

### 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](mailto:parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie)

### Recently Deceased

**Marian Kearney. Ballinsheen Court.**

**Kathleen Hickey, Beaumont**

**Dylla Higgins, Janeville**

*Rest in Peace*

### Baptisms

**Tommy Patrick Costigan.**

**Fiadh-Anne Griffin-Flynn.**

**Sophie Ruby O'Sullivan.**

**Welcome to the Christian Family.**

### Praying for Peace

Our world has changed in front of our eyes over the last few years.

We are told that we now live in a world of 'big power' where military and economic dominance has become the norm. International political leadership depends less on diplomatic skills and more on force. In contrast to 'big power', we increasingly appreciate the understated approach of Pope Leo XIV who is gently and solidly leading us in a much more reflective way to pray for peace, welcome the stranger and respect one another. This stark contrast of leadership style will be increasingly apparent in our fractured world. May the Lord continue to bless Pope Leo as we pray for an end to war in a just way. - Fr. Michael



### Confirmations & First Confessions

– well done to all the children and young people who celebrated these in the church during the past week. These celebrations continue to be very important and were all prayerfully celebrated. We look forward to the Confirmation ceremony for the young people from Scoil na Croise Naofa on Wednesday 11th in Holy Cross and the Chéad Fhaoistin for Rang a Dhó from Gaelscoil Mhachan on Monday 9th also in Holy Cross. May the Lord bless all involved.

**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.

**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 landscape.

Fr. Michael  
085 8735905 [frmichael@corkandross.org](mailto:frmichael@corkandross.org)



### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading Exodus 17:3-7**

Following on the stories of Adam and Abraham, today we hear of Moses. Perhaps we can identify with the reaction of the Israelites: being set free doesn't always feel that way, at least initially.

**Second reading Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

Paul is a great believer in the Holy Spirit, poured into the hearts of all believers, including ourselves. Because of this great gift, we can call the creator of all, Abba, father

**Gospel John 4:5-42**

Our Gospel today is long and very rich in meaning, using many images. Among the images: living (= flowing) water, marriage and the location of worship. Perhaps this year, one of the images or a line will speak to me today and the situation in which I find myself?

### The Papers Say.....

**Tablet of 21/2.** (1). Finding the way home -- 'Modern life is so flimsy, with nothing to ground you. The fullness of tradition in Catholicism was very appealing'. (2). Growing old -- In the first of a Lenten series, Lucy Beckett, a novelist and grandmother reflects that as you move into your eighties possibilities narrow but God gets closer. (3). Religion and violence. There is a religious dimension to the increasing violence in Nigeria. But the framing of the conflict as 'Christian genocide' will only make Christians more vulnerable. (4). France/Germany -- Number of prospective seminarians increases.

**Tablet of 28/2.** (1). Birth of a new belief -- America seems divided on the issue of abortion. But how much of this is a reflection of deep political discord and how much the result of sometimes surprising theological reversals that have been taking place in its Churches since the 1970s? (2) The language of the Psalms -- Joanna Morehead visits the Scottish to hear how Gaelic unites communities in Scotland and Ireland and has lessons for the world far beyond. (3) England/Ireland -- Adults ready to be received into the Church in record numbers.

**Irish Catholic** (1). How has trans ideology confounded science, biology and common sense? (2). Inside Ave Maria's plans for Mount Mellary. There is also discussion of Irish music and dance, sporting links with local clubs, and community events. (3). The role of young people in church life -- A conversation with a former national leader of Youth 2000. (4) Catholic teacher in Cork, Christine O'Hara, brings peace to schools with the Rosary.

Cork Lions Club are holding our annual **Patrick's Hill Ball Run** in aid of the Cork City First Responders, Glanmire First Responders and Glounthaune First Responders and Local Cork Charities at 2pm on Sunday March 15th. It is a fun family event and all are welcome. We will also be collecting old spectacles for recycling to the third world so bring along any old glasses and give them a new lease of life.

Please support the fundraiser by buying balls on [www.corklionsclub.ie](http://www.corklionsclub.ie)

### BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

This month's collection came to **€2185**

Many thanks for your generous wonderful support.

**Queen of Peace Prayer Group** takes place 2nd Friday every month in the Glanmire Parish Rooms T45TW72. Next meeting Friday 13th March 19:00 to 20:30. Light refreshments afterwards. Join us for rosary, scripture, song, and adoration. All Welcome. Contact Sean O'Shaughnessy 0862959380

SECOND COLLECTION W/E 8TH. MARCH, 2026.  
IRISH BISHOPS COMMISSIONS.

