

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock

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28/12/2025



Holy Family

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
Martha Gosnell, Blackrock
Rest in Peace



Happy New Year

We have celebrated Christmas wonderfully here in St. Michael's this year. It has helped to lift the gloom that can surround us towards the end of the year as well as the stress of having to do so much in preparation for Christmas. This weekend, we are in a much quieter time. In truth, it's a lovely time of the year, quieter, calmer and less frantic.

It's impressive to see so many people and families visiting the church crib since Christmas. So many people drop into our church to pray quietly and privately. Parents and grandparents have taken the time to bring their children and grandchildren to the crib taking time to explain and reflect. Many drop in to light a candle at one of the shrines.

We are grateful to everyone who voluntarily give their time to parish ministries, the maintenance, care and decoration of our beloved church. May the Lord bless you all into the new year for your generosity and faithfulness. Our parish could not work so well without such good people giving voluntarily.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, may the Lord bless you and your families, console those who have lost someone close this year and please God, strengthen us for the new year ahead.

May God bless you and your family for 2026 and may the words of the first reading on 1st January, the Feast of Mary the Mother of God and World Day of Prayer for Peace be special for you and your family:

'May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.' - Fr. Michael

Thank You – for your generosity in the Christmas Dues and Christmas Offertory Collection. It's so encouraging to realise the generosity of people throughout the year but especially over Christmas. Go raibh maith agat.

Altar Servers – we now have a team of five altar servers who contribute so much to the celebration of Mass. We look forward to growing that team of altar servers into 2026.

Christmas Dues Envelopes – remain available in the church. Contributions can also be given to the 'Priests Collection' via the Donate button on the parish website.

Tuesday 6th January – Feast of the Epiphany – Mass @ 9.30am

Friday 2nd January – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will not take place.

Fr. Michael
085 8735905
frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

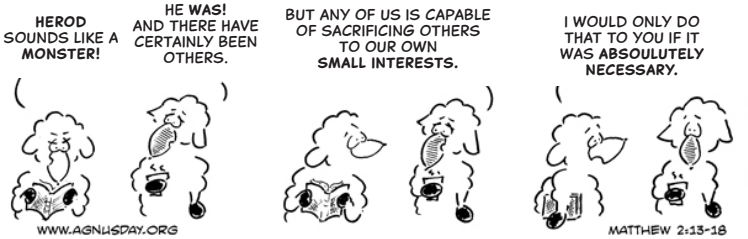
First reading Sirach 3:3-7, 14-17
Although this reading comes from a very long time ago and a quite different culture, it still speaks across the centuries. In many ways, human nature does not change!
Second reading Colossians 3:12-21
As we listen, we may find ourselves drawn into the values and attitudes described. Life would be wonderful if we were all a bit like this.
Gospel Matthew 2:13-23
The attentive reader will notice echoes of the story of Moses — the threat at birth, the escape into Egypt and so on. Jesus is our “new” Moses.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). 2025 Review of the Year. (2). Fr. Martin Delaney: A Driverless Christmas? Imagining a priestless Church. (3) Archbishop Eamon Martin calls for closer parish links with Accord in renewed vision for marriage ministry. (4). David Quinn: We need to be far more alert to anti-Semitism.
Tablet of 6/12. (1). In search of a religious home. -- The curious rise of converts to Judaism. (2). Advent Reflections 2: Sext on a crowded bus. (3). Trafficking of women in Ireland increasingly difficult to prevent. (4). Safeguarding and the Church. -- A gaping wound in the Church.

Mass 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 4th January 2026 for tea, bikkies and more chat!
Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!
Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



Thank You
Thanks to everyone who assisted in our Parish in any way during the year. Thanks to the Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, the collectors, sacristans, altar servers, florists, the communications and office teams. Thanks to our Cuppa ladies, Yvonne and Eleanor. Special thanks to our Choir for their dedication and enhancing our liturgy every Sunday. Without your support, St Michael's would not be the vibrant parish it is. *Happy New Year*



If you were watching the news during the year, you will be aware that Pope Leo made his first apostolic journey to two Muslim-majority countries, Turkey and Lebanon. Lebanon has a quite sturdy Christian minority at some 30% of the population. Turkey, on the other hand, has a tiny Christian population. Estimates vary between 0.2% to 0.5%, with even fewer Catholics.

