St Michael's Parish, Blackrock

1/3/2026 **2nd. of Sunday of Lent**

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

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

1467

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
Please note the change of Parish email address :
parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie

Recently Deceased
Frances McCarthy, Beaumont
Jim Ronan, Ashleigh Gardens
Rest in Peace

Baptisms
Lúi Matthew Horgan.
Welcome to the Christian Family.

Supporting the Bereaved

There have been an exceptional number of bereavements in both Blackrock and Mahon Parishes since the start of the year. We have gathered on many occasions to celebrate a Requiem Mass and travel to the cemetery or the Crematorium. Bereaved families deeply appreciate the prayerful support of a parish and faith community gathered at the altar to pray for their loved one who has died and commend them to the presence of God with our prayers. Heaven opens when we pray the Mass together at the time of the funeral, a Month's Mind Mass or at anniversary time. May we all stay strong and true to this deep understanding that those who have died 'have gone no further than to God and God is very near'. May all those who have died return to the House of the Father and those bereaved be consoled.
- Fr. Michael

New Ministers of the Word & Eucharist – training for new ministers in Mahon parish and our Family of Parishes will take place in Blackrock Parish Centre on 10th & 19th March @ 7pm provided by the Office of Mission & Ministry in the Diocese. Please contact Fr. Michael if you wish to become involved or recommend another person. Our parish needs many more volunteers.

St. Patrick's Day – Tuesday 17th March – Masses @ 9am & 11am.

Trócaire Lenten Appeal 2026 - Trócaire Boxes available in the church.

First Confessions 2026
These will begin this coming week as follows:
Mon. 2nd March Scoil na Croise Naofa (in Holy Cross)
Tue. 3rd March Beaumont GNS
Wed. 4th March Beaumont BNS
Thurs. 5th March Scoil Ursula & St. Michael's NS
Mon. 9th March Gealscoil Mhachan (in Holy Cross)

Fr. Michael
085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading Genesis 12:1-4
For both Jews and Christians, Abraham is the father in faith. You can see why from this startling reading.
Second reading 2 Timothy 1:8-10
The call and gift of faith are unexpected and unpredictable. This short reading reminds us that it is all God's initiative and work. We really are graced.
Gospel Matthew 17:1-9
The Transfiguration is traditional on the second Sunday of Lent. At the heart of Matthew's version stands a great invitation, as powerful today as never before: 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.'

The Papers Say.....

Tablet of 7/2. (1) Catholic Ireland -- Home truths. The Children's Home in Tuam is perhaps the most notorious examples of the depravities of Catholic Ireland, and the nuns who ran it have become a byword for cruelty. But the reality of what happened could turn out to be more complicated. (2). Fr. Laurence Freeman OSB: The future of religion -- The centuries-old forms of religious belief are dead, and the contemplative revolution that Jesus launched is entering a new phase. (3) USA -- Opposition to ICE immigration raids ignites among Catholics.
Tablet of 14/2. (1). Seamus Heaney -- As he aged the Nobel prize winning poet grew deeper and deeper into childhood rather than out of it. But, at heart, he remained a teacher. (2) Vatican -- Cardinal Fernandez and SSPX dialogue. (3). Epstein Scandal -- The voices of the victims must be heard.
Irish Catholic (1). Senator Ronan Mullen: The dangers and consequences of the online world. (2). Cllr. Albert Deasy: Why we need better alternatives, not further liberalization of abortion. (3). Mary Kenny: AI is expanding fast -- but it won't replace spiritual needs. If I'm honest, I have resorted to it myself -- it's brilliant at retrieving data. (4) Editorial. -- Steering the future of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Confirmations 2026
These commenced on last Monday 23rd February with Gaelscoil Mhachan in Holy Cross Church. On this Monday, candidates from Beaumont GNS, Beaumont BNS, Scoil Ursula, St. Michael's National School and the School of the Divine Child will celebrate their Confirmation with Mons. Aidan O'Driscoll VG. Bishop Fintan will be with us on this Thursday for Confirmation of the candidates from St. Anthony's BNS and again on Wednesday 11th March in Holy Cross for the Confirmation of the candidates from Scoil na Croise Naofa. The concluding ceremony for Crab Lane NS will be later in April, also here in St. Michael's Church. Our church is a very busy place these weeks with so many rehearsals ongoing as well. May the Lord bless all the young people, their families, schools and our parishes.

