

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

Rían Michael O’Keeffe,
Welcome to the Christian Family.



Let Us Walk Together -

The spring sunshine over the last few days has raised our hearts and our spirits. We all needed that this year. In a sense, we all need the special time of Holy Week and Easter just as much. Holy Week and Easter is a beautiful time of the year. The ceremonies are special in St. Michael’s as in all churches. We go on a journey each year in the footsteps of Jesus from the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper in the Upper Room, the death of Jesus on Calvary and the moment of the Resurrection on Holy Saturday Night. If you are new to Blackrock Parish, you are particularly welcome this year. If you might like to reconnect with the parish, please come and let us walk together. May the Lord bless us all as we prepare to celebrate the centre of our faith together. - Fr. Michael



New Ministers of the Word & Eucharist – the recent training nights have gone very well. Nine new Ministers of the Word & Eucharist participated from Blackrock Parish. Our new Ministers will be commissioned after Easter at a weekend Mass. We always need to build up our team of ministries in all areas of parish life. We are very grateful to those who have volunteered and this is a great blessing to the parish.

Fáilte to the First Holy Communion children and their families to Mass on this Saturday 21st @ 6pm. There will be one more of these Masses after Easter before the children celebrate their First Holy Communion in May. We then look forward to welcoming all the children on Sunday 23rd May @ 11am Mass.

Easter Dues Envelopes are being distributed to homes currently and are available in the church as well. Thank you so much for your generosity and support.

Sacrament of Confession will be celebrated after weekend Masses on next Saturday 28th/Sunday 29th March in St. Michael’s. Confessions after Masses in Holy Cross this weekend 21st/22nd March.

Holy Week	St Michaels	Holy Cross
Holy Thursday	Mass @ 7pm	Mass @ 6pm
Good Friday	Stations @ 12 noon Solemn Liturgy @ 3pm	Stations @ 12 noon Solemn Liturgy @ 3pm
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil @ 7pm	Easter Vigil @ 5pm
Easter Sunday	Masses @ 9am & 11am	Masses @ 10am & 12.15pm

Fr. Michael

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A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

First reading **Ezekiel 37:12-14**
 This vision was spoken at a time when all hope seemed futile and the future looked truly bleak.
Second reading **Romans 8:8-11**
 Is there a link between our present spiritual experience and our final hope in God? Paul says a resounding “yes”, because of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us.
Gospel **John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45**
 In western culture, we tend to ask “what happened?”. In eastern cultures, the question is rather “what does it mean?”. This second question brings the story into the present moment of our lives.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic (1) Editorial -- Women's ordination isn't around the corner -- but real change already is. (2) Martina Purdy: Rediscovering the power of our baptism. (3) Ellis Mulroy: The alarming rise in coercive abortion and what needs to happen. (4). Study Group No.5 -- The participation of women in the life and leadership of the Church.
Tablet. (1). Faith in France -- After half a century of steady decline in faith, a commuter town outside Paris finds itself at the centre of the current revival of French Catholicism. (2). War in the Middle East -- The ghosts of Iran. (3). Finding Grace-- Peter Stanford meets a successful London entrepreneur whose life dramatically changed when she met an Indian Catholic priest who brings healing and recovery to those suffering from alcoholism, addiction, depression and loneliness. (4) Iran's Cardinal evacuated from Tehran archdiocese.
Messenger. (1) Fr. Peter McVerry SJ: Children who are homeless. (2). Margaret Naughton: Hope in the Resurrection. (3) Bishop Paul Dempsey: Hope for Peace in the Holy Land.

The second collection at Masses w/e 28th/29th. March is for DIOCESAN NEEDS.

Divine Mercy Sunday
 Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday 12th April 2026 in the Church of the Real Presence, Curraheen, Cork. The day commences at 2pm and includes the Rosary, several Priests hearing confessions, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Stations of the Cross. Mass is celebrated at 3.30pm.



