

### Mass Times

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



### Recently Deceased

**Pat Towler, Convent Road**

May the light of God surround him forever



### November

It already looks as if November will be as expected, wet, windy and the kind of weather that mirrors our liturgical time of remembrance and prayer for the faithful departed. The falling leaves mirror the cycle of life and death.

As always, Jesus Christ guides us to places where He has already gone Himself. That is the hope of our Christian remembrance and Christian prayer. Beginning on this Saturday Nov. 2nd, we will remember and pray for those who have died with reverence and love. We remember as a Christian people reassured by a new and eternal life for those who have died and Christian hope for the bereaved. Death is not a distressing fracture but a continuity of life into eternal life. May all who have died rest in the peace of the Lord.

*Lord God,  
 Whose days are without end and whose mercies beyond counting,  
 Keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown.  
 Let your spirit guide our days on earth and in the ways of holiness and justice,  
 That we may serve you in union with the whole church,  
 Sure in faith, strong in hope, perfect in love.  
 And when our earthly journey is ended,  
 Lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,  
 Where you live forever and ever, Amen.  
 (Order of Christian Funerals 332)*

*Fr. Michael*

**November Lists and Envelopes** are available in the church. November Novena for the Dead will be celebrated from Saturday 2nd November – Sunday 10th November this year.

**Remembrance Mass** for all those who have died during the past year will be celebrated on Monday 4th November @ 7pm. This is always a moving celebration for families and our parish as we lovingly remember those who have died. Please let people know about the Mass in good time.

**Blessing of Graves** in St. Michael's Cemetery on Sunday 3rd November @ 3pm.

Friday 1st November, All Saint's Day – Mass @ 9.30am  
 Saturday 2nd November, All Soul's Day – Masses @ 9.30am & 6pm.

**Prayer Petition Slips** are on the table as you enter the church and you might wish to take one away to compose your own prayer petition which you can then bring to the North Cathedral or to Clonakilty Parish Church during the visit of the Relics. These will then be brought to the sanctuary in Lourdes at a later date.

### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading** **Jeremiah 31:7-9**  
 Perhaps the great temptation today is to think of God as remote. In this reading, using the imagery of parenthood, we see how close our God is to us all and how breathtakingly near we are to our God.

**Second Reading** **Hebrews 5:1-6**  
 Hebrews is always reflecting on the great question: how did God come to our help in Jesus?  
 The answer is encouraging: by entering fully into our condition of being human. This is all the more astonishing because of who Jesus was, the very Son of God (Ps 2). The teaching is very appealing: he can help us precisely because he is one of us.

**Gospel** **Mark 10:46-52**  
 Two things may help us hear this reading. First of all, it is not easy to insist against the pressure of others. Secondly, naming our own urgent need is a key to entering the path of discipleship.

### The Papers Say.....

**Tablet.** (1). Fr. Timothy Ratcliffe OP--In giving a red hat to the former head of the Dominicans, Pope Francis has scored a bullseye with social media overwhelmingly rejoicing in the recognition of a popular priest for whom the marginalised and the suffering have always been at the heart of his ministry. (2). US Presidential election -- In the first of a short series of reflections by Catholics preparing to vote in the election, an academic is poised between two deeply uninspiring options (3). Bishops urge Irish people to acknowledge need for migration (4). Pope demands respect for UN peacekeeping mission.

**Irish Catholic.** (1). In a three-page interview Archbishop Eamon Martin says that "the Church faces a very different reality in order to 'allow new shoots to emerge, new ways of being Church -- whilst faithful to the Catholic Church, which is one, holy, Catholic and apostolic'". (2). Politicians: 'Authoritarian' Safe Access Zones law is 'had day for civil rights'. (3) Synod likely to force bishops to consult laity. (4). Fr. Bernard Cotter: The appeal of being a jumped-up curate.

*Support the Catholic press and keep in touch with the Church Buy and read a Catholic publication weekly*

### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 1st November

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.



**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 3rd November for tea and refreshments and more chat! Cheaper than the Village!! Everyone welcome!**



### Observations

#### Synod 4: What do you want me to do for you?

Now is the time to listen to the word of Jeremiah in our time, hard and all as it may be to hear. The conventional narrative is one of inevitable, inexorable decline, accompanied by feelings helplessness and worldly gloom. Jeremiah, were he alive today, would literally shout at us: God will never abandon his people or his project of the Good News in Jesus. In the words of Jesus at the end of Matthew's Gospel: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

There is much to be done and much to be changed. But nothing will ever "separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39). The church has always been evolving, letting go of what seemed at one time essential and discovering new ways to respond to God. Here, history is the great teacher. The time of apparent crisis has always the time of opportunity.

