

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock, Cork

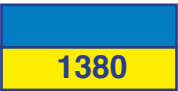
Email : info@stmichaelsblackrock.ie Website: www.stmichaelsblackrock.ie Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmichaelsblackrock | Parish Mobile No. (086) 813 6877

30/11/2025



1st Sunday of Advent

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

John Connolly, Silverdale

Joseph Buckley, Menloe Gardens

Rest in Peace

Confirmation – The Confirmation candidates from Scoil Barra Naofa Caillini, Scoil Barra Naofa Buachaillí, Scoil Ursula and St. Michael’s NS participated in wonderful retreat day in the Parish Centre and the church last Thursday. The retreat was facilitated by a team of eight young people from NET Ministries. Our Confirmation candidates had a very good experience of participation concluding with quiet prayer in the church.

This Saturday the Confirmation candidates and their families are very welcome to the Confirmation Enrolment ceremony in the parish. This reinforces the family and parish elements of their preparation along with the great work in our parish schools. May the Lord bless the young people, their families, their schools and our parish. – Fr. Michael

Praying Together – From this weekend we will gradually introduce a number of small changes as to when we stand and when we kneel during the celebration of the Mass. In fact we have already seamlessly begun this at weekday Masses recently. According to Bishop Fintan Gavin these adjustments will ‘help make people feel even more welcome and at home in whatever church in our diocese that they attend the celebration of the Eucharist.’ Explanatory cards are available in the church this weekend.

Do This in Memory Mass – on next Saturday 6th December @ 6pm.

Family of Parishes Calendar 2026 - available in the church from this weekend.

Christmas Dues Envelopes – will be delivered to homes this week and are also available in the church.

Christmas Masses on Wednesday Christmas Eve @ 3pm (co-ordinated by SMA Parish), 6pm & 8pm. Thursday, Christmas Day @ 9am & 11am.

Christmas Confessions after Masses on weekend of 20th/21st December

Monday 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Mass @ 9.30am.

#HaveYourSay about your Catholic School

For Attention of Parents of children attending Primary Schools or have yet to start. The Department of Education is currently conducting a Primary School Survey that will determine the future provision of Primary Schools and crucially could lead to lasting changes in your school. In simple, direct terms, you are being asked if you want your school to stay a Catholic school or if you want that to change. Don't leave it to others, have your say before 16 December 2025. See - www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/campaigns/primary-school-survey

Fr. Michael 085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading **Isaiah 2:1-5**

As a new church year opens, our first reading is a clarion call to start again and set out on the pilgrimage of faith fresh vision and energy. The marvellous image of transforming weapons of war into instruments of agriculture speaks in every age.

Second reading **Romans 13:11-14**

It is possible to sleepwalk through life and find ourselves somehow settling for less, perhaps at a very material level. Paul will have none of it. This is not a rehearsal, this is the only performance and it is time to wake up!

Gospel **Matthew 24:37-44**

The Gospel invites us not to postpone living fully until some future, unreal moment, but to start in real time, now, today. As St Paul puts it, *See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!* (2Corinthians 6:2)

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Garry O'Sullivan: 'Polite persecution' mentality is an obstacle to mission. 'Whatever we are suffering, it is not comparable to Christians hiding in cellars in parts of the Middle East and Africa.' (2). Martina Purdy: Catholic schools and pseudo-Catholic education. (3). Sandra Adams: Why parents must speak up for a Christian ethos in schools. (4). Lead kindly light. -- John Henry Newman in dialogue with Synodality. (5). Fr. Kieran :O'Mahony OSA: *Lectio Divina - Hearers of the Word. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at a unexpected hour.* (6). Mary Kenny: Hitler's DNA. - new discovery and the problem of evil.

Tarsus Scripture School Advent Programme

For the coming season of Advent, we are offering a short course which explores the readings for this liturgical year: Isaiah (Jessie), Romans (Kieran), and Matthew (Seán). Over three pre-recorded inputs, the presenters will introduce these texts and how they help us prepare in hopeful anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ. In addition to these presentations, we will also be hosting a live Q&A and Meditation webinar via Zoom. Our hope is that this lighter course will help you enter into the season of Advent in a meaningful way, and can be followed at your own pace in the weeks ahead.

Jessie Rogers – *Waiting Hopefully with Isaiah in Advent*

Seán Goan – *Reading Matthew*

Kieran O'Mahony – *Romans: Living the Gift in Harmony*

To register, log on to www.tarsusscriptureschool.ie and follow the link

Christmas Coffee Morning, Raffle and Cake Sale in aid of Marymount Hospice on Sunday 7th December starting at 9.30am in Ballinlough Community Centre.

