

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock, Cork

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06/04/2025 5th Sunday of Lent

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES: Email to : parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

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BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office. MARRIAGES: Minimum 3 months notice required by Church and State. Pre-marriage course required.

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



Baptism Finn Edmond Nagle. Welcome to the Christian Family.



Recently Deceased Marjorie Hennessy, Blackrock May the light of God surround her forever.



Sacrament of Confession in preparation for Holy Week will be celebrated after Masses next weekend, Saturday 12th/Sunday 13th April. The Sacrament of Confession remains an important part of our faith lives as we turn to God seeking mercy and forgiveness. It continues to be part of our preparation for Holy Week to help us follow the steps of Jesus in his Passion, Death and Resurrection. This will be an opportunity to suitably begin Holy Week 2025 ahead.



Fr. Michael 085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

Easter Offering Envelopes are currently being delivered to homes and are also available in the church. – Thank you always for your generosity and kindness.

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

Chrism Mass: Bishop Fintan invites parishioners to join in the celebration of the Mass of Chrism on Holy Thursday (17th April) at 10am at the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne, Cork. At this Mass, with priests and parishioners from the Diocese, the Oils of Baptism and the Sick are blessed. Bishop Fintan will also consecrate the Oil of Chrism which will be used in parishes during the year. Bishop Fintan and the Priests of the Diocese will renew their priestly promises during this Mass. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Holy Week 2025 Holy Thursday @ 7pm (Celebration of the Lord's Supper) Good Friday @ 12noon (Stations of the Cross) & 3pm (Ceremony of the Passion) Holy Saturday @ 7pm (Easter Vigil) Easter Sunday @ 9am & 11am.



Stations of the Cross will be prayed on each Friday of Lent after the 9.30 Mass.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Isaiah 43:16-21 Our Lent stories now bring us to the return from Exile. The reading is rich in metaphors of life and new hope. Is there some word or phrase which really speaks to me? Second reading Philippians 3:8-14 In this touching reading, Paul writes as an old man, most likely under house arrest. And still the spark of faith is alive—he is still on the way, as we all are. Gospel John 7:53-8:11 People sometimes try to draw us into disputes and would like us to take sides. Just listen and see how Jesus sidesteps the trap set for him.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Letter from Syria. -- The wonder of Easter in the Holy Land. (2). Penance. -- What's the point? (3). Questions of Faith. -- Is spiritual communion the same as sacramental communion? (4). Fr. John Harris OP: Take me up to Monto. -- Frank Duff and the Legion of Mary in the 1920s

Tablet. (1). Austin Ivereigh: The wounded prophet, a Moses for our time. -- Pope Francis has returned to the Vatican from the Gemelli hospital, but the path to recovery will be long. What turn will this remarkable papacy take now? (2). 'Adolescence' -- A Netflix drama has exposed the corrosive impact of social media and misogynistic influence on teenage boys. (3). War in Ukraine. -- Philip McDonagh, a former Irish diplomat, reflects on the current negotiations to bring an end to the war in Ukraine in light of the gospels and the experience of the Northern Irish peace process.

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The Woman caught in Adultery The Pharisees bring a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, intending to trap him. Jesus, however, responds with a powerful message of forgiveness and a call to self-reflection, prompting the accusers to leave, one by one, and ultimately offering the woman mercy and a path towards a new life. Here's a more detailed breakdown: The Setup: The Pharisees, seeking to discredit Jesus, bring a woman caught in adultery before him, hoping he will contradict the Mosaic Law which calls for stoning in such cases.

Jesus's Response: Instead of condemning the woman, Jesus stoops down and begins writing in the dirt, then he famously says, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her".

The Accusers' Reaction: Jesus's words cause the accusers to leave, one by one, starting with the elders, as they begin to reflect on their own sins.

Jesus's Forgiveness: After the accusers are gone, Jesus turns to the woman and asks, "Where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replies, "No one, Lord." Then Jesus says, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on sin no more".

Themes and Significance: This passage highlights Jesus's compassion and his ability to forgive, even those who have sinned. It also emphasizes the importance of humility and recognizing one's own shortcomings before judging others. Jesus's words offer hope and a path to a new life for the woman, urging her to turn away from sin and live a life of holiness.

Observations The wonderful Gospel for this Sunday is like a short story, intense and graphic, a complete drama in miniature. Even though it is concise, it touches the core experiences of accusation and guilt, the individual and the group, tradition and innovation. Like many powerful stories, the Gospel is fraught with background. We would like to know more but much is left unsaid and a great deal is implied. Great stories work like that: they "flash upon the inward eye" and, somehow, they stay with us, lodging in our hearts and imagination. It is also a story for our time.

Reflections 1. Compassion for human frailty combined with a gentle challenge to a better life marked the response of Jesus. From whom have you experienced a compassionate challenge? What was that like for you? To whom have you given such a challenge? 2. The Pharisees and scribes self-righteously condemned the woman until Jesus brought them in touch with their own sinfulness. This was a conversion moment for them and they turned away from their quest for the death of the woman. Have there been times when your awareness of your own fragility and sinfulness has helped you to be less judgemental of others? 3. "What do you say?" can be an embarrassing question. Jesus had the courage to voice an opinion, even though it was against the party line of the day. When you have seen that courage shown – by yourself, or by another? What was the result? PRAYER God of power, God of mercy, you bring forth springs in the wasteland and turn despair into hope. Look not upon the sins of our past, but lift from our hearts the failures that weigh us down, that we may find refreshment and life in Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, mighty and strong, for ever and ever. Amen.



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL March Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 6 April 2025 Your support as always is greatly appreciated. THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

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.

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 6th April for tea and bikkies and more chat! Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!! Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



Thought for the day The rush to judgment—so evident in our public discourse—is matched only by the resistance to forgiveness. Endlessly, we investigate, accuse, judge. As we all know, what is needed eventually is forgiveness—but where do we find it? In the Christian vision we do not have to carry the burden of our guilt forever precisely "because God in his forbearance had passed over the sins previously committed." (Rom 3:25 NET) In the current idiom, "we do forgiveness" and so we should! Prayer God, whose name is mercy, we thank you for your gracious compassion to all. We ask that, as we have received, so we may give and forgive. Amen. K O'Mahony OSA

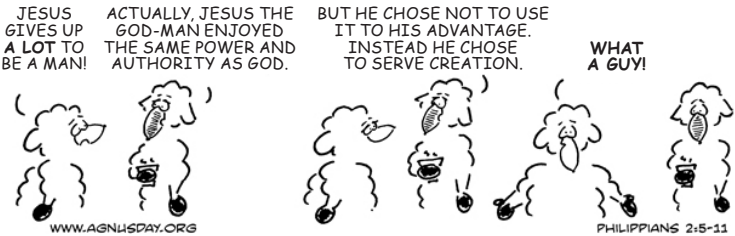
ENTRANCE – God of Mercy and Compassion

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.



PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K PetrolStation. The code to operate both is 2017

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