

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock, Cork

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17/08/2025 20th Sunday Ordinary Time

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



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 Elizabeth (Betty) Buckley, Ballinlough Rest in Peace

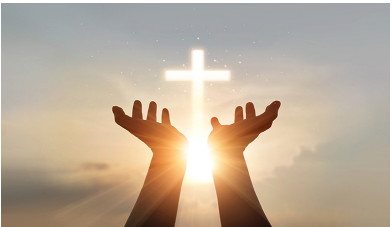


Baptism Ellie Philomena Cotter. Donnacha Kevin Delaney. Cillian Dermot Delaney. Fionn Joseph Delaney. Éanna John Madden. Welcome to the Christian Family.



Praise God

We have been blessed with beautiful summer days this month and look forward to more in the coming week. While some of the post primary schools will gradually reopen during the coming week, our primary schools will have a few more days to enjoy the best of the summer. The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which we celebrated last Friday 15th August, was always a traditional turning point in the summer holidays. Please God, this year, it will herald more nice days to enjoy for the remainder of the school holidays.



Praised be you, my Lord with all your creatures Especially Brother Sun Who is the day and through whom you give light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; And bears a likeness of you Most High. Praise be you my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, In heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful. Praised be you my Lord through Brother Wind, And through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather Through whom you give sustenance to your creatures. Praised be you my Lord, through Sister Water, Who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste. Praised be you my Lord, through Brother Fire, Through whom you light the night, And he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Fr. Michael 085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings First reading Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 Good people who talk straight often trigger strong opposition. This happened frequently to Jeremiah, the great prophet. The context is the siege of Jerusalem and the prophet had just told people to run away and save their lives! Second reading Hebrews 12:1-4 "Life is difficult"—the opening words of that popular book, The Road Less Travelled. The life of faith, too, has its challenges, as we hear. Gospel Luke 12:49-53 We tend to link Christianity with "family values." Here's another angle, as Jesus disrupts family life, causing dissension.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). The State is promoting a narrative that religious orders are refusing to atone for the past. (2). Breda O'Brien: If parishes build it, the young will come. Generation Z asking deep questions about spirituality. (3). New lectionaries includes 'women' and 'sisters'. (4). Walking Together -- a Latin American perspective on the Synodal Pathway. (5). Fr. Barry White: Pope Leo's first 100 days (5). German bishops sharply divided over same-sex blessing guidelines

Sacred Heart Messenger. (1). John Scally: Sr. Crockett, a young nun's story. (2). David Breen: Jesus, money and possessions. (3) Fr. Brendan Mc.Manus SJ: Accepting limits after surgery (4). Kevin Hargaden: Light in our darkening world

Feast of St. Clare

Earlier this month, we celebrated the Feast of St. Clare who founded the Poor Clare Sisters. While St. Clare did this, she worked closely with St. Francis and this weekend we pray his prayer in gratitude for the beautiful summer and in earnest prayer to protect our beautiful world and common home.



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.

Prophets: rare, awkward, needed! When the new pope, Leo XIV, first stood on the balcony of St Peter's, his first words were "Peace be with you." In his first couple of weeks as pontiff, he has spoken tirelessly of peace — a message badly needed in our world. It is, therefore, a shock to hear Jesus say in today's Gospel: "Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No!"

What sense, if any, can we make of today's strange Gospel? Firstly, it needs to be said the prophets are rare, awkward and necessary. Genuine prophets — not those who foretell but those who tell forth — are of necessity rare. Usually, such figures are also awkward, challenging conventional views and values in ways which leave us disconcerted and uncomfortable. Prophets are also necessary: people who penetrate the fog of the conventional because we are often in danger of sleepwalking through life.

The predecessor of Pope Leo, Pope Francis of beloved memory, was in his own way a prophet. He rattled the cage of the institutional church — a necessary rattling — by putting mercy front and first. An example is his allowing the blessing of so-called "irregular unions." His stance on synodality was surely prophetic, heralding an entirely new way of being church, a listening church, a humble church, a church of participation, communion and mission. It is wonderful that the new bishop of Rome has committed himself to the prophetic initiatives of Pope Francis. Amen!

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL August collection came to €2155 Many thanks for your generous continued support.

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

Reflections

- 1. The commitment of Jesus to his mission is shown in his desire to undergo the baptism that awaits him. Have there been times when there was something you greatly hoped for, even though you knew there would be a baptism of fire along the way? What was it like for you to undergo such a baptism of fire and then arrive at what you desired?
- 2. Jesus recognised that the message he proclaimed would meet with a mixed reception. This did not hold him back from proclaiming the Reign of God. When have you seen this kind of courage in yourself, or in others?
- 3. Jesus challenged those listening to him to commit themselves to discipleship, despite opposition from those close to them, even family members. When have you found that being true to yourself and to your beliefs required such courage? What was it like for you when you were able to follow that courageous road?

PRAYER To set the earth ablaze, O God, your Son submitted to a baptism unto death, and from his cup of suffering you call the Church to drink. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and give us strength in time of trial to run the race that lies before us. Amen.

Thought for the day The famous reflection of Teilhard de Chardin suggests itself: The day will come when, after harnessing the ether, the winds, the tides, gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And, on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire. The uncertainties of today are evident, political, economic and environmental. What can we as people of faith contribute? Again in the words of Teilhard, "there is something wonderful afoot in the universe." The eyes of faith see the deeper pattern.

Prayer God of the cosmos, you hold everything in being. God of love, you love the human race. God of our hearts, helps us to see your handiwork not only in the universe, but in the everyday events of our lives. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA



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.

Dante Alighieri Society Italian Language Classes & Cultural Lectures in Cork Enrolment: Enrolment : First Monday in Sept in Ursuline College, Blackrock or Online from 1st Sept. by email to dantecork@gmail.com Conversation Classes on Zoom for Distance Students. €200 per annum for Full Membership. €75 per annum 'Associate Membership' (Cultural Lectures only).

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.