

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock, Cork

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18/05/2025

5th Sunday of Easter

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

1180

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



Recently Deceased Joan O'Hara, Rosegreen Avenue Fr. Des Smith SMA, Claregalway & Cork Julia O'Shea, Loughmahon Road May the light of God surround them forever.



Wedding Congratulations to Sinead White, Dunlocha & James Phillips, Ballinlough who were married in our church recently.



Baptism Issac Timothy O'Sullivan Welcome to the Christian Family.



Month of May

We have been blessed with magnificent weather for a few weeks now and gratefully look forward to another good week ahead. May truly has been beautiful. It is the month of Mary and the month for all the First Holy Communion ceremonies in the church. The sunshine has added to the joy of families as they gather in the church each weekend. We all get a bit nostalgic when we see the children in the church while listening to their singing and prayers. May God bless them always.



We are all working together as a parish community and school communities to give the children the very best of memories and a positive experience of our faith community gathering to pray and be together. We look forward to next Sunday 25th May when many of the children and their families will gather for 11am Mass and we will see our parish and church at its very best.

Fr. Michael 085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

First Holy Communions – Congratulations and every blessing to the Second-Class girls from Scoil Barra Naofa Cailíní who celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this weekend. Second Class children from Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's NS will have their First Communion on next Saturday 24th May.

The SMA Novena in honour of Our Lady of Knock continues St. Joseph's SMA Church, Blackrock Road until Saturday 24th May. Mass is celebrated each morning @ 10am.

Lourdes Pilgrimage from Ballinlough Parish and our Family of Parishes as part of the Cork and Ross Diocesan Pilgrimage 19th - 24th September 2025. Direct flights from Cork. Staying in the Saint Sauveur Hotel. Cost 995 euro per person. For general enquiries 085-2525040

Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is truly risen! Alleluia!

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First Reading Acts 14:21-27 A major missionary outreach is brought to completion in today's reading. Because of all the place names—not fewer than eight!—it can sound a bit hectic. The reading ends with a great image for this Year of Faith: God opened a door of faith to the pagans. Second Reading Apocalypse 21:1-5 What will heaven be like? Today's reading portrays the New Jerusalem in words which really speak to the heart and meet our deepest needs. Gospel John 13:31-33, 34-35 What is at the centre of our lives as Christians? Love is all! God is love. God's love is shown in Jesus. We are loved and in return we love. The very thing which gives us greatest human happiness is the very thing which God ask of us, that we may come to know the happiness of God.

The Papers Say.....

Tablet of 3/5 (1). Liz Dodd: The first people with whom I grieved for Pope Francis were a married gay couple and a trans woman (2). Christianity and politics -- No religion please, we're British. (3). The disobedient soldier -- Eighty years ago in the confusion and terror of the closing weeks of the war in Europe, a German corporal was shot after refusing a commanding officer's order to join a firing squad to execute an innocent man. Several decades later, the identity of the soldier was finally discovered. (4). Austin Ivereigh: Even the manner of Pope Francis' leaving us, early on Easter Monday, was impeccable Tablet of 10/4. (1). Searches for 'How to become Catholic' rise by 373 per cent (2). Austin Ivereigh: The issue of this conclave was how to take forward 12 years of epoch changing reform. (3). Christopher Howse: For President Trump to repost the image was grotesque -- but I can't feel it was offensive. (4). Following Peter. -- From every corner of the Church, we hear voices of hope, encouragement and prayer for the new Pope Irish Catholic. (1). Pope Leo XIV urges Church to renew mission with faith and humility in inaugural homily (2). Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA: Religious missionary Pope Leo brings his experience to new way of being Church. (3) John L. Allen Jr: Guess who's coming to dinner? The future Pope! (4). Bishop Donal Roche: My hopes for Pope Lep XIV

Pope Leo XIV OSA

By accident, my recent visit to Rome has coincided with the election of the new pope, a member of my own Order. Because we are such a small outfit, our former prior general is known to us all. He came twice to Ireland — each time for one of our four-yearly assemblies. Again by chance, I met him at lunch in our HQ Santa Monica, in Rome last November. Although by now in exalted position, Bob, as we all called him, was still Bob and you met the same person — laid-back, good-humoured, initially a little reserved. Of course, we are all thrilled and honoured. His background both as a religious and a missionary shaped by the South American church will stand to him.



To be honest, I was afraid that an attempt would be made to roll back the progress of Pope Francis, especially in regard to synodality, care for the earth and the role of women in the church. Thankfully, all three will continue under the leadership of the new bishop of Rome. His name alone is revealing, harking back to the pope who set in motion the now rich tradition of the social teaching of the church. So, phew! What a relief!

