

Mass Times

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



Recently Deceased

Michael Ward, Silverdale
Anne Ryan, (nee O'Mahony), Glasheen.
May the light of God surround them forever.



Sacrament of Confirmation

Welcome to the Sixth Class Confirmation candidates and their families to our Vigil Mass this weekend. Their enrolment for the Sacrament is celebrated as a parish this year by gathering for this Mass.



We all realise that life is increasingly complicated and we gather to pray for our young people to strengthen them and give them the wisdom and guidance they will need in the coming years and in life. We are also realistic enough to acknowledge that the faith landscape is also changing. However, we know that we have something very precious and valuable in that faith. We all want our young people to experience that and please God, to bring it with them into life and the challenges that they will certainly face.

So this weekend, we gather, we pray, we ask the gifts of the Spirit for our young people and for all of us. St. Michael, pray for us.

Fr. Michael

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Blackrock Parish – will celebrate the **Sunday of the Word of God** this weekend. Pope Francis has instituted this celebration to highlight the importance of the Word when we gather for the Eucharist and on many other occasions when the Word helps us to meet and encounter the Risen Jesus in our own lives. At Christmas, we celebrated the 'Word made Flesh' in the newborn Infant Jesus. The gospels are more not just a history of Jesus but the proclamation of the Person of Jesus. The Word is God communicating or 'reaching out' to our real lives. Thank God for the blessing that we receive in the gift of the scriptures.
– Fr. Michael

Family of Parishes – Christian Meditation Group meets each Friday morning at 11am in Blackrock Parish Centre – Contact 087 6477841 for information

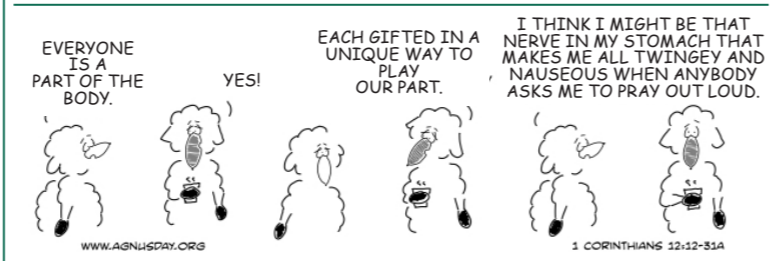
The Polish Community in the Diocese are preparing to transfer to Holy Cross Church from next weekend. This will be a special time for Mahon Parish and our Family of Parishes. Weekend Mass in Polish will be celebrated on Sundays at 3pm. There will also be one weekday Mass in Polish each Friday @ 7.30pm.

First Confessions 2025

Monday 3rd March: Scoil Barra Naofa Caillíní
Tuesday 4th March: Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí
Thursday 6th March: Gaelscoil Mhachan
Monday 10th March: Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's NS
Monday 7th April: Scoil na Croise Naofa

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading **Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19**
What is a prophet? The call of Jeremiah captures something of the role and challenge. It might help to call to mind prophets in our own day, people who speak out awkward truths.
Second reading **1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13**
This is a great reading—very rich and poetic. Love is praised as a person and we can see ourselves in the portrait.
Gospel **Luke 4:21-30**
This is the second half of a symbolic tableau, foreshadowing the later ministry of Jesus: the opposition he would encounter and his victory in resurrection. Jesus stands in the tradition of those prophets who suffered for their message and often paid for it with their lives.



Foundations in Theology and Sycamore Programmes for Young Adults

The Diocese of Cork and Ross, in collaboration with UCC Chaplaincy and the Presentation Brothers LEAF Project, is offering two exciting programmes for young adults (18-35 years), starting on Wednesday 29th January from 6-8pm in Mardyke House, Cork, T12 W8RP Both programmes will run concurrently over the next 10 weeks:

Foundations in Theology: This introductory programme explores the fundamentals of our Christian faith. Sessions will be presented by various experts, including some of our own priests.

