

## 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

**Sheila McCarthy**, St Douglas Road,  
 Douglas & Blackrock  
**William Banks**, Blackrock  
*Rest in Peace*



## 'Truth, what is that?'

I am always struck by the words of the Passion Reading on Good Friday afternoon when Pilate says 'truth, what is that'. These are words for our time and our world. Increasingly we find it hard to believe what we hear at many levels not to mind the fundamental Christian gift of living by the truth and in the truth. Every year we hear these words and as the years go on we see the importance of them. That is just one aspect of the fundamental truth of the drama of Holy Week and Easter. This year, the world is fearful of war and all its consequences. People are fearful in their lives and worried about many matters. The Person of Jesus never brings fear but always hope and trust. These are the gifts that we need this year. So let us walk with Jesus through this Holy Week. We walk into the heart of suffering so that we can overcome fear and live in hope. Please God, you will be able to join in the Holy Week ceremonies. May the Lord bless us all. - Fr. Michael



**Fáilte** to everyone to our Holy Week ceremonies. If this is your first Holy Week in Ireland, your first Holy Week in our parish, you are warmly welcome. If this is your first time to join in the ceremonies in St. Michael's, you will find dignified and prayerful ceremonies and we are grateful to all who make this happen.

**Sacrament of Confession** will be celebrated after weekend Masses on this Saturday 28th/Sunday 29th March in St. Michael's.

**The Offertory Collection** at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday is for the support of the priests of the parish. Thank you always for your kindness and support in this and throughout the year.

**Easter Dues Envelopes** – are still available from the church and have been delivered to homes as well. Thank you for your generosity always.

*Fr. Michael*

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

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

## A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading** **Isaiah 50:4-7**  
 The crucifixion of Jesus was a real challenge to the first Christians. When trying to understand the "what" and the "why", they went back to their bible (our "Old Testament"). Four poems in Isaiah, called today the Songs of the Suffering Servant, were very helpful to them and today we hear the third of these poems.

**Second reading** **Philippians 2:6-11**  
 Like the first reading, this is poetry, really a kind of hymn. In it, we hear the sentiments of the very first generation of Christians as they reflected on the death and resurrection of Jesus.

**Gospel** **Matthew 26:14-27:66**  
 The Gospels were written because the evangelist believed in Jesus, risen from the dead. Even today, we retell the Passion precisely because of our faith in Jesus, who is our resurrection. Matthew makes this clear with the extraordinary addition of the story about the earthquake. Already, the effects of salvation are brought forward for dramatic and didactic purposes.

## The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic:** 1. Youth uptick is small and fragile but very real Even amid crisis and change, the "flame of faith" in Ireland has not gone out a gathering of young people in Armagh have been told. "Those who have the flame of faith burning... can find a way to reach out once again," said Bishop Michael Ruter.  
 2. Twin golfer priests celebrated their 95th birthday on Saturday, March 21 and will also celebrate 70 years of priesthood side by side this year. Both priests worked until over 90 years of age. Fr Joe Kelly had been working in Bayside Parish until last year, and his brother Fr Matt Kelly, retired three years ago. The twin priests currently reside in the Little Sisters of the Poor, Sacred Heart Residence in Sybil Hill, Raheny.  
 3. Come and See : A number of Irish dioceses are stepping up efforts to encourage vocations to the priesthood, with "Come and See" events taking place over the coming weeks and months, including gatherings in Knock on March 28, Thurles on April 11, and Galway on May 10.

**Tablet:** Archbishop Sarah Mullally makes history as she is installed as first female Archbishop of Canterbury. Pope Leo XIV sent "prayerful greetings". Catholic women's ordination campaigners welcome enthronement of Sarah Mullally as Archbishop of Canterbury

## 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 Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 5th April 2026 - Easter Sunday**  
**Your support as always is greatly appreciated.**  
**THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND**

**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 5th April 2026 for tea, bikkies, Easter Eggs and more chat!**  
**Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!**  
*Everyone welcome - Ah go on!*



