

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.

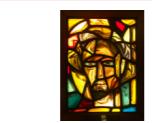
Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP

Recently Deceased

Rea Kennedy, Tivoli.

Frank O'Shea, Blackrock

Rest in Peace



Baptisms

Freddie Alexander Hogan.

Welcome to the Christian Family.



Still Christmas

The crib is still in place in the church and the Christmas decorations remain as well as we reach the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord this weekend. In fact there is a great comfort in these during the past few days of cold and damp. While the schools re-opened very early this year, many of us yearned for the sights and sounds of Christmas and the new year for a few more days. This yearning is reflected in the church calendar as the Christmas season continues until this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

On this feast, Jesus takes his place 'in the queue' to be baptised by John the Baptist. It's a declaration that Jesus has taken on our nature giving us true hope. We have been blessed in our own baptism. The first reading at Mass last Sunday said that 'I have taken root in a privileged people'. Our baptism makes us one of those so privileged. We are grateful for our faith despite all the challenges of modern life. Our faith helps us to be undaunted by the year ahead giving us the resources and strength that we will need. May the Lord bless you and your family into 2026.

- Fr. Michael

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.

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

Confirmation 2026 – Ceremony of Light – Saturday 31st January @ 6pm Mass – in preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Mon. 2nd March.

Diocesan Needs Collection this weekend. This collection allows for vital supports to your parish in many areas, including Education, Religious Faith Formation in schools, Mission and Ministry, Youth Ministry, Safeguarding, and Stewardship and Governance as well as guidance in practical matters such as Data Protection, Finance, and Property.

On Sunday, 1 February 2026, we will host Songs of Praise, an afternoon for those involved in music ministry, in the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne, beginning at 2.30pm. This afternoon is for all who are involved in music ministry to come together to learn new music, reflect, listen, and lift our voices in praise, followed by an opportunity to chat over light hospitality.

Fr. Michael

085 8735905

frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading **Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

In its historical context, this promise meant a political saviour. However, from the New Testament onwards, Christians have heard in the reading an oracle about Jesus, the son of God.

Second reading **Acts 10:34-48**

Our reading is a summary of Jesus' ministry and it includes the all-important John the Baptist. He was Jesus' mentor and first teacher.

Gospel **Matthew 3:13-17**

The fact Jesus' baptism by John is rock solid history. The form of the story is a theophany, when a word of God discloses Jesus' identity.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Martin Scorsese and the pilgrimage of everyday grace. (2). Every school in Ireland should have an Anti-Bullying Policy. (3). The ousting of Maduro raises questions of international law and order. (4). David Quinn: What are the prospects for a MAGA-style party in Ireland? (5) Growth of permanent diaconate offers a quite but steady hope. (6). Mary Kenny: The stars and stripes are no longer forever ...

Gentle reminder!!

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

Baptism of the Lord

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES:

Email to : parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

1413

BAPTISMS:
MARRIAGES:

Please contact the parish office.
Minimum 3 months notice required by Church and State.

Pre-marriage course required.

Thought for the day

Begin by recalling some special moment between yourself and your parents. Did you ever hear from them the equivalent of "This is my son, my daughter, the beloved: my favour rests on you"? In Jesus' ministry, on several occasions, he felt such a word from his Abba, his Father. His baptism by John was one such moment, as was the Transfiguration later on. Such deep love and affirmation grounded him as a human being and as God's prophet to the people of Israel. Our sense of calling grows out of our relationship with the Father, whose beloved we are, whose favour we too enjoy.

PRAYER

Let us hear again, Abba, Father, your words of favour to each one of us. Direct us on the Way of discipleship, that we may be bearers of the Good News by simply being who we truly are before you, your children.

K O'Mahony OSA

Excerpt from Christmas Day Homily of Pope Leo XIV Part 2

"He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" (Jn 1:11-12). This is the paradoxical way in which peace is already among us: God's gift invites us in; it seeks to be welcomed and, in turn, inspires our own self-giving. God surprises us because he leaves himself open to rejection. He also captivates us because he draws us away from indifference. Becoming children of God is a true power – one that remains buried so long as we keep our distance from the cry of children and the frailty of the elderly, from the helpless silence of victims and the resigned melancholy of those who do the evil they do not want.



To remind us of the joy of the Gospel, our beloved Pope Francis wrote: "Sometimes we are tempted to be that kind of Christian who keeps the Lord's wounds at arm's length. Yet Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. He hopes that we will stop looking for those personal or communal niches which shelter us from the maelstrom of human misfortune and instead enter into the reality of other people's lives and know the power of tenderness" (Evangelii Gaudium, 270).

Dear brothers and sisters, since the Word was made flesh, humanity now speaks, crying out with God's own desire to encounter us. The Word has pitched his fragile tent among us. How, then, can we not think of the tents in Gaza, exposed for weeks to rain, wind and cold; and of those of so many other refugees and displaced persons on every continent; or of the makeshift shelters of thousands of homeless people in our own cities? Fragile is the flesh of defenseless populations, tried by so many wars, ongoing or concluded, leaving behind rubble and open wounds. Fragile are the minds and lives of young people forced to take up arms, who on the front lines feel the senselessness of what is asked of them and the falsehoods that fill the pompous speeches of those who send them to their deaths.

Anam Cara

, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on



Supporting Parents After Bereavement

Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7.30pm

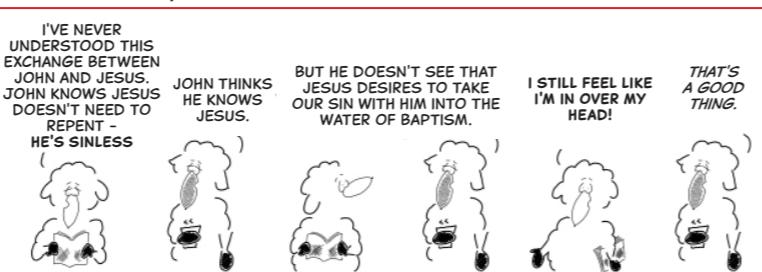
in the Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty.

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

Fr. Michael has generously offered the poor box near the exit as a collection point for SVP.

If you wish to contribute any time, it would be appreciated.



BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

This month's collection came to **€2830**

Many thanks for your generous wonderful support.