Stewards will facilitate and direct this group to join the Procession. The media reported that over four thousand people processed in 2023, and it is wonderful to see that the Eucharistic Procession continues to unite people of faith across Cork from many different communities and backgrounds. The procession which will celebrate 100 years in 2026, is a great public witness to our faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. People from Parishes throughout the Diocese and especially those around the city are strongly encouraged to join us for this important event for our city and our people of faith united around the Eucharist.

Cork Diocesan Pioneer Mass

Thursday 30th May 7.30 p.m.

St. Mary and St. John's Church Ballincollig

If you or a member of your family are due to receive an emblem for your Pioneer membership as Diamond, Golden or Silver Jubilarian or if you would like to join the Pioneers as an Adult or a Young Pioneer, please contact Sorcha Uí Laoghaire at 086 36 42619 / email sorchaol@gmail.com or Aislinn Cogan 087 969 9488 / Aislinncogan@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Our monthly get-together at the **Rockies Club** has proved to be a very popular event and last month we had 57 people present. It takes place on the last Friday of the month between the hours of 10.30 and 12.00noon. Apart from the Cuppa and Cake, people really enjoy meeting up for a chat, renewing old friendships and making new ones. A lot of GAA Clubs are now running similar events and on the last Monday of April we were invited to attend the Middleton GAA one and we really enjoyed it. When the fine weather eventually arrives, we will arrange some exchange visits with other Clubs as well. Our next one is on Friday May 31st and we hope to see you there.

Mt San Antonio College Chamber Singers USA

Today we welcome the Mt San Antonio College Chamber Singers, USA, to sing at our 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.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

If you listen carefully, you might feel this story is told backwards: the Holy Spirit comes on the household of Cornelius and then they are baptised. Not for the last time, the Holy Spirit is ahead of the church!

Second reading 1 John 4:7-10

This is a great reading and in it we hear that everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Everyone. The reason is easy: God is love and whenever we experience love, we touch something of the divine.

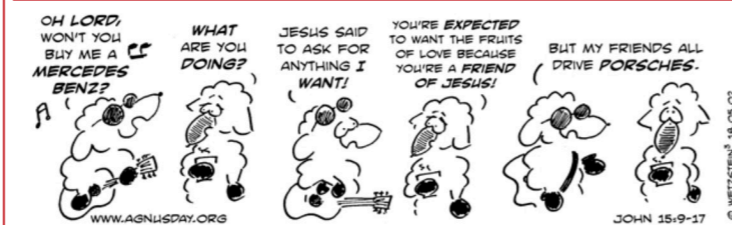
Gospel John 15:9-17

Try to listen out for repetition of the word "love" in this reading. In the vision of John's Gospel, there really is only one commandment, to love. That is, we are commanded to do what cannot be commanded but must come freely from inside. St Augustine summarised it all in the apparently liberal but actually very demanding, "love and do what you will!"

The Papers Say.....

Tablet. (1). Human Rights. — An immoral, dishonest and dangerous UK bill. (2). Ireland's synodal path. — Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon, one of the leading thinkers in the Irish Church, welcomes the Pope's 'change of culture' but warns that it will peter out unless there are reforms to structures and institution. (3). A new path of Abraham. — Remapping the Holy Land. (4). Nigerian Christians killed in three-day massacre.

Irish Catholic. (1). Standardised sex ed erodes flexibility of Catholic and other faith schools. (2). Michael Kelly: 'Most politicians are dancing down the road to assisted dying with talk of meaningless 'safeguards'. (3). As Ireland becomes increasingly multireligious and multicultural, empathy to other faiths especially Islam is of great service to the common good writes Dr. Niall Coll, Bishop of Ossory (4) 'Synodality: A renewed call to the prophecy of hope'. — Interview with Sr. Mary T. Barron OLA, President of USIG.



