

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

Jane Kirk, Blackrock Road.

Rest in Peace



Baptisms

Emily Kate Louis Crowley.

Emma Ingrid Chinoy.

Bela Mascarenhas Swirad.

Welcome to the Christian Family.



Praying for Peace

We have crossed the threshold into 2026, a time of hope and new beginnings. On last Thursday, New Year's Day, we celebrated World Day of Peace. A few years ago, we would have done this somewhat 'in passing' as we didn't get any sense that our world was changing and that old alliances that ensured peace remained secure. At the start of 2026, we are in a very uncertain world where the spectre of war in Europe is more real and our worldview is increasingly uncertain.



Now our prayer for peace is more urgent, real and tangible. Now we look at the Infant Jesus in the Crib as our 'Prince of Peace'. That seemed to be an outdated title until recently but much has changed. The Birth of Christ is our hope. That has not changed. The 'Emmanuel' as 'God-with-us' remains true. In a sense there is a constancy in our faith that's reassuring in a rapidly changing world.

This weekend, we continue our prayer in front of the Crib. We continue to pray for peace in our world. We ask the Newborn Infant Jesus to be with us, strengthen us, give us courage and be at our side for 2026. - 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.

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

Do This in Memory Mass for First Holy Communion children and their families on Saturday 17th January @ 6pm.

First Holy Communions 2026

Sat. 2nd May Gaelscoil Mhachan (in Holy Cross)
Sat. 9th May Beaumont BNS
Sat. 16th May Beaumont GNS
Sat. 16th May Ballintemple NS (in Holy Cross)
Sat. 23rd May Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's NS
Sat. 23rd May Scoil na Croise Naofa (in Holy Cross)
Sun. 24th May Gathering of First Holy Communion Children and Families

Fr. Michael
085 8735905
frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

FIRST READING Sirach 24:1-2, 8-12

Our first reading is both mystical and poetic. It is poetry — elevated speech. It is mystical because it talks of God present in creation.

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

While the Gospel will reflect again on the Word made flesh, the reading from Ephesians takes this for granted and goes on to ask: if that is so, then who are we? An inspirational prayer closes the reading.

GOSPEL John 1:1-18

You may wonder how it is we are hearing this reading again! After the fuss and rush of Christmas, we have a second opportunity to listen and take to heart this wonderful passage.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Nicholas Cuddihy: The challenges facing Catholic Education in 2026. 'With no signs of change in the housing crisis, primary school principals and boards of management are going to continue to struggle to attract and retain staff in 2026'. (2). David Quinn: EU risks alienating millions of citizens with biased view. (3). Justin McLellan: Provost's Peru was a Vatican II laboratory of Church renewal, 'His time there would instill in him a participatory image of the Church that he worked to implement'. (4). Bishop Fintan Gavin: Young people want a Church that challenges them.

(5). Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA: Lectio Divina -- We saw his glory, as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

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

Excerpt from Christmas Day Homily of Pope Leo XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, "Break forth together into songs of joy" (Is 52:9), cries the messenger of peace to those standing amid the ruins of a city in desperate need of rebuilding. Though dusty and wounded, his feet are beautiful, writes the prophet (cf. Is 52:7), because, along rugged and weary roads they have carried a glad announcement in which everything is reborn. A new day has dawned! We too are part of this new beginning, even if few as yet believe it: peace is real, and it is already among us. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (Jn 14:27). Thus Jesus spoke to the disciples, whose feet he had just washed. They were to be messengers of peace, sent to journey tirelessly through the world to reveal to all the "power to become children of God" (Jn 1:12). Today, therefore, we are not only surprised by the peace that is already here; we also celebrate the way in which this gift has been given to us. In this "how," in fact, shines the divine difference that causes us to break forth into songs of joy. For this reason, throughout the world, Christmas is a feast par excellence of music and song.



The prologue of the fourth Gospel is itself a hymn, with the Word of God as its protagonist. The "Word" is a word that acts. This is a hallmark of God's Word: it is never without effect. Indeed, many of our own words also have effects, sometimes unintended. Yes, words "act." Yet here is the surprise that the Christmas liturgy presents to us: the Word of God appears but cannot speak. He comes to us as a newborn baby who can only cry and babble. "The Word became flesh" (Jn 1:14). Though he will grow and one day learn the language of his people, for now he speaks only through his simple, fragile presence. "Flesh" is the radical nakedness that, in Bethlehem as on Calvary, remains even without words - just as so many brothers and sisters, stripped of their dignity and reduced to silence, have no words today. Human flesh asks for care; it pleads for welcome and recognition; it seeks hands capable of tenderness and minds willing to listen; it longs for words of kindness.

On Christmas Day, we marked the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. In the carols and in the readings, we listened again to the stories which surround the birth of Jesus. The Epiphany continues those stories of wonder which surround the birth of Jesus, stories which are highly pictorial and very easy to remember. As you will have noticed, the readings today are different, poetic and more philosophical. These extraordinary readings offer us the opportunity to reflect in tranquillity, on significance of Jesus' birth. And not only his birth, but also his life, ministry, teaching, death and resurrection.

The wisdom, the Word of God became flesh and dwelled among us. It is an extraordinary thing to say of any human being and it is also an extraordinary thing to say of God. Not only is God present in all that is, his fingerprints all over creation, not only is God present in every heart that loves, but God has also chosen to be present to us in a single, fragile human life, to be with us, to speak to us from inside our experience. As the reading says: it is the only Son, who is close to the Father, who has made him known. In fact, the Greek says, who told the story — as we know, it is a love story.

Reflections

1. John opens his Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation, of life and of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that filled you with gratitude to God for creation and the beauty and wonder of the world: 'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.'
2. We hear the gospel message frequently. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, like a light that shines in the darkness. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety or sadness and helped you to see what action would be most life giving for you and for others
3. Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world - speaking the truth for the world to hear, like as a witness to testify to the light. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by the witness of their own lives and words.
4. "No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." Jesus came to us to teach us about God and put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day, and for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God and to believe in a God who is a God of love. Recall how the life and ministry of Jesus have changed your picture of God.

PRAYER

God most high, your only Son embraced the weakness of our flesh to give us the power to become your children; your eternal Word chose to dwell among us, that we might live in your presence. Grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory you have made our own, and how great the hope to which we are called in Jesus Christ, the 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.

YOU KNOW, THE IDEA THAT GOD - THE WISDOM OF THE COSMOS - WOULD BECOME A REAL HUMAN WAS BEYOND THE IMAGINATION OF THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS.

WAIT! ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE PEOPLE WHO INVENTED THE OLYMPICS AND SETTING CHEESE ON FIRE.....

.....WERE LACKING IN IMAGINATION?



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

We are at the start of the new civil year and beginning again is an invitation to look in two directions. What happened for me in the last year, both in my ordinary life and in my life as a believer, a person of faith? For what do I ask forgiveness? For what do I give thanks? We also look forward and the new beginning gives us a chance to start again on the Way of discipleship. Both thanksgiving and renewal are to be found in today's readings. The Gospel is in invitation to wake up, to keep watch, to live fully the present moment under God, in whom we live and move and have our being.

Prayer

Wake us up, O God, at the start of a new year and rouse us from the slumber of the everyday that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person every day of our lives. 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,
Venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte, Regem Angelorum:
Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus Dominum

Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
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

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!