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*

Catholic Papers and Literature – we are fortunate to have a good selection of Catholic papers available in the church each weekend. This is appreciated by many people as good Catholic literature keeps us in touch with the wider church and faith development in a rapidly changing world.

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

Second Sunday of Lent 2026

For all its being mysterious and elusive, in Matthew's telling there are three immensely practical dimensions, which can speak to us ordinary mortals today: it is good to be here; Listen to him; Stand up.

(1) It is good to be here, good to be living this particular moment. It is good that a new sense of ownership of the faith project is gradually taking hold. It is good that we are looking at new ways of handing on the faith, instead of outsourcing it to public institutions. It is good that the practical business of parish partnership is combined with the visionary dimensions of the synodal pathway. Saying it is good is not saying it is not difficult — it is difficult, as we all experience, but there is life in being as realistic as we can and in being pro-active about it all.

(2) Listen to him. A significant part of our learning has been the experience of listening. Ultimately, we are listening for the guidance of God. We do this by attending to Scripture, by listening to each other with love and respect and waiting for the Spirit to speak through it all. Many people found the whole exercise of the Synodal Way life-giving and encouraging. To be heard is a kind of unspoken right in our culture.

(3) Finally, Jesus says to the disciples, stand up. Many people have in fact put their gifts and energies at the service of the community of faith: the parish pastoral council, the ministers of the word and the Eucharist, the musicians, the funeral teams, the family Mass on Sunday and so on. Today, the difficulties of the clerical institutional church represent an unparalleled opportunity for ownership by the whole community and for the appearance of new lay ministries.

Reflections

1. The transfiguration experience was one that, for Jesus, clarified his relationship with his Father and strengthened him for the future. What have been the experiences, the moments of insight, that have clarified your sense of who you are, and what is your relationship with God?
2. On the mountain the disciples saw Jesus in a new way. Sometimes in friendship there are moments of sharing in which we get to know a friend in a new and deeper way. Have you had that experience in human friendship, or in your relationship with Jesus and God. Recall when that happened, and what it was like for you.
3. The clear vision of Jesus with Moses and Elijah was followed by a frightening experience of being in a cloud and it was in the midst of the cloud that the disciples were instructed "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him". Have you had the experience of learning the truth about life and about your relationship with God from moments of confusion as well as from times of special joy?
4. After their special experience the disciples came down the mountain again. We cannot live each day at the level of special spiritual experiences, but the memory of them can strengthen us in difficult times. What memories encourage you in time of trouble??

PRAYER
Holy God, from the dazzling cloud you revealed Jesus in glory as your beloved Son.During these forty days, enlighten your Church with the bright glory of your presence. Inspire us by your word, and so transform us into the image of the risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.

FATIMA Pilgrimage/Holiday, Ex CORK Airport.
Thursday July 2nd to 9th.
Our Spiritual Director is Rev. Fr.(Archdeacon) Neilus O Donnell.
For further details please contact Patsy Foley on 087-6798810

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

Thought for the day

Every so often, we catch a glimpse of the "something more" that God has in store for us. These fleeting experiences are to be treasured: the birth of my first child, falling in love, a sense of "being held" by God's presence. Such experiences may help us approach the Transfiguration. Like all transcendent experiences, it is fleeting and yet it etches a memory and leaves a longing. What should we do? Practice listening to him. Be not afraid. We cannot always be "on the mountain" and yet what happens on the heights can help us on the lowlands of the everyday.

Prayer
Lord, listening sounds so easy and yet is such hard work! Guide us as we listen to your Son, whose word is alive, who is himself the way, the truth andthe life.

K O'Mahony OSA

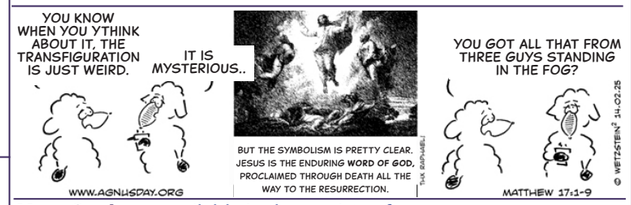
ENTRANCE - *God of Mercy and Compassion*
God of mercy and compassion
Look with pity upon me;
Father, let me call thee Father,
For I now return to thee.
Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy,
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.

By my sins I have abandoned
Right and claim to Heaven above,
Where the saints rejoice for ever
In a boundless sea of love.
Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy,
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.

RECESSIONAL - Amazing Grace
Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home



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 1st March 2026 for tea, bikkies and more chat!
Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!
Everyone welcome - Ah go on!