

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
Jack Dara Wheatley.

Welcome to the Christian Family.



Recently Deceased

Margaret (Peg) Winning. Ballintemple.
May the light of God surround her forever.



While we enjoy these beautiful summer days and a time of rest for many families, we see images of war and famine every day. Worst of all, we see images of starving and distressed children. The temptation is to give in to despair and to forget the most powerful Christian weapon which is prayer. Pope Francis was blessed with the gift of gesture, communication and powerful words. This is his prayer for peace which is more needed now than ever:

"Let us pray with one heart and one soul – Lord come to our aid, grant us peace, teach us peace, guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: Never again war.' Lord Hear Us."

"May the weapons be stopped: they will never lead to peace, and may the conflict not widen! Enough! Enough, brothers! In Gaza, let the wounded be rescued immediately, let civilians be protected, let far more humanitarian aid be allowed to reach that stricken population. May the hostages be freed, including the elderly and children. Every human being, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, of any people or religion, every human being is sacred, is precious in the eyes of God and has the right to live in peace. Let us not lose hope: let us pray and work tirelessly so that the sense of humanity may prevail over hardness of heart." - Pope Francis

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

Fr. Michael
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A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23
We probably don't often think of the Bible and philosophy. Our first reading is from a very philosophical book, casting a cold eye of the futility of much that we do.
Second reading Colossians 3:1-5
We are all baptised into Christ. If we find ourselves wondering what that might mean, our reading from Colossians might be a good place to start.
Gospel Luke 12:13-21
Sometimes we need reminding of the plainest truth of our faith, such as life is not made secure by what we own. So what does make life secure?

The Papers Say.....

Tablet of 26/7. (1). The new papacy -- A Church at the crossroads. In what direction will Pope Leo take the Catholic Church? And who will follow his lead? (2). Polish Catholics -- On a missionary journey. (3). Mary Kenny: The abortion papers. -- Letters sent to a journalist more than 40 years ago show how radically attitudes to abortion - and to 'consent' and 'coercion' - have changed. (4). Proclaiming the Gospel - In Africa, Asia and Sputh America the seminaries are full. 31,000 men are training to be priests. Missio's national director in England and Wales reflects on how faith can flourish in very challenging situations.

Tablet of 19/7. (1). Joanna Moorhead: Assisted suicide -- Since assisted suicide was decriminalized in the Netherlands, what was once unthinkable has become normalized - and the attitudes of Catholics, too, are changing. (2). Austin Ivereigh: A slow learner cares for creation -- Nature's sting. (3). France.-- Diocesan job for convicted rapist. Archbishop defends decision as 'act of mercy'.

Irish Catholic. (1). David Quinn: Internet age verification law a step in the right direction. -They have no control over what they are seeing outside the home. Their friends can show them anything on their phones in schools and elsewhere. (2). Faith in motion -- How two Church leaders blend their life of exercise with religion. (3). Faith under fire -- A view from Holy Family Church, Gaza. (4). Fr. Martin Delaney : A summer of discontent and a possible laity spring.

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

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre
after 11 am mass on 3 August for tea and
bikkies and more chat!

Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!
Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



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.

Rich in the sight of God

The writer of the Gospel of Luke seems to have come from what we would call a comfortable, educated background. He has travelled widely and he is not only gifted as a writer but has enjoyed a decent education. Odd details or slips can be revealing. When Luke mentions money, the amounts are always larger than in Mark, who always deals in the smallest coinage. In the story of the paralysed man let down through the roof, in Mark is a mud roof. In Luke, the roof has tiles on it, so we've gone up a grade. And so on. Given his background, it is all the more remarkable, therefore, to hear what Luke has to say on money and possessions, explored this Sunday and next Sunday.

There is no need to labour the parable of the rich fool and its message. We've all come heard of people who have amassed wealth, only to die suddenly and unexpectedly. As we used to say, shrouds have no pockets. The warning stands, of course, as Luke intends it to stand. But to me, the more interesting remark is at the tail-end of story:

So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.
How would you make yourself rich in the sight of God?



Reflections

1. "One's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions", said Jesus. What have you found by experience to be more important in life than possessions? What brought this home to you?
2. "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed". Perhaps you have seen how greed can lead to trouble in public life, in family life, and in the personal life of individuals. What has helped you to guard against greed? What benefits have you experienced when you were less greedy?
3. The message of the parable could be summed up in saying, "If you want to give God a laugh, tell him your plans". Life takes many twists and turns we do not anticipate. When have you found that have had to change your plans because of unexpected circumstances? What has helped you to be flexible and resourceful at such times?

PRAYER

O God, the giver of every gift that endures, only by your grace can we rightly understand the wonder of life and why it is given. By the word of your Son challenge our foolishness, confront our greed, and shape our lives to the wisdom of the Gospel. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

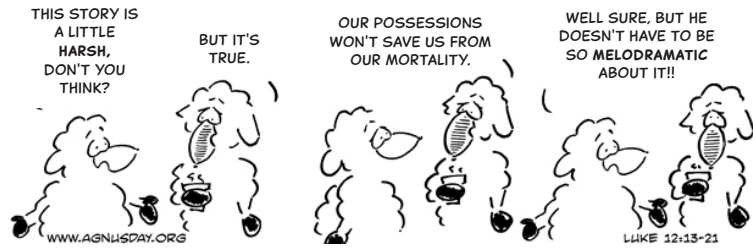
Thought for the day

If any lesson were to be learned from times of recession, surely it would resemble today's Gospel. Riches are precarious; material security is unstable; dreams of untroubled longevity are soon dispelled by "events." Paradoxically, our experience of life as fickle can take us in quite opposite directions. We might be tempted to plunge ourselves into more enjoyment of the present moment, as St Paul caustically observes: "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." (1Corinthians 15:32 NET) The road less travelled is to become "rich towards God." It still means enjoying and living the present moment, but in a completely different, deeper and ultimately more lasting way.

Prayer

God of wisdom, help us to see through all that is false yet enticing; be our guide on the path of life.

K O'Mahony OSA



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

August Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 3rd August 2025

Your support as always is greatly appreciated.

THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

Men's Jubilee Camino

Men's hike - Sat Sept 13th 20kms, on greenway, from DominicanAbbey (ruin) in Carlingford to Newry (St Catherine's) via Newry Cathedral (Jubilee Indulgence). Mass, Adoration, Rosary, Confessions & Fraternity. Registration & details on www.dominicans.ie/events/ . €70 (Lunch, dinner & bus), over 18's male event. Enquiries to op.evangelisation@gmail.com.

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

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

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