

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am

Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm

Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am

Baptisms are held on the 2nd and 4th

Saturdays of each month at 4pm.

Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP



Recently Deceased

Fr Michael Kidney,

SMA Community Blackrock

May the light of God surround him forever.



Lent 2025

There was a very great attendance at Mass in the church on Ash Wednesday. It's an expression of our wish to turn our hearts to God during the Lent in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. This is a special time of the year and may we never forget the importance of embarking on some sacrifice or some charitable action that takes us out of our comfort zone and look to God.



Fr. Michael
085 8735905

frmichael@corkandross.org

Trocáire Boxes – available in the church.

Sacrament of Confirmation – Coneartú – Congratulation to Rang a Shé from Gaelscoil Mhachan who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in Holy Cross Church last Tuesday.

First Confessions - every blessing on Second Class children from Scoil Barra Naofa Caillíní, Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí and Gaelscoil Mhachan who celebrated First Confession during the week. *Second Class children from Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's National School will celebrate their First Confession on this Monday 10th March and Scoil na Croise Naofa on Monday 7th April in Holy Cross Church.*

May God bless the children, their families, schools and parishes.

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

Monday 17th March – St. Patrick's Day – Masses @ 9am & 11am

Cork and Ross Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025

The diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this year will take place from Friday 19th September to Wednesday 24th September.

We will fly from Cork to Lourdes. Bookings are now open with Joe Walsh Tours on 01 2410 800 for anyone wishing to travel as a pilgrim.

Volunteers are also required: Doctors, Nurses, Care Assistants and Helpers (Adults and Young Adults aged between 18 to 25 years). For General Enquiries contact 085 2525 040 or Email: lourdes@corkandross.org



A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Silent gratitude is no good to anyone, and so we should express our gratitude to others and, of course, to God. All that we are and have comes from him.

Second Reading Romans 10:8-13

We probably don't look too closely at the nature of our own act of faith / trust in God. Paul invites us into that space today.

Gospel Luke 4:1-13

In this symbolic story, Luke reminds us that Jesus too had to struggle with temptation. The stories given reflect real issues which turned up during the ministry of Jesus—there were indeed false ways to be the Messiah!

The Papers Say.....

Messenger. (1) Children's pages. (2). Adult Crossword. (3). Pope Francis on Confirmation

Tablet. (1). All change -- Where next? As age and illness take their toll, will Pope Francis be able to complete the job of overhauling the US Church still dominated by the theologically and politically conservative culture warriors? (2). Michael W. Higgins: The caress of mercy -- As Catholics around the world pray for the recovery of Pope Francis, one of his biographers reflects on his Franciscan streak and Formation. (3). German elections. -- Rise of the Far Right

Irish Catholic. (1). David Quinn: An almost Christian coalition forms in London. (2). Fr. Joe Mullen: What does it mean to be a priest in today's world? (3). Garry O'Sullivan: The Irish Synod must ask harder questions to secure the Church's future. (4). 'Carlo Acutis, I am in your hands' -- Catholic paediatrician recovers from cancer

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 beginning on March 13th (13th, 20th, 27th March, 3rd April) from 7.30-9.00 pm. All welcome.



Stations of the Cross will be prayed on each Friday of Lent after the 9.30 Mass commencing Fri 14th. March

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

March collection came to €1970

Many thanks for your generous continued support.

Observations

Why not make the Gospel of Luke, the Gospel for this year, your spiritual reading for Lent 2025? I have in mind a double reading. First of all, if you can, read the whole Gospel through in one sitting. An Anglican friend of mind recently did exactly that on my advice and was amazed by the cumulative effect of the power of the writing. After this first, intense overview, then take some chapters and stories each week for reflection and prayer. On my website, tarsus.ie, I've got a *reading plan* for reading Luke in Lent. A seven-week reading plan will take us to Easter.

Faithful readers will find themselves in the hands of a great spiritual writer, a master story teller. It is no accident that in the tradition, Luke was said to have been a painter. His stories somehow lodge in our hearts and minds because Luke is a very painterly writer. My guess is that if a vox pop were taken, inviting people to name a Gospel story, the grand probability is that most would come from the Gospel according to Luke.

Perhaps we will find ourselves spontaneously echoing the words of the disciples on the road to Emmaus:

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32)

Fr. Kieran.

Reflections

1. Jesus was led by the Spirit into what proved to be a wilderness experience. When you look back on times when you hit a low point, can you see the presence of the Spirit of God in some of them?
2. Jesus is on the verge of starting his public ministry. In the temptations we can see his struggle to say 'yes' to the mission given him by God. Perhaps some of your important decisions have been preceded by a time of anxiety and worry. What helped you to say 'yes' to risky but hope-filled invitations in your life?
3. Behind each of the devil's invitations was a basic temptation to lose trust in God. How have you been tempted in this way? What helped you to hold on to trust in God?
4. One can enter into the temptations singly and ask:

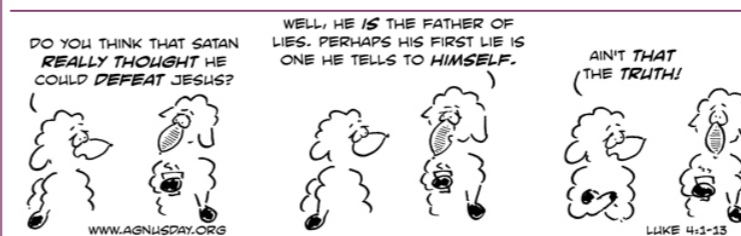
- How have I been tempted to give priority to bodily needs and satisfactions?
- How have I been tempted to a selfish use of power?
- How have I been tempted to seek to be the centre of attention?

PRAYER

Lord our God, you alone do we worship only your word gives life. Sustain your Church on its Lenten journey. When we walk through the desert of temptation, strengthen us to renounce the power of evil. When our faith is tested by doubt, illumine our hearts with Easter's bright promise.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

SECOND COLLECTION W/E 9th. MARCH. IRISH BISHOPS COMMISSIONS.



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

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Tuesday 18th March at 7.30pm in the Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty.



Thought for the day

The days of spring lengthen and Lent echoes nature inviting us as well to a new *springtime of faith*. As in farming and gardening, there is work to be done if new growth is to flourish or even to happen at all. We have to look back and see what has done well and what has, in effect, died off. We need to make space by clearing the ground and looking at ourselves honestly. It would be good to identify what will feed and sustain us during this journey from the ashes of Ash Wednesday to the new birth of the Easter.

Prayer

In this springtime, creator God, we watch new life appear from the dark earth after the night of winter. Help us also to grow. In us, there is darkness and night; yet we know that you can bring us once more to life. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE – God of Mercy and Compassion

God of mercy and compassion
Look with pity upon me;
Father, let me call thee Father,
For I now return to thee.
Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy,
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.

By my sins I have abandoned
Right and claim to Heaven above,
Where the saints rejoice for ever
In a boundless sea of love.
Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy,
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.

RECESSIONAL - 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.

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.

Cork Scripture Group Exploring Prophecy in the Bible

4 Monday nights (24, 31 March, 7, 14 April) from 7.30-9.30 p.m. in Scala, Blackrock
Presenters: Fr Seán O'Sullivan, Sheila Curran, Marian Mortell, Rosalie Moloney
Workshop on "Prophecy: Reading the signs of the times" with Jessie Rogers (Maynooth) in Sacred Heart Hall, Western Road from 10.00- 1.00 p.m. on Sat.5 April Cost €50.
To book a place please email corksripturegroup@gmail.com