Impact: By Alpha Youth

Join the conversation on how you and your team can make an impact for Christ in the lives of young people today. Impact is designed to bring those interested in the faith of young people together for a conversation on youth ministry. All who are interested are welcome to attend. To register or to ask any questions please email gerard@alphaireland.org or call 083-0112560. Date & Time:

18th May 2024, 9.30am (beginning with tea/coffee and light refreshments) to 12noon.

Venue:

St. Columba's Church, Church Road, Douglas, Cork, T12 YN83.

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)

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

When we read Acts 10-11 (the conversion of Cornelius — or is it Peter?) and Acts 15 the "council" of Jerusalem), we may notice the following "features" of the decision-making process. Firstly, they paid close attention to their experience, in particular to experiences where the Spirit was acting, so to speak, ahead of them.

Secondly, they opened the Scriptures and noticed the promises to include all the nations in God's grace.

Thirdly, they took responsibility for a way forward, in the absence of any direction from the historical Jesus (Jesus said nothing about circumcision and the dietary or kosher laws).

Fourthly and finally (and sensibly!), they compromised.

The compromise may come as a surprise. Amazingly, they agreed not to impose the identity markers of Judaism: no circumcision, no dietary laws, no Sabbath observance. But they asked the Gentiles for a favour. For the sake of table-fellowship with those of Jewish background, would they mind following the dietary laws by not eating meat with blood in it. It was just a step too far and so a modicum of flexibility was called for.

Reflections

1. A commandment of love is something of a contradiction in terms. Love is a free choice. That is what gives the thrill to the experience of being loved. Recall times when you received gestures of love from another—a spontaneous embrace from a husband or wife; a wave from a friend; words of comfort and affirmation—not because the other person felt obliged to reach out to you but because they wanted to let you know that you were loved. What effect did that have on you? Did it bring you joy? Perhaps you have had a glimpse of the truth of what Jesus said, that it is in loving that our joy is complete.

2. Often love and friendship make demands on us. Parents give freely of their time and energy to the care of their children but sometimes it requires a lot of effort. Also in responding to the needs

of friends or spouses we can be challenged to 'lay down' our own 'lives' at least for a time. Can you recall when a time when putting yourself out for others bore fruit for them and for you?

3. "I chose you". Have you had the experience of being 'chosen' by someone? What was it like for you to be chosen? What is it like for you to consider yourself as one chosen by Jesus?

4. Jesus called the disciples "friends" not 'servants' because he had told them everything about himself. When have you allowed yourself to be known and loved? When has friendship blossomed for you because you made the time available and took the effort to understand another?

5. The presence of God is revealed to us in the love we experience from others. Sometimes it can be clearly seen in the love between husband and wife, or parent and child when it doesn't have to be proved but is the nature of the relationship in which they live. Love can also be apparent in difficult situations like when someone is ill or dying or in any kind of trouble. Abiding in the love of another is one of the greatest joys of life. When have you had that experience?

Synodality:

Fr. Michael McCabe SMA will present three evening talks on the theme of "Synodality" in Saint Joseph's SMA Church, Blackrock Road, at 7:30 pm.

1: Thursday 9th May: An Explanation of "Synodality"
2: Thursday 6th June: What Pope Francis is now asking of us, the Church.

3: Thursday 11th July: What is now happening in the Church. Where are we going.

All are welcome to come, especially all those who are active in various Church activities and ministries. These talks will help us focus on the forthcoming second Synodal Meeting in Rome which will take place in October 2024.

Thought for the day

There are odd expressions in the Fourth Gospel and in 1 John. It is strange to be commanded to love. Even stranger: "Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments." What can "command" and "obedience" have to do with the love, the most free thing of all? It may help to recall that both human nature and divine nature are defined by love. We are being commanded to become what we most want to be in our deepest selves. Obedience here is the invitation to become our truest selves, true to our identity before God and our true to our mission simply as human beings.

Prayer

You know us more deeply than we know ourselves: may your love go before us always and inspire in us a generous love for our neighbour.

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!

