

### 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**



### Weddings

Congratulations to

**Clare Carlile and Colin O'Callaghan** who were married in our Church on Friday 22nd. August. 2025.

Fr. John Walsh officiated.



Congratulations to

**Tara Lillis and Desmond West** who were

Married in our Church on Saturday 23rd. August, 2025.

Fr. Michael Keohane officiated.

### Baptisms

**Aida Marie Cahalane.**

**Oisín Thomas Cronin.**

**Kellie Cecelia Glavin.**

**Dion John O'Mahony.**

**Welcome to the Christian Family.**



### Recently Deceased

**David Murphy, Skehard Road**

**Ellen Love, Blackrock**

**Rest in Peace**



### LOOKING AHEAD

At the start of September several new initiatives are prepared to commence in our Family of Parishes and in the Diocese. It's very easy for a narrative to develop that somehow our parishes are diminishing. New things show that this is far from the truth. These initiatives will compliment the vital work and ministry of our parish as we celebrate the sacraments together, as the children prepare to receive the sacraments for the first time, as pray together with beautiful music and so much more. The true narrative is that we continue to serve the people of our parish and parishes to stay close to God and to share our joy in the gospel and in our faith.



**Diocesan Meeting** - for parish representatives will take place on Sunday 14th September and our parish will be represented as part of our Family of Parishes.

**Alpha Programme** - will begin in our Family of Parishes in SMA Parish. We will hear more about that at weekend Masses on 13th & 14th September.

**Do This in Memory Programme** - for First Holy Communion children and their families will begin soon.

**Parish Confirmation Programme** - this is under preparation and will take place this year as well.

**Children's Adoration** - continues on Friday 5th September from 3 - 3.30pm.

**Gougane Sunday - 28th September** - during this Jubilee Year of Hope it is possible for people to gain an indulgence through participation

**Sycamore & Foundations in Theology** - are two programmes for young people between 18 - 35 years. Details on the church noticeboards.

**SMA Church in Blackrock Road** is currently closed while recent structural damage is being assessed. A few sacramental celebrations have been transferred to St. Michael's in the interim and we are glad to assist at this time.

*Fr. Michael*  
085 8735905

### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading** Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29

What kind of person would you like to be? Being humble combines being realistic about yourself and receptive towards others.

**Second reading** Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

The opening question behind this reading is a good one: what have we come to? This implies a journey of faith, which is explored by comparing earlier experiences with later ones. As we all do this, it might be good to go back over your own experience.

**Gospel** Luke 14:1, 7-14

Social customs were fairly different in the past. But the human heart is the same: we all like being picked out and promoted. Jesus' teaching is very diametrically opposed.

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1). Breda O'Brien: Faith, not funds, is the biggest challenge for Catholic schools (2). Martina Purdy: Knock at a time of Faith, fun and mission. (3) David Quinn: Is the Church cooperating with evil in Israel? (4). Questions of Faith? -- Why don't bishops excommunicate politicians who support abortion? (5) Fr. Bernard Cotter: On writing a guide for marrying couples. **Tablet of 23/8.** (1). Church history -- What really happened at the Council of Nicaea. -- a council which continues to be widely misunderstood. (2). Mary McAleese Pope Leo XIV -- the first hundred days. (3). Life in the cloister. -- Some of the nuns were surprised when Mother raised the possibility of a week off, with the lifting of the daytime custom of silence, morning lie-ins and egg and spoon races on the lawn. (4) India -- Priests and nuns ambushed in latest 'anti-Christian witch hunt'. **Tablet of 0/9** (1). Catholic Mission online. - 'Not for likes but for love...'. (2) Doctor Newman's prescription. -- Pope Leo has given his stamp of approval to a theologian who charted a middle way between error and excess, had a distaste for extremism, encouraged consultation and defended debate and argument among scholars (3) Lay preachers. -- As Catholics get more used to appreciating the insights into the scriptures of lay men and women, it is getting more difficult to argue that preaching at Mass must be restricted to increasingly over-stretched priests.

**BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL**  
August Church Gate collection will take place on  
**Week ending 7th September 2025**  
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.  
**THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND**

**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 7 September for tea and bikkies and more chat!**

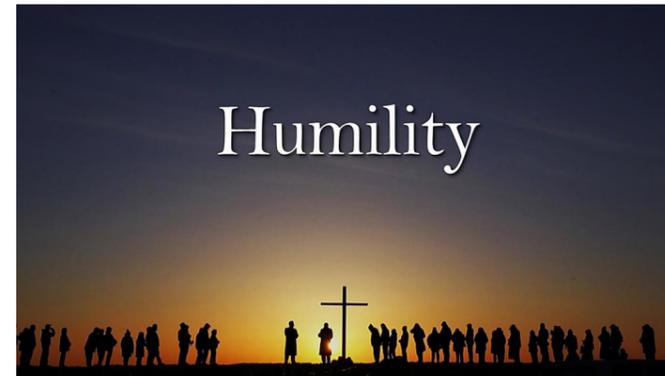
**Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!**  
*Everyone welcome - Ah go on!*