Bartimaeus can teach us to regain our sight. He knew he was blind. He took the initiative of approaching Jesus. He named his hope. The moments of the conversation are worth pondering:

"What do you want me to do for you?"  
 "Rabbi, let me see again."  
 "Go, your faith has healed you."

Jesus poses the same question to us today on our Synodal Pathway: What do you want me to do for you? Could there be a better question?

### Reflections

1. In this story Jesus cures the blind man, Bartimaeus. Recovery of sight in the Bible is often a metaphor for coming to faith. Perhaps during your life you have had moments of insight, of deeper understanding, of appreciating who Jesus is for you. What was it that helped you to see more clearly?

2. Who was the 'Jesus person' who helped you to see more clearly? Perhaps, as a parent, a teacher or a friend, you have also been a 'Jesus person' for another and helped her or him to a clearer understanding of the meaning of life, love and faith.

3. To get to Jesus, Bartimaeus threw aside his cloak so that he would not be impeded. What have you had to discard in order to be able to see more clearly (e.g., an assumption, a prejudice, a rigid opinion)?

4. "Your faith has saved you" Jesus said to Bartimaeus. Recall situations in which you have been grateful for the faith that is yours because in some way it saved you.

### PRAYER

*Have pity on us, God our saviour. Grant us grace and courage to cast off our sins and turn to you for healing.  
 Show us in Christ the sure path of salvation and strengthen us to follow gladly in the Way of the Gospel.  
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Children's Adoration** is starting on Friday, 1st November from 3-3.30pm in St Michael's Church, Blackrock. Join us for guided meditation, songs and time with Jesus. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For more information contact: Katie (0877798175)

### Thought for the day

The journey towards faith has many dimensions. Firstly, there is our need (expressed in the Gospel as blindness). Secondly, the courage to name our need, even in the face of opposition. Next comes our encounter with Jesus and our cry for help, guidance, healing. Naming our need is insisted upon by Jesus as an essential step, because faith is so much more than believing lots of doctrines. More fundamentally, it is an act of trust, a putting of myself in relationship and being able to receive from God whatever it is we need. This is the faith which makes us well.

### Prayer

*God, our light and hope, be our guide on the path of life and on the way of faith. Help us to be aware of our blindness, especially when we think we can see. With your healing touch, may we be filled with light and joy. Amen.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### Unfolding the Word

#### An Invitation to everyone in our family of parishes

'Unfolding the Word' provides a simple and accessible approach that helps people come together in their family of parishes to explore the Word of God and become more familiar with the life and values of Christ and of Christian living. Each session consists of sharing on a Bible passage, prayer and of course, a cuppa and chat.

Why not join us in the parish room, Holy Cross Church, Mahon for the four Thursday nights of **November (7th, 14th, 21st, 28th) from 7.30-9.00 pm.** All welcome.

**Ballinlough Meals on Wheels:** To ensure the continuity of this valuable service, kitchen assistants and drivers are needed. Please contact Kay 086 8769660.

### St Bernadette's Relics Pilgrimage to Cork & Ross

For the first time, the Relics of St Bernadette are visiting Ireland, and we will have the privilege of welcoming them to the Diocese of Cork and Ross at the end of this month. The Diocese have put a full programme together to try and recreate something of the experience that Lourdes offers here at home.

The Relics will be displayed in the Cathedral of St Mary and St Anne (North Cathedral) on Wednesday October 30th from 4pm, and then on the following day, Thursday October 31st, they will travel to the Church of the Immaculate Conception Clonakilty for veneration starting at 2pm. Full programme of events available on the Diocesan website, www.corkandross.org.

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Church Gate collection will take place on **Week ending 2/3 November 2024**  
 Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

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

**Ballinlough Men's Retirement Club** meets every Wednesday 2 pm to 4 pm in Ballinlough Community Centre. Enjoy a game of Short Mat Bowls (Bowls supplied by the club) in an atmosphere of fun and camaraderie or just drop in for a chat and a 'cuppa'. New members are welcome: Our membership comes from the general Cork City area. Contact person: Noel 0851615360.