

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock, Cork

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14/12/2025




3rd. Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

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
Joseph Burkley, Menloe Gardens
Rest in Peace



Baptisms
Hugh Laurence Hickey.
Welcome to the Christian Family.



Gaudete Sunday –
We have reached the third Sunday of Advent and preparations are well progressed for us to celebrate Christmas in our church, parish and Family of Parishes this year. The Church Crib is now in place and Christmas decorations are well under way. The parish schools have been here in the church during the past week and we look forward to their presence during the coming week as well. It’s a busy time in the church and it’s great to hear our young voices.

On this third Sunday, we light the rose-coloured candle on our Advent Wreath. The circle of light is growing and will soon be complete. This weekend we pray a prayer of blessing for Bambinelli Sunday, a custom introduced by late Pope St. John Paul encouraging families to bring the Christ figure from their family crib to be blessed in the parish church and then returned home in anticipation of Christmas Night. - Fr. Michael

Do This in Memory Mass – thanks to all the families who participated in on last Saturday evening. The next such Mass will be on Saturday 17th January @ 6pm and we look forward to that in the new year.

Christmas Dues Envelopes – have been delivered to homes during the past week and are available in the church. It’s also possible to send Christmas Dues via the ‘Donate’ facility on the parish website.


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

Christmas Confessions after Masses on next weekend of 20th/21st December. Confessions in Holy Cross Church after Masses this weekend 13th/14th December.

Fr. Michael
085 8735905
frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings
First reading Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
What may we hope? What do we hopefor? This reading invites us to deep confidence in God, who desired to bring us back to himself.
Second reading James 5:7-10
Growing takes time and patience. We know this in our human experience, but it is also true in growth of our faith.
Gospel Matthew 11:2-11
The question of John the Baptist—are you the one?—is raised by many today. Can we name what in our own experience leads us to say, yes, Jesus is the one?

The Papers Say.....
Irish Catholic. (1). Garry O'Sullivan: Deacon blues but not a hill to die on -- 'for them the question of women deacons is not unimportant. But it is not top of the list, it is one concern among many, and often not the most urgent'. (2). Mary Kenny: Bad American, good American -- How Pope Leo is emerging as the other American leader. (3). Roisin Coll: Why teaching the sacraments still belongs in our schools. (4). Next steps on the Irish Synodal Pathway -- A year of action for 2026. (5). Fr. Bernard Cotter: Who will succeed us priests?
Tablet of 20/11. (1). Formations of faith -- Pope Leo XIV and the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople recently made a joint pilgrimage to Nicaea to mark the 1,700th anniversary of the first ecumenical council and the formation of the statement of faith shared by the Christians of the western and eastern Churches. But what a creed is, and how it should be used, is often misunderstood. (2) Nigeria -- Christians at risk of 'elimination'

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on 16th December at 7.30pm in the Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty. 
This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 14th December 2025
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.
THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

Bambinelli Sunday – Blessing Prayer
God our Father, you loved us so much you sent us your only son, Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, to save us and lead us back to you. We pray that, with your blessing, these images of Jesus might be a sign of your presence and love in our homes. Gracious God, give your blessing to all who will gather with us this Christmas, family and friends. Open our hearts, that we may receive Jesus in joy, do always what He asks of us and see Him in those who need our love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your beloved son, who came to give peace to the world. You live and reign forever and ever. Amen.


#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

The Third Sunday of Advent 2025 (Gaudete Sunday)
When St Paul wrote “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice”, there was a lot going on. He himself was confined under house arrest, probably in Ephesus. The Philippians sent a messenger with some money and spiritual support — but the messenger fell ill and nearly died — a man with the unlikely name Epaphroditus. Paul was concerned for the Philippians who were concerned for Paul and for Epaphroditus. Anxiety was in the air! Within the community in Philippi, two evangelists had fallen out with each other — Euodia and Synthyche — causing as serious rift in the little community. Not least, some people were attacking Paul, trying to bring back the full Jewish Law, the Torah, with all its rules and regulations.

Living in the real world of conflict and challenge did not prevent Paul from accessing the joy of the Gospel. In fact, the letter to the Philippians is marked by an especially joyful tone. At the very beginning, Paul affirms:


I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always, in every prayer of mine, making my prayer with joy for you all, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Reflections
1. In response to the question of John, Jesus let his actions speak for him. Some people show by the way they live what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Who has given you such an example? Perhaps there have been times when you have done the same for others.
2. John made a journey of faith from an incomplete knowledge of Jesus to a deeper understanding of who he was. Recall similar steps in your journey of faith.
3. Faith is not primarily about answering abstract theological questions but about living the gospel. What in your life has helped you to get that sense of perspective?
4. John marked the end of an era, Jesus the beginning of a new one. In our lives how do we honour the past and yet be free to move on into a new era?
PRAYER
God of glory and compassion, at your touch the wilderness blossoms, broken lives are made whole, and fearful hearts grow strong in faith. Open our eyes to your presence and awaken our hearts to sing your praise. To all who long for your Son's return grant perseverance and patience, that we may announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Annual Mass for the Living and Deceased residents of Marian Park will take place on Saturday 20th December at the 6.00 Vigil. All welcome.

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



WHAT DID JOHN EXPECT? A MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS 'WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM JESUS?' AND WHEN HE COMES, WILL YOU GIVE UP WHAT YOU WANT AND RECEIVE WHATEVER JESUS BRINGS? ALL I WANT IS WHAT I'VE GOT COMING TO ME. ALL I WANT IS MY FAIR SHARE! ** ** ** PREFERABLY IN 10'S AND 20'S!

Thought for the day
Thought for the day Joy in believing might seem an “extra” in today’s challenging climate for faith. Many of us struggle simply to hold on, not to mention being exuberant about it all. And yet, of course there is deep happiness in faith. First of all, everything around is a gift and behind all the gifts stands a giver. Secondly, love is at the heart of it all and, in the faith, nothing is ever “lost” or “wasted.” Faith, hope and love endure and the greatest of these is love. Finally, why not “permit” ourselves true joy in all that God has done for us and still does for us in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit?

Prayer
We believe, loving God, that you take delight in all you have made. Open up in us again the springs of joy, that we may delight in you, our true joy.

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:

Thank You
The Friends of Ballintemple Group held a very successful Fundraiser at Blackrock Hurling Club. The Charities benefitting were School of Divine Child Lavanagh Centre and The Rainbow Club Cork .



Back Row Eamonn Kavanagh, Mark Slowey, Donal O' Mahony Seated Orla Kavanagh, Norma O' Mahony, Ciara Hourihan School of Divine Child , Karen O' Mahony (Rainbow Club) and Sandra Slowey pic George Hatchell