Sycamore Formation Series: A welcoming and accessible starting point for young adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith.

Each session will begin with food and refreshments, and provide participants with an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion.

To sign up or for more information, please email Sheila at youthministry@corkandross.org

The death has taken place of Anne Ryan, (nee O'Mahony), Glasheen, sister of our Canon Tadhg. Our sincere condolences to the Canon and all the extended family. May she rest in peace.

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 2nd February 2025 for tea and bikkies and more chat!
Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!
Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment

Family of Parish Gatherings – Next Steps: Over the next four months all the Parishes and Families of Parishes of our Diocese will be involved in the next stage of our Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment. This will involve representatives of each Parish Leadership Team participating in 3 meetings over 3 weeks reflecting on the questions posed in Bishop Fintan's invitation in September. Since September, people individually and in Parishes, have been praying the Diocesan Prayer from the Boat. As we continue to pray this prayer together, we pray for the success of these gatherings and we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us as together we try to pray, listen, and discern God's future for our Church.

Observations

The Sunday of the Word of God was established just six years ago by Pope Francis. The Word of God Sunday falls each year on the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, after the cycle of Christmas feasts. The choice of the third Sunday makes sense because on that day we begin reading the Gospel for that particular year from the beginning. For example, on this Sunday our Gospel is Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21, giving us the prologue of the Gospel and the opening scene of Jesus' ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth. A good place to begin.

Each year, the Word of God Sunday has a theme. This year the theme is taken from Psalm 119 — not the whole Psalm, you will be glad to know! — but verse 74: "I hope in your Word." This year, the passage from Luke is especially appropriate for two reasons: (a) we hear the marvellous words "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen"; and (b) we notice at the end of the Isaiah citation the programme of Jesus: "to proclaim the Lord's year of favour," that is, the jubilee year.

Reflections

1. Jesus was filled with the Spirit and sent. He came bursting with a message to communicate. When have you had the experience of being enthused by something in that way? Who have been the people you met who had that kind of enthusiasm?
2. The message Jesus had was one of liberation and he told his listeners that it was being fulfilled even as they listened. When have you had a NOW moment of liberation? When has bible reading been an experience of liberation for you?
3. His message was addressed to those who were poor, oppressed, blind, or captives. Who are these today? In what ways have I been, or am I, among these? How has the message of Jesus been good news for you, freed you, given you new sight, or revealed God's favour to you?

PRAYER

Lord, God, whose compassion embraces all peoples, whose law is wisdom, freedom, and joy for the poor, full in our midst your promise of favour, that we may receive the gospel of salvation with faith and, anointed by the Spirit, freely proclaim it.



Keelin O'Rourke, Muireann O'Mahony, Jessica Callanan, Lucy Thornhill members of the Niamh Hatchell School of Dance representing Douglas Comhaltas became County Champions in the 11-14 age group 4-hand Céilí at the recent Ceol an Gheimhridh competition held in Macroom. Their Teacher Niamh Hatchell is on the extreme right

Pic George Hatchell

Ministers for the Eucharist 2025 rota is available in the sacristy.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
February Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 1/2 February 2025
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.
THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

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

Thought for the day

One of the encouraging signs in today's church is the growing popularity of lectio divina, praying the Scriptures. This is best done with other people because it is so enriching as we benefit from the observations and questions of fellow pilgrims. It comes alive when I can say "today, this scripture has been fulfilled in my hearing."

Prayer

Lord, inspire me to read your Scriptures and to meditate upon them day and night. I beg you to give me real understanding of what I need, that I in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet, I know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in your graceful love. So I ask that the words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of grace into my heart. Amen.
(Origen, 184-253 AD)

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.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are going to Lourdes from the 25-30 May 2025 from Cork. For more details please ring Mary at 021 454 6691 or email mary.morrish@mscmissions.ie.

FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 7th February

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.