### Is being "humble" really necessary?

The core teaching in today's first reading and gospel seems to be against the spirit of our times in at least two ways. As we look around the world, we don't see humility in practice; rather we see power games, fascism and brute force, such as in Gaza or in the Ukraine. At a more personal level, we wary of putting people down and are keen to affirm each other - especially to affirm the young. In the Irish proverb, *Moloig an óige and tiocfaidh sé*. Encouragement is, rightly, the order of the day.

And yet, the saying about the humble in today's Gospel occurs not once but twice Luke. What is repeated is important. Even more, there are many parables in Luke to back up this teaching, such as the one today or the Pharisee and the tax-collector. Jesus himself was a model of humility - I am among you as one who serves. So, something important is being said about being a Christian.



### Reflections

1. The first scene portrays a common dilemma—choosing between a received tradition and what is good in a particular situation. When have I been faced with such dilemmas and how did I respond?
2. Jesus consistently places the "good" above the rules, a challenging position for today's church at a critical juncture. For example, the Catholic tradition of a celibate clergy can result in depriving communities of the Eucharist. Have I had similar experiences in my own sphere of influence?
3. Seeking respect and (metaphorically) my place at the table is a normal human desire. It can become deformed into the raw putting of myself first while ignoring others.
4. In a disturbing way, Jesus upturns the everyday view of social interaction and relationships. The radical call of the gospel can be very threatening and yet we know that this practical expression mirrors the inclusivity of Jesus' own proclamation. Where do I feel such a radical call and how do I act?

### St Michael's Church Choir

Our choir sings at the 11:00am Sunday Mass and other important occasions during the church year. Pre-mass rehearsals (at 10:00am) and participation at mass resumes on Sunday 7 September. Maybe you are new to the Parish, or have always wanted to join? We are a female choir and presently number 14 singers. We are actively seeking new members and you will be made very welcome. Prior knowledge of musical notation is not required but you should be able to sing in tune and be open to becoming part of a special and dedicated group of existing members. If interested why not meet us on the balcony before or after mass. See separate handout for fuller information.

### Thought for the day

Customs surrounding hospitality are deeply embedded in every culture. Normally, we pay little attention to this because we just act "normally." When we change cultures, however, even simple things like words and gestures of greeting are new, often different. Jesus, in his ministry, took on such deeply embedded, self-serving customs and reversed them in the light of the Gospel reversal of all values. Radical change is always resisted and even today his teaching is put in practice only by the few.

Prayer

*Compassionate God, at your table, all are welcome. As we enjoy your hospitality, help us to take it to heart, so that as we have received, so we may give.*

K O'Mahony OSA



### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Rosary and Benediction will commence at 4pm. each First Friday. There are time sheets on the tables in the Church where Parishioners can indicate the times most suitable for them to Attend. We would like, if possible, if there could be 2 people present for each period. If there are vacant periods we would Appreciate volunteers to fill these times by putting their names on the list. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION

### Send your Prayer Petitions to Lourdes

The Cork and Ross Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from September 19th to 24th this year. Over 450 pilgrims are expected to travel including 90 or so who require assistance, and 120+ volunteer helpers. You might like your prayer petitions to be brought to Our Lady's Grotto in Lourdes. At the back of the Church, you will find some Prayer Petition Sheets and a pen. Please feel free to fill these in and return to the sacristy/parish office. The parish will then forward these to the Diocese so that they can be brought out to Lourdes.

Registration will take place for members of **BLACKROCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** on MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER between 2-4 at The Community Centre, Convent Road. Cost still €15 for the year. Classes are held in Dance and Exercise for Seniors; Arts and Crafts; Crochet and knitting. Outdoor Summer céilí; Socials, Christmas Coffee morning and Christmas lunch as well as Spring and Summer Outing which are all either free or subsidised. Outside tutors hold classes in Tai Chi and Line Dancing and Irish dancing for children -beginner level Tuesday 4.30-5.30, Advanced dancers Thursday 5-7 - these dancers compete at Munster and All Ireland level as well as participating in Fleadh Cheoil with Douglas Comhaltas. **NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME**

**Ballinlough Men's Retirement Club** meets every Wednesday afternoon from 2 - 4pm resuming on Wed. 3rd September in Ballinlough Community Centre. Members enjoy an afternoon of short mat bowls (bowls supplied by the club) in an atmosphere of fun and camaraderie. New members welcome. Contact: 085 1615360.