

Mass Times

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



Baptism

Laoise Josephine Murphy.
Max Mark O'Brien.
Welcome to the Christian Family.



Autumn – We are already into the middle of September and school life has fully returned. We are grateful that all these things take place without all the interruptions and concerns that we experienced during the Covid pandemic. So much changed during those years of restrictions and trauma.



Things also changed in our parishes. We appreciated the importance of livestream for Masses. However, gathering for Mass remains central to our faith, our health and simply meeting people. September is a time of the year when we re-establish routines. Perhaps this might be the time that we think attending weekday Mass to get a good start to the day. Perhaps this is the time that we prioritise gathering for Sunday Mass as well.

We have a great blessing and precious gift in our faith. May we always nurture and cherish it.

Altar Servers – in the coming weeks we will work towards introducing a number of altar servers in the parish. We are blessed that good few families are with us each weekend for Mass and if a family would like to support their child in becoming an altar server in Blackrock Parish, please let us know.

Prayer and reflection – a few people have come forward to say that they would like to gather a small group for this along the lines of centring prayer and Christian meditation. If you are interested in this, please let us know. The vision here is a small group who might gather once a week for prayer and reflection.

Fr. Michael

Consoling and Being Consolated:

A Journey of Hope and Renewal for Funeral Ministry Teams

The Office for Mission and Ministry is offering an opportunity to gather for new and existing Funeral Ministry Teams in two venues: Wednesday, 11 September 2024 (Visitors' Centre of the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne, Cork) and **Tuesday, 17 September (The Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway)**. Both events take place from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Our guest speaker is Rev. Bruce Pierce who has written and spoken extensively on caring for the carer, and on loss, death, dying and bereavement. Please register your interest if you wish to attend as we will be providing light hospitality: <https://corkandross.org/mission-and-ministry/consoling-and-being-consolated>

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading **Isaiah 50:5-9**
Suffering is a huge question and unjust suffering is even harder. That is the kind of difficult experience which lies this poem / prayer we are about to hear. The early Christians were reminded of Jesus as they hear these words.

Second reading **James 2:14-18**
It is tempting to think that being a person of prayer and faith is enough...but the blunt St James thinks otherwise. Unless our convictions lead to action, what use are they?

Gospel **Mark 8:27-35**
Jesus asks a great question in today's Gospel...one of those questions which jumps off the page. Many of us are spontaneously, perhaps unwillingly, asking the same question today.

The Papers Say.....

Tablet. (1). Body of St. Teresa of Avila found to be incorrupt. (2). England's Friars: In 800 years since they first arrived on English soil, the Franciscans have seen hardship, persecution, decline and revival.

(3). Synodal reform -- Catholicism's unknown future.
(4) Orthodoxy divided. -- Zelenskiy's gamble.

Irish Catholic. (1). John L. Allen: A glimpse of the turbulent side of Catholic-Orthodox relations. (2). 'If you can see it, you can be it' -- The message, as Carlo Acutis relic graces parishes (3). Mary Kenny: Is the past now stained by present revelations? (4). Michael Kelly: The new report on abuse in religious is demoralising, and yet so much good work is being done. (5). The strange and disturbing content of the new SPHE programme.

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.

Collection for fund which supports seminarians and deacons

The annual collection for the Priesthood Education Fund in the Diocese will be taken up on the weekend of **21st / 22nd September**. One seminarian continues his studies for the priesthood in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, and another man is continuing his studies for the Permanent Diaconate. The Priesthood Education Fund finances their studies as well as costs for ongoing training and education for priests. Thank you for last year's collection which came to €64,903. In the same year, the Fund spent €82,500. Appreciating that these are difficult times financially, you are asked to be as generous as you can to the Priesthood Education Fund annual collection.

SMA NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST. THÉRÈSE:

The SMA Novena in honour of St. Thérèse will begin on **Monday 23rd. September, 2024 in St. Joseph's SMA Church, Blackrock Road, Cork City and will close on Tuesday 1st. October, 2024**. The Novena Mass will be celebrated each evening at 7.30p.m. (except Saturday 28th. September @ 7.00p.m. Mass). There will be a guest choir and singer each evening.

Mass Cards

Mass cards are available in the sacristy after every mass both at weekend and weekdays.

Observations

As we know from our experience in family, work and just life itself, being able to ask the right question at the right time can be both illuminating and liberating. At the heart of today's Gospel, stands a great question: but you, who do you say I am? There are other related questions which are close to it but not quite identical, such as, What is Christianity? Why am I still a Christian? What keeps me in the faith community, the church? The question in today's Gospel is not about "philosophy" or "religion" or "ethics" but about a person: Jesus of Nazareth.

In his first encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: *Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.*

The personal encounter with Jesus is at the heart of who we are as Christians — both as horizon and as direction. In the setting of real discipleship can we begin perhaps to answer the question: who do you say I am?

Reflections

1. "Who do you say that I am?" Imagine Jesus putting this question to you. How would you answer it? How would you answer it, not in words taken from a catechism or textbook, but from your own experience of the significance of Jesus in your life? What does Jesus mean to you? What does his gospel message mean to you?

2. Jesus went on to teach his disciples that following him would be hard at times. There would be a price to pay. Perhaps you also have found that imitating the love and compassion of Jesus is not an easy road? Nor does it come easy to have the constant trust in God that Jesus had. Yet, Jesus tells us that this is the way to life. Would you agree?

3. There is a natural human tendency to shy away from what is painful or difficult. Yet if that is our standard pattern of behaviour we will not get far in reaching our potential. We will never find who we are capable of being. When have you found it worthwhile to face difficulties, persevere, "carry your cross" for a while in order to achieve some goal that was important to you?

PRAYER

Make us one, O God, in acknowledging Jesus the Christ. As we proclaim him by our words, let us follow him in our works; give us strength to take up the cross and courage to lose our lives for his sake. Amen.

'Rise Again-Towards A Horizon Of Hope'

You are invited to a FREE creative event (music, meditation, poetry etc) to launch the above book with Martina Lehane Sheehan online Monday 16th September 7.30p.m. - 9p.m. (Join Martina & guests including Mary Kennedy & Br. Richard Hendrix). Join Martina & Friends Wednesday 18th September 6.30p.m. Venue: Waterstones Bookstore, Patrick Street, Cork Further details & bookings to info@ruahrest.com

Cork Scripture Group

"So that you may know the truth"
Luke 1:4 New Perspectives on Luke's Gospel
7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. over four Monday nights in the Scala Centre, Blackrock starting on 30th September 2024
Total Cost of Module: €50 [Workshop by itself: € 10]
All are welcome. No previous experience of Bible Study required! See posters for further details.
To book email: corksripturegroup@gmail.com

Thought for the day

Each generation is addressed by Jesus' question in today's Gospel and each generation must speak for itself. So must we as individuals within the community of faith.

Prayer

Great and loving God, as we stand before the mystery of your disclosure in Jesus of Nazareth, we ask for great faith, deep understanding and, above all, love. Knowing him, we love him, loving him we confess him as the Messiah, the Son of God.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE

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.

RECESSIONAL

Christ be beside me

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me, Christ be on all tongues telling of me. Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, In ears that hear me Christ ever be.

Anam Cara West Cork the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on **Tuesday 17th September at 7:20pm 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



SECOND COLLECTION 21st/22nd. SEPTEMBER, 2024. PRIESTHOOD EDUCATION.

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.