I was struck by his first appearance on the balcony (my position was way down the Via della Conciliazione — the huge screens were good!). He looked a bit emotional but happy/content. I think this is right. If God calls and you respond, at a deep level within there's a feeling that this is all under grace and actually right for you. We should now include him in our prayers every day. K. O'Mahony OSA

Observations

Probably we are all familiar with the words of the song: “the greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return.” I first came across the words in a film, Moulin Rouge, where the jingle was repeated often (on purpose!). The song was first recorded by Nat King Cole in 1948. The title of the song was “Nature boy”, composed by Eden Ahbez in 1947. For the composer, it was a reflection on his life and philosophy — Ahbez practiced a spiritualist philosophy called variously Naturmensch or Lebensreform.

Independently of the song's time and place, the words express the simple truth about us all: “the greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return.”

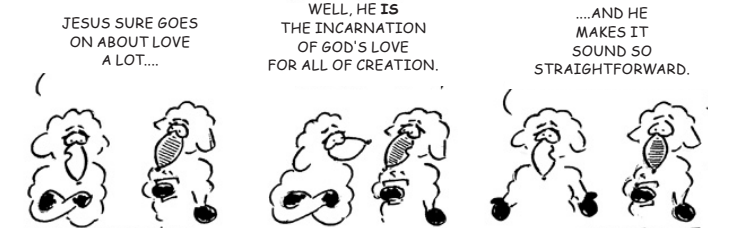
Reflections

- 1. Judas leaves and Jesus announces that the moment has come for God's power to be made manifest. This is unexpected at a moment of imminent betrayal. Have there been times for you when the power of God was made manifest in strange circumstances?
- 2. 'I shall not be with you much longer.' Jesus announces a parting of the ways. There are places we have to go in life where others cannot come with us. There are places others have to go and we cannot accompany them. When have you experienced this going on alone as necessary for a fuller life for yourself, or for someone else?
- 3. Jesus proclaims love as the distinguishing characteristic of his followers. Have there been times when reaching out to others has heightened your sense of walking in the footsteps of Jesus?
- 4. Who are the individuals or communities whose love for one another and for others has been a witness to you?

PRAYER We behold your glory, in the love shown by your Son, lifted up on the cross and exalted on high. Increase our love for one another, that both in name and in truth we may be disciples of the risen Lord Jesus and so reflect in our lives the glory that is yours. We ask this through Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Thinking about the Diocesan Priesthood?

There is a "Come and See" afternoon for men aged between 18 and 40 who may be thinking about Priesthood for the Diocese of Cork and Ross. It will take place from 2-5pm on Sunday May 25th in Mardyke House, Cork City (T12 W8RP). The afternoon will include time for prayer, reflection, discussion and a social dimension. For more information email vocations@corkandross.org



Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm 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. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie We are keen to grow this peer support group and grateful for your help in raising awareness of this free support for bereaved parents in your parish community.

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

Thought for the day

According to the song, “the greatest thing you'll ever learn is to love and be loved in return.” In our better moments, we all know this to be the truth about our human being. For believers, it is no surprise that the very thing we need most stands at the centre of the Christian faith: God is love. The match between our need and God's disclosure is perfect. If we took that really to heart, many things would change: our practice of prayer, our relationships, our joy in believing, our way of sharing our faith, our living of discipleship. All we need is love. The astonishing servant love of God in Jesus is exactly we most need. Prayer You are love itself and yet we hesitate. Open our inner selves to your gracious loving, that we may ourselves as beloved and being loved we may learn to love in return. Amen. K O'Mahony OSA

Entrance – Bring Flowers of the Rarest

Bring flowers of the rarest Bring blossoms the fairest From garden and woodland and hillside and dale; Our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling The praise of the loveliest flower of the vale

[Chorus] O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today Queen of the Angels, And Queen of the May O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today Queen of the Angels, And Queen of the May

Their lady, they name thee Their mistress, proclaim thee Ah, grant that thy children on earth be as true As long as the bowers are radiant with flowers As long as the azure shall keep its bright hue (Chorus)

Recessional – Hail Queen of Heaven

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean Star: Guide of the wand'rer here below, Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care; Save us from peril and from woe. Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea, Pray for the wand'rer, pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid, We sinners make our prayers through thee; Remind thy Son that He has paid The price of our iniquity. Virgin most pure, Star of the sea, Pray for the sinner, pray for me.

Mark your calendars for May 26th as Friends of ASI Bessboro are pleased to announce our free Dementia Awareness Workshops in Cork City.

The Dementia Awareness Workshops will be hosted in The ASI Bessboro campus on May 26th and there are four workshops – 9:30am-11am or 12:30pm-2pm or 4:30pm-6pm or 7pm-8:30pm.

Upon completion, you will be able to display a Friends of ASI commitment sticker, as a sign of your support to people living with Dementia and their families. Don't miss out on this chance to join us in building a Dementia Inclusive Community in the Blackrock / Mahon / Ballintemple / Ballinlough area. Please contact me to book your place on a workshop. Laura - Mobile: 087 3736496