

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock

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18/01/2026

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

1420

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

Vivienne Grace Hartenbach.

Cecilia Gray Hartenbach.

Allie Diane Heaphy.

Welcome to the Christian Family.



January

The old phrase that 'January is a long month' is so true this year. The children are back at school for two weeks already and there are two more weeks remaining in the month. However, this long wait, will make February all the more welcome as we look forward to brighter and warmer days ahead. Like so many things in life, it's hard to imagine this happening yet it is already quietly unfolding.



I often use this image at funeral Masses in the church as families place the name of their loved one on our Remembrance Tree. The tree looks bare yet as the names are added, it's as if it comes back into life and into summertime. For all of us, the sun does rise again though it can be hard to visualise that at the time of bereavement and loss.

May the Lord guide us through these hard days of January into the brightness and gentle warmth of Springtime. May the Lord console and comfort those bereaved and for whom this month can be so long. May the Lord bless our children and young people preparing for the celebration of the Sacraments this year and who will be involved in Masses here in the church in coming weekends. - 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 this 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.

Fr. Michael
085 8735905
frmichael@corkandross.org

Diocesan Celebration of the Day for Consecrated Life:

Please join us in thanking God for the witness, service, and faith of those who have dedicated their lives to God through consecrated life on Saturday, January 31st 2026 at 3.30pm in St. Francis' Church, Cork. All are welcome.

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

This poem was used by the early church to explore the identity of Jesus. He was called not only for the sake of Israel, but to become a light to all the nations.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

The church in Corinth was Paul's pride and joy—and it gave him the most trouble! Today we start reading the first letter to the Corinthians, beginning with the greeting. Notice that Paul is not alone in writing to them.

Gospel John 1:19-34

First impressions are very important and in the Gospels the first things said of Jesus carry special weight. In John's Gospel, the first words about Jesus, on the lips of the Baptist, are: "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Editorial -- Baptism, consent, and the strange new calculus of 'human rights'. -- a response to recent comments by Mary McAleese. (2). Fr. Bernard Cotter: Some time away to rest and learn. 'I saw things at that Mass that I have rarely seen in 41 years of ministry'. (3). David Quinn: Living in the Trumpian world of 'might is right'. 'Pope Leo must play a very careful hand here. If he alienates Trump, Trump won't listen to a word he says'. (4). Fr. Billy Swan: St. Anthony and our need for silence and solitude. (5). Tony Carroll: Who is my neighbour? A parochial response to combating loneliness in nursing homes.

Tablet of 13/12. (1). Canon Law. -- The annulment conundrum. (2) Gaudium et Spes at 60 -- The final document of the Second Vatican Council illuminated the geopolitical, economic and social dynamics of globalization with remarkable prescience. (3). Austin Ivereigh: At a crossroads. Opting out -- why bishops are saying No to Synodality. (4). Letters page. -- Church rebuffs women once again.

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

Songs of Praise: Choir directors, choir and music group members, organists, musicians, singers etc are warmly invited to Songs of Praise on **Sunday, February 1st 2026** at 2.30pm in the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne. Join us for an afternoon of reflection, prayer, learning new music, and lifting our voices together in praise. This is a free event (donations welcome on the day). Light hospitality will be provided. Please register in advance via: tinyurl.com/songsofpraise2026

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.

Spiritual Exercises: 5 Day Silent Ignatian Retreat for Men

Led Benedictine monks from St. Joseph Abbey, in France. Starts Thursday 30th April (3pm). Benburb Priory, Co. Tyrone (1.5 hrs from Dublin). €450 (all meals & single room included). Daily Mass - Ordinary Form (Latin & ad orientem). Discover the strength that only comes when you stop running and let God speak.

Book at: soutenir.clairval.com/retreat-benburb-priory



JUST LIKE THAT. "THE LAMB OF GOD."

YA, IT'S A TITLE ROOTED IN THE DAYS OF MOSES...

BUT IT'S ALSO COMPLETELY UNIQUE. NO ONE WAS EVER CALLED "THE LAMB OF GOD" BEFORE THIS AND NO ONE ELSE EVER WILL.

KINDA LIKE "CHERI!"

WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

JOHN 1:29-42

Look, there is the lamb of God

One phrase from today's Gospel has made its way into the Mass: Look, here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Why is that image of the Lamb of God so important? The Lamb of God is an echo of the Passover lamb and meal. And the Passover meal celebrates freedom. In the biblical narrative, it points primarily to freedom from slavery in Egypt, political and religious freedom. At a different level, Jesus, our Lamb of God, our passover Lamb, as Paul puts it, also sets us free: from whatever binds us and holds us back, from sin, from death, from the power and even the fear of death.

