

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



An tSeachtain Mhór

We look forward to Holy Week, The Great Week, an tSeachtain Mhór especially this year when the world is so troubled and traumatised. There is something special about these days as we begin on this Palm Sunday. There is a drama about the liturgies of Holy Week. There is also a unique peace and calm as we follow the journey of Jesus entering Jerusalem on this Palm Sunday, in the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane on Holy Thursday, the steps of the Via Dolorosa on Good Friday and proclaiming the Resurrection of Jesus on Holy Saturday Night and Easter Sunday morning.



Here in St. Michael's, many people prepare and participate in the Holy Week liturgies. We are grateful to them all as we experience the drama of Holy Week. These are beautiful days ahead. In life, we often say that we would love to have a break or have a retreat. These coming days are the structure for our own personal retreat each day in the parish. St. Michael, pray for us and guide us this Holy Week.

Fr. Michael

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Easter Offering Envelopes have been delivered to homes during the past week and are also available in the church. – Thank you always for your generosity and kindness.

First Confessions. Well done to all the Second Class children, their families and their schools who have celebrated the Sacrament of First Confession in St. Michael's and Holy Cross recently. We look forward to the celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in both churches during May. These are very special days for the children.

First Holy Communions 2025

Sat. 3rd May Gaelscoil Mhachan (Holy Cross Church)
Sat. 10th May Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí
Sat. 17th May Scoil Barra Naofa Caillíní
Sat. 24th May Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's NS
Sat. 24th May Scoil na Croise Naofa (Holy Cross Church)

Collection on Good Friday 18th. April is for THE HOLY PLACES.
April 19th./20th. for PRIESTS OF THE PARISH.

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 50:4-7

The crucifixion of Jesus was a real challenge to the first Christians. When trying to understand the "what" and the "why", they went back to their bible (our "Old Testament"). Four poems in Isaiah, called today the Songs of the Suffering Servant, were very helpful to them and today we hear the third of these poems.

Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Like the first reading, this is poetry, really a kind of hymn. In it, we hear the sentiments of the very first generation of Christians as they reflected on the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Gospel

Luke 22:14-23:56

As we listen again this year, listen out for the compassion of Jesus towards all as he faces his death. Several small incidents illustrate this and serve as a key to the meaning of the whole Passion in Luke.

The Papers Say.....

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). Fr. Brian Grogan: The Eucharist. -- Unending Source of Hope. (2). Fr. Peter McVerry: A Dysfunctional Social Service System. (3). John Scally: Carlo Acutis. -- The New Young Saint. (4). Childrens pages.

Tablet. (1). America First?The idea that the United States is the greatest country in the world and a light unto the nations enjoys broad support in America, including among the majority of US Catholics who voted for Donald Trump. But is the 'America First' worldview compatible with Catholic teaching? (2). Lent 2025, The Jesus prayer. -- Touching Christ's hem. (3). Research shows that One in Four Christians in Britain let go of their faith. (4). Bishop Kevin Doran: Adapt but stay true to our beliefs.

Irish Catholic. (1) Fr. Martin Delaney: Pilgrims of Hope. -- Living the Jubilee in our parish. (2). Maria Steen: The threat to children's innocence in schools overseen by Catholic patrons. (3). David Quinn: Seizing religious orders assets would be illegal and harmful. (4). Mary Kenny: The moral maze of money Be charitable, don't be covetous about possessions or money. Act with honesty. It all seemed so simple.

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.

Jubilee Pilgrimage of 7 Altars of Repose | Cork City | Holy Thursday Evening



There will be a special walking Jubilee Year Pilgrimage of seven Cork City Churches on Holy Thursday Evening led by Bishop Fintan. This will begin after the 7.30pm Mass in The Cathedral with a brief period of adoration at the altar of repose. The pilgrim walk will then proceed to St Mary's, Holy Trinity, the South Parish, St Augustine's, St Francis', and finish with Night Prayer at Ss Peter and Paul's at 10pm. People are also welcome to make their own pilgrimage starting at any of the churches on the pilgrim route.

