

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock

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

01/02/2026

4th Sunday Ordinary Time

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

1434

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



Baptisms Brady J. Lane. Sophia Helens McCloskey-O'Mahony.



Welcome to the Christian Family.

Recently Deceased Marie Murphy. Mahon. Rest in Peace



Lá Fhéile Bríde –



We have finally reached February giving us brighter days and a sense of a new beginning after such a long January. Also this year there have been many bereavements in both Blackrock and Mahon Parishes and in the wider Family of Parishes. Families have gathered for Funeral Masses, stood at gravesides or travelled to the Crematorium in wet, cold and windy conditions. These moments cannot be rushed even by the rain, wind and cold.

February brings us a real hope. While nature has been asleep during December and January, it's ready to emerge in light and warmth. It reflects our fundamental understanding that those who have died are also sleeping awaiting to shine in the presence of God. It's a comforting image that underpins our faith.

So we look forward with hope this weekend. We welcome the Confirmation candidates and their families who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament on 2nd March. May the Lord bless them and may they feel supported by all our prayers. It's not easy to be a young person of faith now so we will pray for them. St. Brigid, pray for us. St. Michael, pray for us. Fr. Michael

New Ministers of the Word & Eucharist – training for new ministers in our Family of Parishes will take place in Blackrock Parish Centre on 10th & 19th March provided by the Office of Mission & Ministry in the Diocese.

Witamý – welcome to the Polish Community based in Mahon Parish who now often gather in St. Michael's Parish Centre as well.

World Day of the Sick – Celebration of the blessing and anointing of the sick will take place on Sunday 15th February @ 12.15pm Mass in Holy Cross Church.

Confirmations 2026 Mon. 23rd Feb. Gaelscoil Mhachan (in Holy Cross) Mon. 2nd Mar. Beaumont GNS & BNS, Scoil Ursula St. Michael's NS & School of the Divine Child Thurs. 5th Mar. St. Anthony's BNS (in St. Michael's) Wed. 11th Mar. Scoil na Croise Naofa (in Holy Cross) Wed. 29th Apr. Crab Lane NS (in St. Michael's)

Fr. Michael 085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13 Our reading is in two parts, both reflecting very difficult times. The first is an invitation to seek the Lord — an invitation never out of date. The second part profiles the virtue (lit. the strength) of truth telling. Some think we live in a post truth society. This is nonsense both socially and spiritually. Second reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Paul is always against puffing ourselves up in any away. Here, he takes the risk of reminding the Corinthian believers of their essentially humble backgrounds. All is grace. This excerpt can help us during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: there can be no place for superiority or competitiveness. Gospel Matthew 5:1-12 This important reading offers a kind of identikit of the Christian. In English, there's a potential play on words: the Beatitudes are our "be attitudes."

The Papers Say.....

Tablet of 24/1. (1). Letters -- International law and its limits. (2). Teaching's mission. -- Today, more than ever, Catholic schools must bring young people to understand that creation is a gift, not a commodity, and that every human being has inherent dignity. (3). US politics -- Donald Trump owes his election as president to a change of heart among Catholic voters at the 2024 election. But one year after his inauguration, that support is seeping away Tablet of 17/1. (1) Archbishop Eamon Martin discerns an emerging emphasis on faith among young. (2) Synodality and mission chosen as topics for deepest scrutiny as Cardinals to gather in Rome for annual consistories (3) Geopolitics -- Voices of Venezuela. Irish Catholic. (1) Brendan O'Regan's TVRadio: A new education podcast, a 'crazy week' in the US, and a quiet witness for life. (2) David Quinn: A new round in the war against religious symbols in public places. (3) Sovereignty on the skids -- how Trump's Greenland obsession reveals a deeper shift. (4) Mary Kenny: Maybe surprisingly, Christian theology would back Brooklyn

Rainbow Club Fundraiser



On January 29th, the Ballintemple Friends proudly presented cheques to the School of the Divine Child and The Rainbow Club. This follows the hugely successful fundraiser held on November 28th in the Blackrock Hurling Club. The Friends of Ballintemple Group presented cheques to School of Divine Child Lavanagh Centre and Cork Rainbow Club at a function recently. Back Row L-R Eamonn Kavanagh, John O' Mahony Rainbow Club, Donal O' Mahony Mark Slowey, Vincent O'Brien, Pauline Meade Lavanagh Centre, Fergus O'Brien Blackrock Hurling Club Seated Jim O' Shaughnessy Lavanagh, Karen O' Mahony, Norma O' Mahony, Sandra Slowey, Fiona Cahill Principal School of Divine Child, Orla Kavanagh, Dave Ronayne Lavanagh Centre pic George Hatchell

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

The Beatitudes according to Matthew

When we find ourselves confronted with such exalted teaching as the Beatitudes, perhaps the best place to begin is with our own experience. Happiness, by its nature, eludes definition but a description might be possible. We could each ask ourselves: who are the people I know you are really happy, who are truly flourishing and simply good?

The really happy people tend to show three marks. Such people are unusually "integrated" — the inside and the outside are one person, what you see is what you get, both in terms of values and life story. Secondly, without song and dance, such people are firmly other-centred. It really is not all about me. Finally, such people live by a higher vision and set of values, usually undergirded by faith. Such a triad is in stark contrast to the more usual "settling for less", a risk at any time in history and perhaps especially in our day. The temptation to distraction and what we may call merely sentient, "externalised" existence is strong.

Reflections

The blessings in the Beatitudes are primarily future blessings, but there can be an anticipation of the blessings in the present. At first reading some Beatitudes may seem to describe circumstances that you would like to avoid at all costs. Read them slowly. Stay with each one for a while. Let yourself get a sense of the paradox involved in each one. Perhaps you have had an experience of a deeper and more authentic life, a blessing, when...

- 1. You were poor - you knew your need of God.
- 2. You mourned – could feel for others.
- 3. You were meek – not emotionally out of control.
- 4. You hungered and thirsted for some cause.
- 5. You were merciful rather than vengeful.
- 6. You were pure in heart – a person of integrity, whose actions and intentions correspond.
- 7. You were a peacemaker.
- 8. You were persecuted because you stood for something.

PRAYER

O God, teach us the hidden wisdom of the gospel, so that we may hunger and thirst for holiness, work tirelessly for peace, and be counted among those who seek first the blessedness of your kingdom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen



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

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

Thought for the day

Who doesn't want to be happy? As St Augustine writes, "all persons want to be happy; and no persons are happy who do not have what they want." (De beata vita 2.10) Augustine knows that it is not so simple: having what and how do we keep it so that we don't lose it? The question really becomes what do I desire? In the final analysis, there is a hunger of the human heart for God, often recognised only slowly, and a hunger for goodness and virtue, also a slow conversion. In God, we find a source of happiness which nothing can take away; in virtuous living, chiefly seeking the good of others, we come to our true fulfilment and contentment.

Prayer

God our true happiness, help us recognise our need of you that we may be blessed in your kingdom. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE - Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here. Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found. We stand on holy ground. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

RECESSIONAL Christ be beside me

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.



Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me, Christ be on all tongues telling of me. Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, In ears that hear me Christ ever be.



Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 1st February 2026 for tea, bikkies and more chat! Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!! Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



Gentle reminder!!

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

