

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock, Cork

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13/07/2025


15th Sunday Ordinary Time

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


1238

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  
Helen O’Brien, Rockcliffe  
Margaret (Bobbie) O’Sullivan. Church Rd.  
May the light of God surround them forever.



Baptism  
Sadbh Ellen Ryan.  
Welcome to the Christian Family.



Corcaigh abú

There is great expectation about as we all look forward to the All Ireland Final next Sunday. Additionally, we have been blessed with great summer weather and sunshine during the past week. Furthermore, there are a good few weddings being celebrated in churches and parishes. The children are on school holidays and many grandparents may be off-duty for a few weeks. These are special days and hopefully will be even more special and memorable next Sunday in Croke Park. Best wishes from everyone in Blackrock Parish and our Family of Parishes to Alan Connolly, Robbie Cotter and Wayne Sherlock next weekend. The pride of the parish and prayers assured!



St. Vincent de Paul July Collection - takes place this weekend – While the collection ordinarily takes place on the first Sunday of each month, it traditionally takes place on the second Sunday in July and December

Catholic Papers – available in the church weekly. Thank you for your support particularly throughout the summer months when our routines can change somewhat.

First Friday Visits to the Sick and Housebound – Many people have been in touch to let us know of a family member who would welcome a visit to receive the Blessed Sacrament in their homes. This is so important for people who came to the church all of their lives and now can do so no longer. If you know of a neighbour or family member who needs a visit just let us know.

Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment  
Copies of Bishop Fintan’s pastoral response are available at the back of the church. This Pastoral Letter and the thematic summary of the responses from our Family of Parishes and the diocese as a whole are available on the diocesan website www.corkandross.org

Fr. Michael  
085 8735905  
frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings  
First reading Deuteronomy 30:10-14  
Did you ever feel God was totally remote, his commandments way beyond our capacity? This reading may set you right!  
Second reading Colossians 1:15-20  
For the next four Sundays, we hear passages from Colossians, a very uplifting and poetic text. Today's passage may help us reflect on who is Jesus for us, for me today.  
Gospel Luke 10:25-37  
Don't let familiarity with this reading dull your hearing of it. The parable goes to the very heart of being a Christian— love of God and love of neighbour are really the one and the same love.

The Papers Say.....  
Irish Catholic. (1). St. Oliver Plunkett, a Pilgrim of Hope for our time. (2). Mary Kenny: The former Leitrim priest who works for a Gaza-Israeli peace deal. (3) Fr. Bernard Cotter: Lessons from a vibrant parish. (4). A life serving the poor. -- Bro. Kevin Crowley laid to rest. (See also TVRadio column) .  
  
Sacred Heart Messenger. (1)Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA: New Pope. - An Augustinian Pope. (2). Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon SJ: New Pope. -- Giving Thanks. (3). Adult and Children's Crosswords. (4). The Pharisee and the Tax Collector.  
  
Tablet (1)Middle East Conflict. -- Israel's existential choice. (2). Campaigning for Justice. - As a penal reformer, socialist peer and minister in two UK governments, Lord Longford is remembered by his daughter as someone who never minded seeming ridiculous for a good cause. (3) Missile and drone attack intensity. In Ukraine- Pope Leo affirms closeness to 'martyred ' )country. (4). Syria-Malabar liturgy dispute resolved with compromises

Tips for keeping cool in hot weather  
When inside you should:  
● turn off lights and appliances not in use as they generate heat  
● close windows that face the sun during the day, and open them at night when the temperature drops  
● close curtains in rooms that get morning or afternoon sun  
● sprinkle water over your skin, or keep a damp cloth on the back of your neck  
● use an electric fan (but only if the temperature is below 35 degrees)  
When outside you should:  
● avoid going out during the hottest part of the day if possible (11am to 3pm)  
● wear light and loose-fitting clothing that covers your skin  
● wear a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses  
● regularly apply a broad-spectrum (UVA and UVB) water-resistant sunscreen to skin that is not covered, using factor 30+ for adults and 50+ for children  
● stay in the shade  
Drink plenty of fluids  
● Adults need about 2 litres of water over 24 hours (may be less for smaller people or those with medical conditions)  
HSE GUIDELINES

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL  
July Church Gate collection will take place on  
Week ending 13 July 2025  
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.  
THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

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

The Cosmic Christ  
The second reading for today is poetic, allusive and mysterious. You will certainly have felt that when you heard the words.  
  
Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God  
and the first-born of all creation,  
for in him were created  
all things in heaven and on earth

We are perhaps not used to thinking in such terms. The reading from Colossians invites us to stretch our imaginations and to think widely and deeply about the place of our faith. Like many people who study the Scriptures, I think St Paul did not write this letter. it belongs to a later generation and the letter serves to bring Pauline teaching up to date in the wider context of philosophies and science of the day. This is the very task we have to undertake as well. Our worldview has expanded as well. We now think automatically in terms of evolution and the long emergence of humanity. Even if we are not experts our imagination is stirred by the new cosmology, the Big Bang and the extraordinary age of the universe. The figure of 13.8 billion years is often given. If that were not enough, there is the sheer size of our expanding universe. A few years back, I googled how many galaxies there are. The answer then was between 100 and 200 billion, approximately. The current common opinion seems to be two trillion, a figure which involves 12 zeros. Breath-taking stuff!!

K O'Mahony OSA

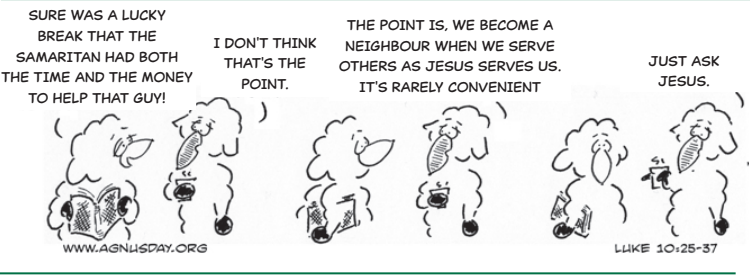


Reflections  
1. Today’s gospel brings us right to the heart of what a Christian life involves: love of God and of neighbour. Jesus tells us that having life both now and in the future is the fruit of living in a spirit of love. How have you experienced the power of love given and received to be a source of life and vitality?  
2. With media today we are brought face to face with suffering, poverty and hunger so vast that it can engender a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness. What the parable challenges us about is how we react when we come face to face with a person in need. We may sometimes try to avoid getting involved. Recall when you overcame this reaction and reached out to help. What did that do for you, and for the other person?  
3. Bring to mind the people who have been an inspiration to you by the care and attention they have given to others.  
  
PRAYER  
In Christ you draw near to us, God of mercy and compassion, lifting us out of death, binding up our wounds, and nursing our spirits back to health. Let such a tenderness as yours compel us to go and do likewise. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

Thought for the day  
The question raised in today’s Gospel is never out of date or out of season. It is perfectly natural to think of our neighbours as literally the people nextdoor, people “like us” as we say. But, that is to stay well within our comfort zone and, as Jesus puts it sharply elsewhere, “even the Gentiles love those who love them.” Far more is demanded, especially in today’s context of spiralling migration, with all its challenges of finance, housing, income, education of the young, work for the able and so forth. While bearing in mind the practical and social consequences, the whole thrust of the Gospel passage is to see my neighbour as any fellow human being in need.  
  
Prayer  
Generous God, as we rejoice in your kindness towards us, help us to imitate your love for all without distinction.  
  
K O'Mahony OSA

Diocesan Purposes Collection 19th / 20th July 2025  
The Diocese of Cork and Ross provides vital support to our parishes in many areas, including Education, Religious Faith Formation in schools, Mission and Ministry, Youth Ministry, Safeguarding, and Stewardship and Governance. We also offer guidance in practical matters such as Data Protection, Finance, and Property.  
This work is only possible because of your continued generosity. In April, the Diocesan Quarterly Collection raised €48,661 — a contribution for which we are deeply grateful. These funds help sustain and strengthen the mission of our parishes and Families of Parishes.  
As we continue this special Year of Prayer, Listening, and Discernment across our Diocese — seeking together how God is calling us to be his Church and faith communities for the future — your support is vital.  
The next Diocesan Quarterly Collection will take place on the weekend of 19th & 20th July 2025. Your generosity at that time will be greatly appreciated.



You are invited to join the Cork Pioneer Group pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday 20th July, Departing from The Way of the Cross Church, Togher. There will be pick up points at the North Cathedral and also in Watergrasshill. For all enquiries Contact: Sorcha 086 3642619 Cost €75 incl. meals

SPEED DATING FOR CATHOLICS  
IN AID OF MARY’S MEALS  
On Saturday 19th July at The Kingsley Hotel, Cork, meet other single Catholics who share your faith in a fun and relaxed environment. This in-person event is the perfect opportunity to meet like-minded individuals while raising money for the amazing charity Mary's Meals. There are two sessions, ages 35 - 55 @ 5.30pm and ages 27 - 40 @ 8pm. Tickets €23, see www.eventbrite.ie, search for 'Speed Dating for Catholics' and put Cork as the location. Email littlerosesevents@gmail.com

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