This is a special way to mark the Jubilee year and as part of this there will be a plenary indulgence granted to those who participate in the Night Prayer in Ss Peter and Paul's at 10pm, whilst meeting the usual necessary conditions (see corkandross.org for more details).

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

April collection came to €2425

Many thanks for your generous continued support.

Observations

Even though we mark Holy Week by very similar ceremonies each year, nevertheless each year it is different. It is different because we have changed and the world around us has changed. A year has gone by and we can all look back and ask what happened in that year for me. This could be anything — family, births, bereavements, work, relationships, health and, not least, my own journey of faith and prayer. It would be good to ask, how am I this year as I enter upon the commemorations of the "great events that give us new life in Christ."

Reflections

When you read the passage, stay with whatever part of it resonates with your own life, but make sure when you pray it that you stay with the passage until you get beyond the violence and the horror to find a good news lesson for you. A few specific points taken at random are:

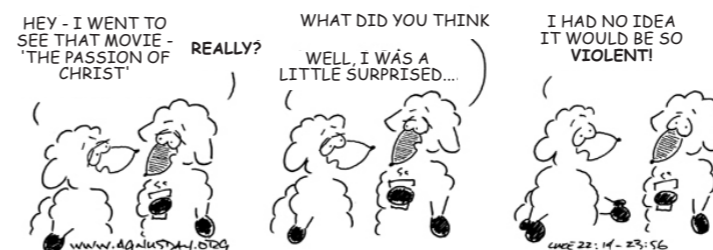
1. In this scene of great tragedy, there are people helping others, either reluctantly or with compassion: Simon, the women of Jerusalem, the criminal on the cross, and Jesus himself. Note the differences in the manner in which the help given (as a burden, with sympathy, etc). What has been your experience of helping and being helped?

2. Despite the persecution by the leaders Jesus still shows forgiveness. When have you seen that spirit of forgiveness in yourself or in others? In your experience what is the effect of a forgiving spirit ... or the absence of that spirit?

3. Towards the end there is a ray of light. Jesus says "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." His relationship with his Father was one of trust, even at a moment like this. What difference has it made to you in times of difficulty or pain to have a relationship of trust with God, or with someone else?

PRAYER

O God of eternal glory, you anointed Jesus your servant to bear our sins, to encourage the weary, to raise up and restore the fallen. Keep before our eyes the splendour of the paschal mystery of Christ and, by our sharing in the passion and resurrection, seal our lives with the victorious sign of his obedience and exaltation. Amen.



Thought for the day

Official memorial celebrations are familiar to us, marking great world or national events. Often, these are coloured by a mixture of sadness and gratitude. The Christian memorial of the last week of Jesus' life is entirely different. First of all, we tell the whole story again because he is risen from the dead. Secondly, this memorial is an effective one: as we do this in memory of him, the very same gifts of compassion, forgiveness, love and healing are offered again to all present, precisely because Jesus is risen from the dead. Our Christian memory is not a dead remembering but an effective bringing into the present of the great events that gave us new life in Christ.

Prayer

Saving God, as we recall in word and gesture the great events of salvation, let us know your healing love. Amen. K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE – Choir Only

Come O Come, Our Voices Raise (Saluda)
– Malcolm Archer

RECESSIONAL – Hail Redeemer

Hail Redeemer, King divine!
Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine;
King, whose reign shall never cease,
Prince of everlasting peace.

Refrain:

Angels, saints and nations sing :
"Praised be Jesus Christ our King;
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,
King of love on Calvary!"

Eucharistic King, what love
Draws thee daily from above,
Clad in signs of bread and wine,
Feed us, lead us, keep us thine.
Refrain:

King whose name creation thrills,
Rule our hearts, our minds, our wills;
Till in peace, each nation rings
With Thy praises, King of kings.
Refrain:

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.

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

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

