

Mass Times

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



Baptism

Alora Margaret O'Leary-Cassells.
Welcome to the Christian Family.



Recently Deceased

Peter Cummins, Rope Walk
May the light of God surround him forever



Do This in Memory Parish Programme

Welcome to all the First Holy Communion children and their families to the Enrolment Mass this Saturday evening. While this is a parish-based programme, we really appreciate the support of our parish schools, Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí, Scoil Barra Naofa Cailini, Scoil Ursula, St. Michael's and the School of the Divine Child in making arrangements. Thanks also to the parents' group who have volunteered to assist in arranging these Masses.

These Masses are a very important part of our parish life and show that preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion is more than just one day in the Month of May but throughout the year and the years. We have something precious in our faith and we want to pass it on to the children as best as we can. This programme is a help and support to families and the children. May God bless them all in this sacred undertaking.

Fr. Michael
frmichael@corkandross.org

Polish Chaplaincy

Bishop Fintan Gavin has announced that the Polish Chaplaincy currently located in St. Augustine's Church, Washington Street will transfer to Holy Cross Church in Mahon from February 2025. This will be a new chapter for the Polish Community and Mahon Parish as well as our Family of Parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road and Mahon. Representatives of different parish groups in Mahon parish met with Fr. Michael and Fr. Rafal during the past week about this and everyone is looking forward and happy to prepare for this new chapter.

First Friday Visits – to the sick and housebound. If you know of someone who would welcome a visit please contact Fr. Michael (085 8735905)

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.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Daniel 12:1-3
We all wonder about belief in life after death—is it for real, what could it be like? Belief in the resurrection of the dead came surprisingly late in the biblical tradition. The context was religious persecution and how would God be faithful to those who had been faithful to him to the very point of death.

Second reading Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
How do we understand today what happened for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus? The writer, using Temple symbolism, tells us that Jesus' death, once for all, brought us everlasting healing and forgiveness.

Gospel Mark 12:24-32
In these unstable times, we do wonder about the future, ecologically as much as economically. Perhaps we can take courage from the words: *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). David Quinn: Needed: A new deal for mothers -- 'Repeated polls down the years show that only a minority of parents want to put their children into day-care'. (2). Martina Purdy: The new evangelisation -- 'One of the lessons of the Covid lockdown, from which the Church is still recovering, post-Covid, around 40% of Mass-goers did not return'. (3). Increase in enquirers to diocesan priesthood gives 'hope' for future. (4). Mary Kenny: A sad student story.

Tablet of 9/11. (1). Decision making in the Church. -- Can the Church perform open heart surgery on itself while it is still living and breathing? (2). Synod on Synodality -- Michael W. Higgins argues that the Synod was a success - but not in the way that had been expected. (3) Sarah Mac Donald: Kylemore Abbey. -- The opening of a new Benedictine monastery in the West of Ireland is the latest chapter in a story that is over 350 years old.

(4). Assisted dying -- Church mobilises against UK bill.

Trócaire Christmas Gifts of Change bring real hope and opportunity to families and communities living with poverty and injustice across our world, and a chance to create lasting and positive change from Somalia to Guatemala, from Sudan to Palestine. There are gifts for everyone starting at €5 for the Gift of Soap. You can support the gifts by buying them online at trocaire.org/gifts; by phone 1800 408 408/021-4275622; by post or in person to Trócaire, 9, Cook Street, Cork. T12 F583.

Online Advent Retreat. The Priory Institute is delighted to offer a FREE OF CHARGE online retreat *"Keeping Vigil for the Vulnerable God."* Visit our website prioryinstitute.com

Medjugorje May 28th, 7 nights. €949 pps half board in Hotel Leone. €100 DISCOUNT if paid by 15th November. €50 discount if deposit paid by 15th Jan. Spritual Director: Fr. Ted Sheehan. Limited places. All travelling with group entered in to group only draw to WIN cost of pilgrimage (excl single supplement). Group Leader Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380

The next meeting of Cork Regional Pioneer Council will take place in the Parish Centre Wilton 20th November 2024 at 8 p.m.

Afternoon Prayer organised by Cork Pioneers will take place from 2.20 - 4.30 in the Convent of the Missionaries of Charity, Blarney T23 F585 on Sunday 24th November 2024. Donation €10. For further details contact sorchaol@gmail.com or 086 3642619

Observations

November the month when we remember our beloved dead. It is a suitable time of year, as least in the northern hemisphere, with shorter days and longer nights. We started the month with the feast of All Souls, on the second and perhaps there some residual echo in the commercialised silliness of Hallowe'en.

A question naturally arises in our hearts and minds: what do we, what do I actually believe about those who have gone before us?

Does it matter that we have difficulty in imagining what is to come? Yes and no. It would help if we could picture it. Think of a child in the womb. It is safe in its watery world and cannot picture another form of life outside the womb and yet it will happen. In one of his letters, Paul tries to help us. In 1 Corinthians 15, he uses the image of seeds and plants to explore what a risen body might be like and what St Paul says is helpful. But even he knows that this is really in the hands of God. As he says earlier in 1 Corinthians, quoting the prophet Isaiah,

But just as it is written, *"Things that no eye has seen, or ear heard, or mind imagined, are the things God has prepared for those who love him."* (1Corinthians 2:9)
Perhaps it is enough to have that conviction, grounded in Jesus' own resurrection, grounded in the absolute faithfulness of God.

Reflections

1. Jesus speaks of the established order falling apart, but the collapse of the old order opened the way for new possibilities. When have you seen something new and hopeful emerge after the collapse of something that you had expected to endure much longer, perhaps even for ever?
2. The parable of the fig tree. Even in winter it begins to put forth leaves which give a hint of the fruit to come. Where have you found signs of hope in a wintry situation – in your own life, in the life of some group, in the life of the Church?
3. Jesus proposes no clear time-scale for the events being foretold, so the final sentence (v. 32) is a call to alertness, to live the present to the full. What different does it make to you when you are able to live the present moment to the full?

PRAYER

Your creation, O God, runs its appointed course; as far as the ends of the earth you gather a people you call your own. Confirm us in the strength of your abiding word. Steady our hearts in the time of trial, so that on the day of the Son of Man, we may without fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Afternoon of Reflection

On Sunday 8th December from 3pm – 5.30pm there will be an afternoon of reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist from the Family of Parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road, Mahon in Blackrock Parish Centre. Fr. Colm O'Shea SMA will guide the reflection. All involved in parish ministries such as Ministers of the Word of Eucharist and others are invited to attend to join in prayer and take the opportunity to meet together

AI Anon Group Meetings in our area – please contact 01 8732699 for details.

Thought for the day

Our expression "to have time for someone" is a heart-warming one, because giving time to someone is a real gift of myself, part of our consciousness of being human. The opposite—lack of time—is expressed in another idiom "Money rich but time poor." To be poor in time is a great deprivation, even when self-inflicted. It is all a question of perspective, values and choices. We do need to value the fleeting time we have and not live only towards a future, as yet unreal, moment. In the words of St Paul, Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Prayer

Help me, eternal God, to accept your gift of the present moment. It is the only moment I will ever have, so let me inhabit it richly and fully, and celebrate your gift of life in abundance.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE - Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

RECESSIONAL - How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.
CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee etc.

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly **Parent Support Evening on Tuesday 19th November at 7:15pm in the Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty.**



This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance. We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie

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