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

Christmas Cards are available in the sacristy after every mass both at weekend and weekdays.

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 7th December for tea, bikkies, minced pies and more chat! Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!! Everyone welcome - Ah go on!

The First Sunday of Advent 2025

From today, we have three and a half weeks to Christmas Day. This is, perhaps, good news even for shoppers, though words such as frantic and costly come to mind. But maybe this year, we — I — could choose how to arrive at the great feast of the birth of Jesus refreshed in mind and spirit. As one four year old put it once at a children's Mass — with the bell-like clarity of children — we are celebrating the birth of God. Something worth celebrating! So, how can we arrive at Christmas refreshed, more awake, more alive? The key is to be open to the surprise of God.

In very down to earth terms it would mean choosing a specific spiritual path for the next four weeks, so I come to the feast not just tired and out of pocket, but fully tuned-in to what we celebrating. It could mean choosing more time for reflection, meditation and prayer. It could be opening the Scriptures — perhaps especially Isaiah. But most of all, it means being open to the moment of grace! We might even find ourselves tripping over with joy!!!

Reflections

1. The ‘coming of the Son of Man’ can be applied to the end of the world, to the moment of death, or to any moment of grace. We are not given advance notice as to when any of these will happen, so the message is to be alert and ready. When have you found that your alertness meant that you were able to receive an unexpected grace (e.g. take an opportunity which presented itself, or respond to a hint from another person that you might easily have missed, etc.).

2. One of the enemies of alert living is constant busyness. Have you ever found that being caught up in your own agenda makes you less sensitive to what is happening around you? Recall times when you paused in your relentless busyness and were rewarded by a significant interchange with another person, a moment of grace.

3. You probably know the difference between being ready for a visitor and the unannounced caller who catches you unprepared. Let the memory of the discomfort of being caught off guard spur you on to a constant readiness for the coming of the Lord.

PRAYER

God of majesty and power, amid the clamour of our violence your Word of truth resounds; upon a world made dark by sin the Sun of Justice casts his dawning rays. Keep your household watchful and aware of the hour in which we live. Hasten the advent of that day when the sounds of war will be for ever stilled, the darkness of evil scattered, and all your children gathered into one. Amen

Choral Christmas Cheer

Sunday 30th November St. Michael's Church, Blackrock, 7.30 pm

The Willcollane Singers, Carrigaline Gospel Choir, River Rhythms Community Choir,City Hall Singers,CADA Performing Arts, St Michael's NS, Blackrock

Soloists: Mary Hegarty, Andrew Lane & Siomha Marrior

Tickets: €26 - Available at corkchoral.ie

ALONE the national organisation that enables older people to age at home, are looking for Telephone Support & Befriending and Visitation Support & Befriending Volunteers to support older people in the community. If you or an Older Person you know is in need of support call 0818 222 024, seven days a week 8 am to 8 pm or see ALONE.ie/Volunteer for more info.

THE READINGS THIS TIME OF YEAR FREAK ME OUT EVERY TIME! WHAT IF I'M NOT READY WHEN IT'S ALL HAPPENING?

DO YOU GO TO CHURCH AND HEAR THE GOSPELS? DO YOU RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION? DO YOU JOIN IN PRAYER WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST?

YES OF COURSE!

IT'S ALL HAPPENING.

Thought for the day

The liturgical cycle helps us not only by telling once more the story of salvation but also by underlining movements of the heart appropriate for each season. Thus, Lent invites us to conversion and Easter promotes joy in believing. What of Advent? The season encourages us and takes us back to our original longing and quest which brought us to God in the first place. Especially in the readings from the prophets, the lectionary explores again that restlessness of heart and helps us name our desire for the One who alone fills our hearts with his peace “which surpasses all understanding.”

Prayer

Stir up our hearts Lord, with a great longing for you in our lives. Let us feel again that deep restlessness of heart, the royal road to you. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE - Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

RECESSIONAL – O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, To free your captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear. Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel, To you shall come Emmanuel.

O royal branch of Jesse’s tree, Redeem us all from tyranny; From pain of hell your people free, And over death win victory. Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel, To you shall come Emmanuel.

Gentle reminder!!

For those attending with young children, there is a Family Room available at the top left inside the church. Thanks.

This year the Holy Cross (Mahon) **'Bring and Sing' Christmas Carol Ceremony** will be held in Holy Cross Church (Mahon) on Tuesday 9th December, 2025 at 7.30 p.m. and it will consist of Readings on the Christmas Story, Reflections and Carols/Hymns. Those attending are invited to bring along some item of foodstuffs (e.g. tea, coffee, biscuits, toiletries). These gifts will be given to the local Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to the poorer families in our parish.