The reason for visiting Turkey was to celebrate the Council of Nicaea, which took place not far from Istanbul seventeen centuries ago, in the year 325. The participants at the Council agreed a shared faith statement about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the original Nicene Creed. The creed we actually say most Sundays, the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, is an expanded version composed later in the same century at the Council of Constantinople (381). The issue at the Council Nicaea was the identity of Jesus: was he fully God or was he some kind of second-rank deity?

At Christmas we are — perhaps unexpectedly — helped by the traditional carols. Some of these are very clear doctrinally, such as Hark, the Herald Angels Sing or O Holy Night or Adeste Fideles. In the latter, we hear — often on the street and in shopping malls — the arresting words:

*God of God, Light of Light,
very God, begotten not created*

These lines are pure Nicaea, especially perhaps in the (to us obscure) distinction between begotten and created.

Reflections

1. The threat to the child Jesus put Joseph in a situation where he had to make a quick and yet wise decision. Perhaps you have also had to make a speedy response to an unexpected crisis. Who were the ‘angels’ who guided you to wise decisions? Remember them and give thanks.
2. The whole narrative is designed to bring out the guidance of God’s providence for the child Jesus. Have there been times when you have been grateful that things worked out well for you despite adverse circumstances or experiences?
3. External forces forced migration on Joseph and his family, until he came to establish a home in Nazareth. Where have you lived before coming to the place you now call home? How has this journey helped to fashion the person you are now? Perhaps you have a mixture of gratitude and regrets as you look back. Give thanks for the good memories. What helps you to deal with the disappointments and hurts in the past? Bring them to God with a prayer for further healing.
4. The story and today’s feast remind us of the importance of the family in nourishing and fostering new life. Recall and give thanks for those in your own childhood who helped you to find your way in life.
PRAYER
*Loving God, guardian of our homes, when you entrusted your Son to the care of Mary and Joseph, you did not spare them the pains that touch the life of every family.
Teach us to rely on your word, that in our trials as in our joys we may be clothed in gentleness and patience and united in love.
Make us ever thankful for the blessings you give us through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.*

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 4th January 2026
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.
THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND

Thought for the day

Our Gospel today omits—understandably?— the brutal massacre of the innocents. While the story is indeed brutal, it is unfortunately not unrealistic. Its omission is a pity because the tragic side of life is underscored, in different ways, by both Matthew and Luke, in anticipation of the passion. They were not composing sweet scenes for Christmas cards! On the contrary, they were addressing the full human condition, in its mystery, its joys and its tragedies. It is precisely within the family that we encounter death, life, happiness and the sheer wonder of being at all. Today’s feast invites us to look unflinchingly at the whole picture, in all its complexity.

Prayer
God, bless us all as members of our different families. As we thank you for the gift we are to each other, we ask your guidance and grace in all we do. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
K O’Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE - Hark! the Herald Angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!



RECESSIONAL – Adeste Fideles

Adeste Fideles laeti triumphantes,
Veníte, veníte in Bethlehem.
Natum vidéte, Regem Angelorum:
*Veníte adoremus, Veníte adoremus
Veníte adoremus Dóminum*

Deum de Deo, lumen de lúmine,
gestant puellae viscera
Deum verum, genitum non factum:
Chorus

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord

All welcome to an Information morning in Kingsley Hotel Cork Sunday January 4th from 11 to 1pm on a teacher training course for **Tai Chi ,Chi Kung and Meditation**. Course starts in Brú Columbanus on weekends from the end of January 2026 . For more details contact Carmel on 087 2373343.