The Raising Of Lazarus From The Dead St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

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**

Fifth Sunday of Lent 2026

The scripture readings this Lent have given us a mighty series of stories, starting on the first Sunday of Lent with Adam and Eve and ending today with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Part of the Adam and Eve mythology is the discovery of mortality — not just death but awareness of death. The Lazarus story is a moving portrait of hope in the resurrection: Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

At the heart of this Gospel reading is a spectacular advance in teaching: our Christian teaching about the resurrection is not simply a doctrine but a person. Differently put, it is not something we believe but someone in whom we place our trust. Part of the genius of the Fourth Gospel is that all truths are personal and relational. In our Gospel reading we heard, “I am the resurrection and the life,” one of the seven great “I Am” sentences in this Gospel. The consequences for us all are spelt out by St Paul in our second reading:

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. (Romans 8:11)
 This teaching is a further deepening of what Paul said to the Corinthians:
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Reflections

1. Martha and Mary are portrayed as people of faith but Jesus led them to an even deeper faith. Who were the people who led you to a deeper faith in Jesus? Remember them and give thanks.
2. Martha and Mary were struggling to come to terms with their bereavement. What has helped you in similar situations?
3. The concern of Jesus is palpable and touching. Recall those who matter to you and to whom you matter. Such love mediates God’s love, which surpasses human love with the gift of new life and Easter joy.
4. One can imagine Lazarus as a symbol of people and groups that are written off as dead (sometimes by themselves), and yet through faith come back to life again. Have you had the experience of being revived by faith? Has faith helped to free you from what held you in bondage, or was destructive of your life?

PRAYER

Merciful God, you showed your glory to our fallen race by sending your Son to confound the powers of death. Call us forth from sin's dark tomb: break the bonds which hold us, that we may believe and proclaim Christ the cause of our freedom and the source of life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Gentle reminder!!

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



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.

Thought for the day

The historical Jesus was guarded in declaring his identity but by the time the Fourth Gospel was written, Christians had arrived at a rich understanding of the mystery of Jesus, the Son of God. John's Gospel puts before the believer a grand assemblage of 7 I AM sentences, rooted in the name of God in Exodus 3:14, I AM WHO I AM. *I am the bread of life.* (John 6:35, 48, 51); *I am the light of the world* (John 8:12; 9:5); *I am the gate for the sheep* (John 10:7, 9); *I am the good shepherd* (John 10:11, 14); *I am the resurrection and the life* (John 11:25); *I am the way, and the truth, and the life* (John 14:6); *I am the true vine* (John 15:1, 5). We are reminded that we believe first of all in a person, not in a philosophy. Anyone one of these images would take us deeply into our encounter with the Risen Lord, none more so than “I am the resurrection and the life.”

Prayer
Jesus, present to us always, you wept at the tomb of your friend Lazarus. As we face the mystery of death, our own and that of those we love, help us to place our trust in you, the resurrection and the life. Amen.
 K O'Mahony OSA

ENTRANCE –Be not afraid.

You shall cross the barren desert But you shall not die of thirst
 You shall wander far in safety Though you do not know the way
 You shall speak your words to foreign men
 And they will understand
 You shall see the face of God and live

*Chorus: Be not afraid I go before you always
 Come, follow me and I will give you rest*

If you pass through raging waters in the sea You shall not drown
 If you walk amid the burning flames You shall not be harmed
 If you stand before the power of hell And death is at your side
 Know that I am with you through it all

*Chorus: Be not afraid I go before you always
 Come, follow me and I will give you rest*

Blessed are your poor For the kingdom shall be theirs
 Blest are you that weep and mourn For one day you shall laugh
 And if wicked men insult and hate you All because of me
 Blessed, blessed are you

*Chorus: Be not afraid I go before you always
 Come, follow me and I will give you rest*

RECESSIONAL -Hail Queen of Heaven

Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean Star:
 Guide of the wand'r'er here below,
 Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care;
 Save us from peril and from woe.
 Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea,
 Pray for the wand'r'er, pray for me.



O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,
 We sinners make our prayers through thee;
 Remind thy Son that He has paid
 The price of our iniquity.
 Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,
 Pray for the sinner, pray for me.

