

### 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**

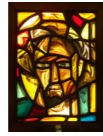


### Recently Deceased

**Noreen O'Leary, Marian Park**

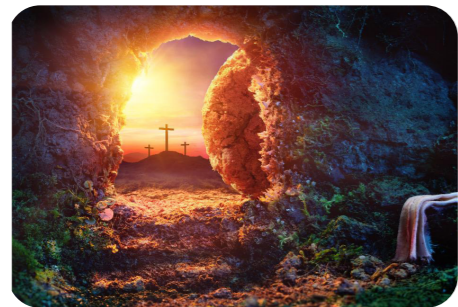
**Janet Carlile, Dunlocha**

**Rest in Peace**



### Easter time –

The attendances at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday morning were evidently larger than recent years. There was a lovely atmosphere in the church and we are all encouraged when we see so many present.



Overall, Holy Week was beautifully celebrated with good attendances for all ceremonies. In recent years and especially since the covid pandemic, a sense of resignation in relation to church attendances was taking hold. In more recent times we have seen the loyalty and dedication of so many people and families contributing to stable and growing attendances. Christmas 2025 and Holy Week this year have reinforced the sense that our parish is still very much alive. We endeavour to involve more people in different ministries and elements of parish life. We will continue to do this reassured that our faith is important and the need for faith remains in the context of a fearful and chaotic world. – Fr. Michael

**The Easter Offertory Collection** – thank you so much for your generosity in this collection at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday Night and at Masses on Easter Sunday morning. Your kindness is always appreciated.

**Celebration of Baptism during Easter** – Bishop Fintan has asked that parishes would celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at one Sunday Mass in Eastertime this year so that we can see the beauty and significance of the Sacrament. This will take place on next Sunday 19th April @ 11am Mass.

**Cork Light Orchestra Concert** – to support roof repairs in the SMA Church will take place in St. Michael's on next Sunday 19th April @ 3pm. Please support.

**Children's Adoration** – Friday 1st May from 3 - 3.30pm in St Michael's Church, Blackrock. Join us for guided meditation, songs and time with Jesus. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For more information contact: Katie (087 7798175)

**Catholic Newspapers** – we continue to avail of a good selection of Catholic literature available in the church. It's always helpful to keep ourselves informed about developments throughout the country and globally through good Catholic literature.

*Fr. Michael*

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

### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First Reading Acts 4:32-35**

What does being a follower of Jesus mean? In this reading, we see that it includes a new "belonging" to the family of the faith, a belonging which implies community of goods and gifts.

**Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9**

Our reading is a prayer, praising God. Nevertheless, it names some of the challenges to faith, challenges which have not gone away. In spite of or indeed because of having to suffer for the faith, there is powerful note of joy in our reading.

**Gospel John 20:19-31**

This is a justly famous and remembered story. Why was it written? To reassure people that later generations in the faith were not less fortunate than earlier generations. Perhaps we too may suspect that for people before us faith was somehow easier

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1). In week six of his Lumen gentium catechesis, Pope Leo XIV sheds light on the innate dignity of the laity and their role in the mission of the Church. (2). Nicholas Cuddihy: School principals and boards once again thrown under the bus. (3). Breda O'Brien: Growth and decline are happening simultaneously for Catholicism. (4) Pope Leo's first apostolic journey to Africa. (5). Who will tend the new sheep? After a promising Easter, the Church faces its most urgent question.

**Sacred Heart Messenger.** (1). St. Joseph -- A Quiet Strength. (2). Fr. Gerry O'Hanlon: Pentecost -- The Birthday of the Church (3). Fr. Brendan McManus: Tackling our Demons.

**Tablet Easter Issue.** (1) Fr. David Neuhaus who lives in Jerusalem: Holy times are suffocated by unholy war. We mark the season listening for sirens. (2). Stations of the Cross in West London -- The ecumenism of blood. (3). Fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP: Growing old - Make me know the shortness of my life. (4). The future of religion. -- Back to basics.

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Tuesday 21st April 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](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)

**BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL Church Gate collection will take place on Week ending 12th April 2026 - Your support as always is greatly appreciated. THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND**

### Peace and Reassurance

*The Setting:* On the evening of Easter Sunday, the disciples are hiding behind "locked doors" for fear of the religious authorities.

*The Greeting:* Jesus appears and says, "Peace be with you." This is not just a greeting but an act of reconciliation; after their desertion, they likely expected a rebuke.

*The Wounds:* By showing his hands and side, Jesus proves he is the same person who was crucified. These scars remain emblems of his sacrifice even in his glorified body.

The author explicitly states that these signs were written so that readers may "continue to believe" that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God, and that through this belief, they may have life in his name.

### EASTER 2026

**CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS TRULY RISEN, ALLELUIA!!**

**A blessed and happy Eastertide to all!**

In Dublin city centre, there is a Unitarian Church on St Stephen's Green. Once, they had a poster which said simply: *I prefer living doubts to dead certainties.* A nice play on words, because a dead certainty seems to be something desirable, especially in sports and betting. But in this case, living doubts are better than dead certainties. It is an arresting thought — today's Gospel reading reminded me of the poster.

Our Gospel today is remembered as the story of doubting Thomas — this in spite of the fact that Thomas makes the most resounding act of faith in Jesus in the whole Gospel of John. It should really be remembered as a story of faith — believing Thomas. But that will never catch on, simply because we identify more readily with the figure of doubt — just a bit nearer to our experience.

When it comes to faith and doubt, it is not either/or. We are not either doubting Thomas or believing Thomas. Instead, we inhabit both realities, within ourselves, in a living tension. To put it in other words, it is not that we believe in spite of doubts but rather it is because of our living doubts that we take the leap of faith.



### Reflections

1. "Peace be with you" was the greeting of Jesus on meeting his frightened apostles. Who has come to you bringing peace at times when you were afraid? To whom have you been able to bring peace?
2. Thomas, doubting and questioning, is possibly a person with whom we can identify. What part have doubting and questioning played on your faith journey? How has your faith been strengthened by such moments?
3. Note the way that Jesus dealt with Thomas. He did not give out because he doubted. He accepted how he felt and led him along to see the truth of his resurrection. Who has been that kind of teacher for you, gently taking you from where you were and leading you to a deeper knowledge about some truth about life? For whom have you been that kind of teacher?
4. "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believed". That requires great trust. Perhaps you have had the experience of being trusted without having to justify every step along the way. What was it like to be trusted in that way? Who have you been able to trust in a similar manner?

### PRAYER

*God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism you have raised us up in Christ and given us life that endures. Day by day, refine our faith that we who have not seen the Christ, may truly confess him as our Lord and God, and share the blessedness of those who believe. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and signs with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.*

### Thought for the day

How did any of us make the journey towards faith in Christ? No doubt a great part of it is simply what we received— usually from family. At some point, did I make a conscious choice? Perhaps at other times, I felt like walking away from the faith project? What kept me going? Did a more personal ownership of faith result? Perhaps I felt the intuition of John O'Donahue, "Faith is helpless attraction to the divine." In spite of everything, in spite of myself, somehow it is part of who I am.

### Prayer

*Mysterious God, we are those who have seen and at the same time not seen. Help to look beyond the simple gifts of each day to see you the giver behind—and in—every gift. Help us embrace the grace that we may know true blessedness in believing.*

K O'Mahony OSA

### ENTRANCE - Christ be beside me

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,  
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.



### RECESSIONAL - How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.

*CHORUS: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee etc.*

### Gentle reminder!!

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



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