This is a very important teaching of the Fourth Gospel — so important that it repeats across the Gospel and comes up again when he tells the story of Jesus' death on the cross. Only in Fourth Gospel, we are told Jesus was sent to death at noon, the hour when the priests began to slaughter the lambs for Passover. Only in the Fourth Gospel, we are told they lifted the sponge to his lips on a hyssop branch — the very plant mentioned in Exodus 12. Finally, only in the Fourth Gospel we are told they did not break his legs, following the instructions about the bones of the Passover lamb. Such an insistence means that the image of the Lamb meant a huge amount to the Gospel writer.



Stained glass of the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), Chamonix, France

Reflections


- The words of John point to a deep recognition of Jesus' identity. Can I recall times when this recognition took place for me, first of all on a human level, and then on the faith level?
- John the Baptist admits to not knowing him—a place of real honesty which is the beginning of the pilgrimage of faith. At some point, perhaps, I heard the words of the Psalmist in my heart: a voice I did not know said to me, I freed your shoulder from the burden (Ps 81).
- What is my own conviction about being sent and about the one sending me? Prayer of call and response.
- Jesus baptises with the Spirit—a baptism I too have received, perhaps too young. In later life, there can be an awakening of the Spirit, an inner hunger and thirst, a sense of the Spirit's help in our weakness. Prayer of Romans 8:26-27.
- Witness is the key. Who have been witnesses to me of the Good News? To whom am I today a witness? Prayer of 1 John 1:1-4.

PRAYER

Merciful God, you sent your Son, the spotless Lamb, to take upon himself the sin of the world. Make our lives holy, that your Church may bear witness to your purpose of reconciling all things in 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.



Thought for the day

In John's Gospel, the first thing that any human being says of Jesus is found on the lips of John the Baptist: Look, there is the Lamb of God. We think naturally and correctly of the Passover lamb and of the Passover, the feast which marks the liberation of Israel. To be set free is a wonderful experience and we could reflect on how I experience my freedom in Christ. From what have I been set free? (For example, fear of death, the risk of absurdity, sins and false directions in life...) Even more important, for what have I been set free?


Prayer

Jesus, Lamb of God, help me to recognise whatever in me is holding me back from life in abundance: give me your life, your forgiveness, your healing. In you, I put my trust.

K O'Mahony OSA

Excerpt from Christmas Day Homily of Pope Leo XIV Part 3

When the fragility of others penetrates our hearts, when their pain shatters our rigid certainties, then peace has already begun. The peace of God is born from a newborn's cry that is welcomed, from weeping that is heard. It is born amidst ruins that call out for new forms of solidarity. It is born from dreams and visions that, like prophecies, reverse the course of history. Yes, all this exists, because Jesus is the Logos, the Meaning, from which everything has taken shape. "All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made" (Jn 1:3). This mystery speaks to us from the nativity scenes we have built; it opens our eyes to a world in which the Word still resonates, "many times and in many ways" (cf. Heb 1:1), and still calls us to conversion.



To be sure, the Gospel does not hide the resistance of darkness to the light. It describes the path of the Word of God as a rugged road, strewn with obstacles. To this day, authentic messengers of peace follow the Word along this path, which ultimately reaches hearts – restless hearts that often desire the very thing they resist. In this way, Christmas gives fresh impetus to a missionary Church, urging her onto the paths that the Word of God has traced for her. We do not serve a domineering Word – too many of those already resound everywhere – but a presence that inspires goodness, knows its efficacy and does not claim a monopoly over it. This is the way of mission: a path toward others. In God, every word is an addressed word; it is an invitation to conversation, a word never closed in on itself. This is the renewal that the Second Vatican Council promoted, which will bear fruit only if we walk together with the whole of humanity, never separating ourselves from it. The opposite is worldliness: to have oneself at the center. The movement of the Incarnation is a dynamics of conversation. There will be peace when our monologues are interrupted and, enriched by listening, we fall to our knees before the humanity of the other. In this, the Virgin Mary is the Mother of the Church, the Star of Evangelization, the Queen of Peace. In her, we understand that nothing is born from the display of force, and everything is reborn from the silent power of life welcomed. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

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

