

Mass Times

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



The Noble Cedar

In the next few weeks all our sixth-class children will move on from their primary schools. Pupils, families, schools and our parish will celebrate this. The boys and girls who started primary school in September 2016, just a few years ago, have changed and will now start a new and even more rapid phase in their development. Parents, grandparents, families and schools wonder at how the children have grown up so quickly.

Our readings this weekend speak of change as well. The gospel speaks of the little seed and the first reading cites the noble cedar. We are reassured that God is in all these changes. God has been in the lives of the boys and girls and will continue to be so. May God bless the children as they grow into young adults in a changing and complex world. May they realise that God is with them and us as change unfolds in front of our eyes.

Fr. Michael
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Message for the Day for Life – June 16 2024

“The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life”

There has been much discussion in the media recently about “assisted suicide”, whereby people who feel they are overburdened by suffering will be facilitated in bringing their lives to a premature end by a change in legislation. The Catholic Church opposes such proposals. As Catholics, along with many people of other faiths and none, we share a different vision about what it is to be fully human, especially when we are suffering and approaching death in the hope of eternal life. People who are coming towards the end of their lives are vulnerable, and recent research shows that many feel themselves a burden on their loved ones and wider society. Jesus shows us that life always has dignity and that there is no such a thing as a useless life. We are called to defend this gift of life to its natural end and to protect vulnerable citizens from a culture that could pressure them into assisted suicide. We support people with the companionship of a listening ear, appropriate treatment, and the best of care, so that their last days can be times of grace, intimacy and love.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Ezekiel 17:22-24
Any gardeners among you will enjoy this reading because it evokes botanical imagery. What's the prophet trying to say? Well, he was writing during and after a catastrophic collapse, a collapse of both religion and politics. But here his message is one of hope, hope built on faith in God.

Second reading 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
When he wrote this, St Paul was no longer a young man and aware of the fragility of life. But he remains young in the Spirit and is still full of faith and longing.

Gospel Mark 4:26-34
The botanical metaphors continue in our Gospel. Both parables speak of planting and growing, but each one has its own message: the mystery of growth and the miracle of hospitality. It is all truly the gift of God—perhaps something we need to keep in mind today?

The Papers Say.....

Tablet of 8/6. (1). Justice in the United States. — A system wide open to weaponisation. (2). The people's priests — Rome's seminaries are changing - but can those training for the priesthood stay close to the people they will serve while living apart from the secular world? (3). Finding faith on your phone. (4). Pakistan — Mob kills Christian owner of shoe factory

Tablet of 1/6. (1) Catholicism in China — The enduring Church. (2). St. Boniface. — The Englishman who transformed the Church. (3). Carlo Acutis — The price of sainthood. (4). The halo effect. — Why do good organisations do bad things?

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Fr. Gerry O'Hanson SJ: The Synod — Next stop Rome. (2). Carlo Acutis — Blessed of our time. (3). Giving and Receiving Love. (4). Words from the Pope

Irish Catholic. (1). Questions of Faith — What is the Church teaching on yoga and reiki? (2). John L. Allen Jr: European voters deal blow to Pope's agenda on migration and climate change. (3). Breda O'Brian: Adding to the crosses already carried by faithful gay people. (4). Prof. Eamonn Conway: Eurovision exemplifies that only God can satisfy human desires. (5). Is it time for safeguarding our priests from the lingering cloud of suspicion?

Remembrance Mass - in St. Michael's Cemetery on Wednesday 26th June @ 7.30pm.

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.

Observations

Trees are indeed a source of wonder in themselves. When you think about the roots, the trunk and the bark, the branches and the twigs, and finally the fruit and the leaves! Trees seem to know when the next part should develop and there is a beautiful proportion in trees. For any one fascinated by numbers in nature, trees follow the Fibonacci sequence, 0-1-1-2-3-5 etc., beginning in the growth of the trunk and then spiralling outward as the tree gets larger and taller. Trees have even evolved using the same Fibonacci sequence to track the sun moving in the sky and to collect the most sunlight even in the densest forest. No wonder the symbol in the Bible of knowledge of good and evil is a tree. They do seem to know something!

And no wonder the Bible speaks so much about trees. No wonder Jesus — a true countryman at heart — spoke so appealing of trees, as in today's Gospel reading.

Blackrock Community Association

Céilí na Carraige Duibhe will begin at Community Centre, Convent Road Outdoor area on Tuesday 18th June. Official opening by Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Kieran McCarthy at 7.30 pm. Live music on the night by Douglas Comhaltas and a performance by the award winning Niamh Hatchell School of Irish Dance. Everybody Welcome to come along and enjoy a great night.

Reflections

1. If you sow seeds, or watch plants grow, you have ample opportunities to pause in wonder at the whole process of growth. It takes place imperceptibly and comes to fruition in beautiful flowers, majestic trees and abundant harvests.

2. Jesus uses this as a parable about the growth of the Kingdom of God, the kingdom of right relationships with God and with one another. There too growth is slow, development is imperceptible, and then without realising it you have a mature relationship. Recall the stages of such development in your life and relationships, and give thanks.

3. In the second parable Jesus invites us to reflect on the importance and significance of relationships in our lives as they grow and mature. This is true both of our relationship with God and with others around us. When have you found a relationship in which you could “make nests in its shade”?

PRAYER

O God, at whose bidding the seed will sprout and the shoot grow towards full stature, hear the prayer of your assembled people. Make us trust in your hidden ways, that we may pray with confidence and wait for your kingdom now growing in our midst. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

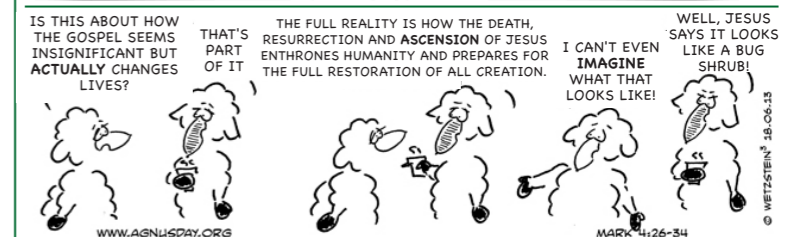
Thought for the day

Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care is a daily therapeutic miracle, healing the heart. There is a gentle reflection of this in John 11, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Sometimes, it is better to leave things alone and they will come along of their own accord. Parents know this very well...you just have to trust the process / the growth. The typical heresy of our time is not quietism but rather meticulous activism, often declining into pernickety interference. Some things just take time and the courage of non-interference!

Prayer

You are the mystery at the heart all and in you we put our trust. When we are asleep, when we are awake, you are silently at work. In you, we place our trust. Amen, amen.

K O'Mahony OSA



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.

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