## 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.**

## Psalm Sunday 2026

On this Sunday, exceptionally, we hear two Gospels. The chief one is the Passion according to Matthew but before that we have the Gospel of the Entry into Jerusalem. The Gospel of the Entry is an invitation to each one of us, too, to make our entry once again into the events of Holy Week. The story we are about to re-enact, to re-tell ourselves, is familiar, at the same time strange and always new. It is familiar, familiar to us all our lives — each element, each character, each anecdote is known to us. At the same time, the story is also also new simply because we are different with the passing of another year. This is the great story we tell ourselves in Holy Week, in word and gesture and sacrament. It is a love story, the greatest love story ever told. Samuel Crossman closes his poem My Song is Love Unknown with these moving words:

*Here might I stay and sing;  
 no story so divine,  
 never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend,  
 in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days  
 could gladly spend!*

In Holy Week, we are called to allow ourselves to be loved beyond measure.

## Reflections

*The account of the Passion is a vivid story with a variety of characters and much action. To enter into the passage we can read the story slowly and see if we can identify with different characters in the story. Also any one scene within the story can provide us with much food for reflection and prayer. Keep in mind that one of the aims in reflecting on the passage is to discover the GOOD NEWS the story has for us. Here are just a few general pointers for prayer.*

1. The identity of Jesus is revealed as the Messiah and the Son of God, not with a display of human power, but as one who was prepared to suffer unto death to show us how our God loves us. How does the Passion story speak to you as a revelation of how God loves you?
2. Jesus gives us an example of patient endurance and faithfulness in suffering. Suffering is something we all encounter. It is not something that anyone likes but sometimes we cope with it better than others. What have you found helps you to cope better with suffering?
3. As you read through the narrative of the Passion where do you find yourself resonating with a character in the action? Is there any message there for you that is life-giving?

## PRAYER

*O God of eternal glory, you anointed Jesus your servant to bear our sins, to encourage the weary, to raise up and restore the fallen. Keep before our eyes the splendour of the paschal mystery of Christ and, by our sharing in the passion and resurrection, seal our lives with the victorious sign of his obedience and exaltation. We ask this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.*

**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.

## Thought for the day

Official memorial celebrations are familiar to us, marking wars or national events. Often, these are coloured by a mixture of sadness and gratitude. The Christian memorial of the last week of Jesus' life is entirely different. First of all, we tell the whole story again because he is risen from the dead. Secondly, this memorial is an effective one: as we do this in memory of him, the very same gifts of compassion, forgiveness, love and healing are offered again to all present, precisely because Jesus is risen from the dead. Our Christian memory is not a dead remembering but an effective bringing into the present of the great events that gave us new life in Christ.

## Prayer

*Saving God, as we recall in word and gesture the great events of salvation, let us know your healing love once more. Amen.*

K O'Mahony OSA



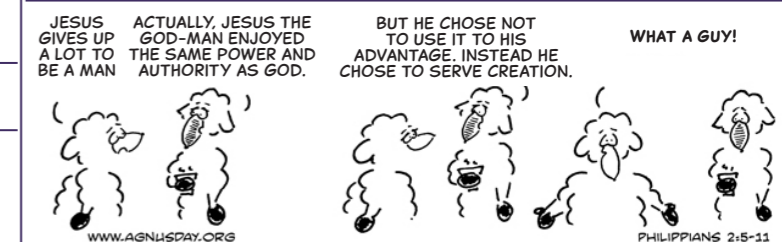
Christ's Entrance Into Jerusalem St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

**Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event that serves as the "hinge" between his public ministry and the final events of Holy Week. Scholars highlight that this entrance was a deliberate, prophetic act intended to announce his identity while subverting worldly expectations of power.**

**The Donkey** (Humility & Peace): Riding a donkey fulfilled the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. While a horse symbolized war, a donkey was the mount of a king arriving in peace. It also signaled that Jesus' kingdom was not about earthly military power but about love and sacrifice.

**Palm Branches** (Victory & Rebirth): In Greco-Roman culture, palms were symbols of victory and triumph. Scripturally, they evoke the Feast of Tabernacles and the exodus, signaling the people's hope that Jesus would lead a "New Exodus" to deliver them from bondage.

**The Shout of "Hosanna"**: This Hebrew term translates to "Save now" or "O save us". The crowds were using it as a royal acclamation, acknowledging Jesus as the "Son of David" and the promised Messiah



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