

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

Deceased

Finbarr Desmond, Ballintemple

Liam Luddy, Glaunthaune/Beaumont

Rest in Peace



Shaping Memories -

As a child I remember attending Mass at Our Lady's Well in Timoleague on the Feast of the Assumption on 15th August. This was an annual event on that day. Those were the days when the feastday was a Holy Day of Obligation and no work would take place in the fields or on the land. People and families gathered for the Mass and simply spend time talking on the grounds of the Holy Well. What I recall as a child was the pace of the gathering, no one was in a hurry and I marvelled listening to adult conversation about the 'harvest weather', sport and the state of the country. That day also marked a turning point in the summer as the words 'they will soon be going back to school' could be heard too. These are special memories. While the world has changed, we always have the opportunity and responsibility to shape memories for children in faith. We have a special blessing in our faith and we ask for the grace and wisdom to realise when we can shape such enduring memories for the children. - Fr. Michael

Memories

Saturday 15th August – Feast of the Assumption –

Mass: St. Michael's @ 9.30am Holy Cross @ 10am

Mission Appeal – Fr. Manuel from the Comboni Missionaries will speak at Masses next weekend 15th/16th August. The Comboni Missionaries are visiting parishes in the Diocese of Cork and Ross throughout 2026.

Catholic Papers – available in the church weekly. Thank you for your support particularly throughout the summer months when our routines can change somewhat.

Cork Light Orchestra Concert – in the church on Friday 21st August @ 5.30pm as part of the Blackrock Village Festival

Over the years, our parish newsletter has availed of extensive scriptural resources from Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA. Kieran recently celebrated his Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood with us here in St. Michael's. In particular, our parish newsletter has utilised Fr. Kieran's resources from his website Tarsus.ie. In light of Fr. Kieran's recent ill health this website is no longer available but we will continue to benefit from his wisdom and learning in relation to the scripture readings each week. We are very grateful for this as we continue to keep Fr. Kieran in our prayers at this time. Fr. Michael.

Fr. Michael

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Thoughts on the Gospel

The hand of God is a human hand. Jesus reaches out to guide us, steady us, support us - all the things a touch of the hand can do. Peter found that also in Jesus - when he took his eyes off the Lord on the water, he began to sink. The Lord then held him close. Like Peter, we are always walking on water, putting our trust in Jesus Christ. We trust in him for protection in the most frightening times of life, like at the hour of death. At times we can do nothing for those we love except place them in the hand of God, knowing that God loves them more than we do.

The Papers Say.....

Irish Catholic. (1). Ellis Mulroy: A message to women whose stories haven't been told. — Before the next Dail vote on the three-day wait TDs must hear from the women whose experiences have been pushed to the margins. (2). The peace proposed by Pope Leo is not a naive hippie ideal, expert says. A new Vatican anthology presents the pontiffs teaching on peace. (3). More than a cycle — preaching and providence renewed the Irish Dominicans. (4). The end of the curse —. The mystery of Mayo faith.

Tablet of 1/8. (1). Work still to do. — Cardinal Arthur Booth who leads the Vatican congregation for worship, explains why Pope Leo is not going to overturn the restrictions that Pope Francis placed on the celebrations of the pre-Vatican Liturgy . (2). The children of Tuam — Excavations at a mother and baby home in Co. Galway have revealed 99 infant bodies buried in coffins, and none in a septic tank. (3). Thousands of young Catholic festival goers told — 'dream big ' (4) France: Mass for parishes threatened by fire.

Support the Catholic press and keep in touch with the church

Buy and read a Catholic paper/magazine every week!



The Solitude and Timing of Jesus Seeking Isolation: Right after the exhaustive miracle of feeding the 5,000, Jesus forces His disciples into a boat so He can pray alone on a mountain. This demonstrates the absolute necessity of solitary prayer and spiritual recharging, even amid intense ministry demands.

The Fourth Watch: Jesus approaches the strained disciples between 3:00 AM and 6:00 AM (the "fourth watch"). This timing is highly symbolic. He often arrives when our human energy is completely spent, dark fears peak, and we feel most abandoned by the shore.

Fear of the Unknown: When Jesus approaches, the disciples do not rejoice; they cry out in terror, thinking He is a ghost. This highlights a human tendency: we often misidentify God's presence during our trials, viewing His supernatural movements as threats or hallucinations rather than deliverances.