Scoil Ursula are running the **4th Annual Golf Classic** in Lee Valley Golf club on April 17th. €250 for a Team of 3 or €75 for a Tee Box. Tee times available all day. Price includes a main course meal per golfer. Monies raised will go towards our proposed new state of the art AstroTurf Pitch. **Contact Dave McCarthy 086-0534979**  
**Brian Walsh 089-4795583**

### Third Sunday of Lent 2026

In the Bible, there is a story pattern of meeting your future wife at a well. A man is on a journey, he arrives at a well where there are shepherdesses, there is some "issue" about access to the water, gradually the man is recognised, the girls run home, the man is welcomed and he marries one of the girls. In contemporary terms, it is certainly a step above a dating app in its dramatic unfolding. This is how Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, Moses and Zipporah met and married.

As you will have noticed, six of the seven steps are present in our story of the woman at the well. (Jesus doesn't marry her but the wedding feast at Cana is alluded to immediately afterwards.) Our gospel today is a kind of narrative parable, a quest story of awakening spiritual thirst leading to encounter. The marriage imagery for the love of God is already established in John's Gospel in the story of the wedding feast at Cana.

There are strong advantages in reading the story in this way. A first advantage is that it gets us away from reading the story as a kind of moral conversion. In a traditional reading, the woman was regarded as grossly immoral — forgetting perhaps that it is not immoral to have five husbands, just a bit unfortunate. In the Old Testament, marital infidelity is often a metaphor for going after false gods — and there was contemporary anti-Samaritan propaganda, falsely claiming they were the descendants of five immigrant peoples, who brought their strange gods with them. Those are the five "husbands" of the Samaritan woman.

A second advantage is that while the Gospel metaphors gradually evolve from water to husbands to temple, in reality the subject matter remains the same: the recognition of the human longing for God, who is spirit and who is to be worshipped in spirit and in truth. Our story, in other words, is also a quest story, an odyssey of search and encounter, love and faith.

### Reflections

1. Jesus leads the woman along a wonderful journey towards a deeper and fuller life. You can enter the story with Jesus, the ideal leader, parent, teacher, or spiritual guide. Notice how he meets the woman where she is, needing her assistance, how he is patient with her, but also challenges her to grow to what she is capable of. Perhaps you have been such a teacher, or you can recall people who were.

2. You can also enter the story from the perspective of the woman's journey. Notice the steps along the way: suspicion, distrust, curiosity, misunderstanding and conversion. Her journey was one in which a very human motivation attracted her to Jesus: the thought of having water in such a way that she did not have to come and draw it from the well. What have been the human motives that have attracted you to faith, prayer, religion, church and which have been stepping-stones to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus? Perhaps we can also see the same movement in the growth of some of our human relationships.

3. The woman's final tactic is to attempt to buy time before responding (v. 25) —it will all happen sometime in the future. Jesus points out that the time for a faith response is NOW. How have you discovered the importance of the NOW moment?  
**PRAYER**  
*O God, living and true, look upon your people, whose dry and stony hearts are parched with thirst. Unseal the living water of your Spirit; let it become within us an ever-flowing spring, leaping up to eternal life. Thus may we worship you in spirit and in truth through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.*

### Maria Vadia (Catholic Evangelist)

Weekend of Healing, Prayer, Praise, Worship, Teaching, Confessions and Holy Mass. Rochestown Park Hotel, Douglas, Cork. Sat and Sun March 14th and 15th 2026. 9:30 am to 5:30pm both days.

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

### Thought for the day

Today we are greatly helped by the wonderful Gospel of the Woman at the Well. On the third attempt, Jesus finally gets through to her but after that there is no stopping her. As Augustine teaches, she represents us: what do I thirst for? What is the most important thing in my life? Where do I now find God? By relentless challenge and resolute honesty, we too can be led to that encounter with Jesus, which changes everything, "giving life a new horizon and a decisive direction." May we come to believe because we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.

### Prayer

*In the midst of the ordinary things, loving God, you call us to the deeper realities: your thirst for us and our thirst for you. Never let us be satisfied, until we come to the springs of living water, welling up for eternal 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

I'M NOT SURE I CARE FOR THE WAY JESUS IS TALKING TO THIS WOMAN. IS HE TRYING TO MAKE HER FEEL BAD ABOUT HERSELF?  
NO, SHE ALREADY DOES.  
I THINK JESUS WANTS HER TO KNOW THAT THE SPIRIT IS A GIFT FOR HER REGARDLESS.  
SO...IF YOU'RE JESUS, SOMETIMES YOU DO NEED TO BE CRUEL TO BE KIND!



### PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K PetrolStation. The code to operate both is 2017