The Great "I Am": Jesus reassures them by saying, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid". In the original Greek, "it is I" is Ego Emi, the exact covenant name God used with Moses at the burning bush. Jesus is not just announcing His arrival; He is revealing His divinity over the chaos of the sea.

Some Inspiration

The gospel for today is not lacking in drama and emotion. It is intense, detailed, and almost cinematographic. As well as that, the picture of the faltering disciples is reassuring and that of the sinking Peter doubly so — so fragile and human. Still, the story can also seem very remote from our experience. For the original readers, this Gospel story would have resonated powerfully.

The gospel was written about ad 80 or 85, in a time of separation, upheaval and turmoil. The community had recently separated from the mother religion of Judaism, echoed as well in today's second reading. Judaism itself was undergoing a time of upheaval: the Romans had destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, ending all sacrifices and priesthood. Surviving Judaism and break-away groups like Matthew's community all wondered how to rebuild, how to be faithful in a drastically new situation. Stormy times!

In that context, the storm at sea is a perfect metaphor for the community of faith in times of upheaval and turmoil. The destructive force of water is familiar image from the Old Testament. The boat points to the fragile community of faith — and somehow, they sense the absence and then the presence of Jesus. In biblical culture, water symbolises both life and death; walking on the water is not to be taken literally but is a metaphor for Jesus risen from the dead, master of life and death. The message is clear: the call for a renewed faith in Jesus himself, a faith evidently weakened by the times they were living through.

Reflections

1. The story illustrates the power of faith. Have you noticed that when you believe in someone, or something, you can do things that would not be possible when you are full of doubts? Recall moments when your faith gave you strength and courage? Name for yourself the different kinds of faith that had this effect: belief in yourself, trust in another, faith in God.
2. When Jesus got into the boat the winds ceased. Who has been a Jesus person for you and helped to calm a storm that frightened you or made you anxious?
3. The experience of Peter gives en- couragement to us when we waver in our trust and belief in God. In his doubt and fear Jesus reached out to him. Who has reached out a helping hand to you when you felt you were sinking?
4. The story ends with a profession of faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Have you had experiences of being rescued from some hazard or danger, experi- ences which deepened your faith in the presence and compassion of God for you?

PRAYER

God of all power, your sovereign word comes to us in Christ. When your church is in danger, make us firm in our trust; when your people falter, steady our faith. Show us in Jesus your power to save, that we may

TROCAIRE LENTAN BOXES:

The total received from Parishioners Boxes this year was €2,378.20 – Trocaire are most grateful.

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL

This month's collection came to €1810

Many thanks for your generous support.

Thought for the day

“Do not be afraid” is one of those expressions which goes straight to the heart. Who has not sometimes been afraid? The command not to fear combines two things: firstly, it is a recognition that yes, sometimes we are afraid; secondly, it proclaims that in the community of faith, with Jesus, God-withus, our companion on the way, we ought really to be free from deep fear, because “all shall be well.” Let us hear again the words, “Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.”

Prayer

Lord, save us when circumstances seem to overwhelm us, when we can- not see our way forward, when we find ourselves sinking. Take us by the hand and lead to the open space of freedom and confidence in you.

K O'Mahony OSA

A message from Fr Kieran OSA,

Dear friends and subscribers,

With this email I am sending the final email to come from Tarsus.ie. Recently, my health has declined and the time has come to draw to a close this service.

I thank each of you for your faithfulness and loyalty to these emails. It has been a great source of pleasure to know that my explorations of the scriptures have been popular and helpful around the world.

Please continue to hold me in your prayer.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

Kieran asked that we continue to use his notes and reflections in our Newsletter, as Blackrock Parish has a special place in his heart.

Aidan

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.

I DON'T THINK IT'S NICE OF JESUS TO SCARE HIS DISCIPLES LIKE THAT.

THEY THOUGHT HE WAS A GHOST.

BUT FEAR IS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE OF SINNERS BEFORE THE HOLY GOD.

YEAH! THAT'S ANOTHER THING: I PREFER MY GOD TO BE WARM AND FUZZY!!



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MATTHEW 14:22-33

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

Gentle reminder!!

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



PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

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