

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock

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30/08/2026

22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES: Email to : parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie



BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office. MARRIAGES: Minimum 3 months notice required by Church and State. Pre-marriage course required.

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
Sean Anthony Maher.
Nathan Nigel Maher.
Luke Conroy-Eisenberg.
Tadhg Michael McMahon.
Naoise Norberg-Forde.
Welcome to the Christian Family.



Deceased
Michael O'Neill. Ballinlough, formerly Barringtons Avenue.
Fr. Kieran O'Mahony, OSA. Dublin and Youghal.
Gerard Murphy. Castle Road.
Dairine Enda MacCarthy, Blackrock
Barry Irwin. Meadowgrove.
Linda O'Connell, Jacobs Island



In Memory -
This weekend we remember the late Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA who died peacefully in Dublin recently. Fr. Kieran has been a great friend to Blackrock Parish for many years. He has been a regular visitor and has frequently celebrated Mass in the church. This parish newsletter has been blessed with his scriptural insights and learning. Kieran has helped us all to understand the beauty and power of the Word of God as something vibrant and alive. Recently, he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood here in St. Michael's. That was a memorable occasion and we were privileged that he shared that milestone with the parish aware of his deteriorating health at the time. We extend our sympathies to his Augustinian confreres, his sister Liz, brothers Aidan, Brendan, John and Frank, his brother-in-law Andele, sisters-in-law Phil, Nunci, Liz and Maighread, his many loving nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews, many wonderful friends and esteemed colleagues. May Fr. Kieran now rest in the peace of the Lord whom he so faithfully served – Fr. Michael

Children's Adoration – resumes on Friday 4th September from 3 – 3.30pm.
Annual Remembrance Mass - for all those who have died from our parish over the last year will be celebrated on Monday 2nd November @ 7pm. They have gone no further than to God and God is very near.

Holy Cross Church – Fortieth Anniversary – preparations continue in Mahon Parish to celebrate this landmark very soon. The Redemptorist Fathers will lead a Triduum of Prayer from Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd September. The themes will be Hope, Healing & Community. Remembrance of those who have been involved and supported the construction and development of the church will also be honoured. There will be a special Mass on Sunday 20th September @ 12.15pm and all are welcome. – Fr. Michael

Fr. Michael 085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings
First Reading (Jeremiah 20:7-9)
The prophet Jeremiah expresses deep anguish and feels tricked or overwhelmed by God's call, yet he finds that God's word inside him burns like a fierce fire that he cannot hold back.
Second Reading (Romans 12:1-2)
St. Paul urges believers to offer their bodies as a living sacrifice and to avoid conforming to the standards of this world, seeking instead spiritual transformation through a renewed mind.
Gospel (Matthew 16:21-27)
Jesus predicts His suffering and death. When Peter objects, Jesus rebukes him ("Get behind me, Satan") and teaches that true followers must deny themselves, take up their cross, and lose their lives to find them.

The Papers Say.....
Tablet Summer Issue. (16 extra pages). (1). Archbishop Visvaldas Kulbokas: A year in Ukraine —. The Papal Nuncio to Ukraine reports that life in Kyiv has become so difficult that those who remain in the city have almost lost connection with ‘normal life’. (2) Retracing the footsteps of the Jesuits —. A quarter of a century ago, in a poor village in the south-east of Paraguay Margaret Hebblethwatite found her true vocation. (3). William Taylor: One thing I like about the charismatic evangelicals is their sense of expectancy. (4). Peacemakers. — The role of the small Christian minority in Israel and Palestine is not to live a life apart but to show how coexistence, forgiveness and reconciliation are possible. (5) Nigeria. — . Cardinal supported after criticisms of government.

Irish Catholic. (1). Legion of Mary offers way to ‘live out missionary zeal’ for young Catholics at upcoming conference. (2). Garry O’Sullivan: What a layman’s eulogy proved at Fr. Kieran O’Mahony’s funeral. (3). David Quinn: Why the Government seem to dislike the traditional housewife. See also Dr. Niamh Regan (4). Mater Dei Academy in Cork celebrates its first graduating class. (5). Breda O’Brien; M9 tragedy. — Praying for and supporting those who seem to deserve less compassion. (6). Martina Purdy; Women priests, Knock and our faith journey.

Messenger; (1). Pope’s intention for September— For the care of water. (2). Our answer? —. Columban priest, Fr. Sean McDonagh reports on the recent COP30 climate conference in Brazil (3) Bishops Kevin Doran: Fr. Flanagan of Boy’s Town. (4). Fr. Gerry O’Hanlon: Pope Leo, A1 and Doomscrolling.

Support the Catholic press and keep in touch with the Church Buy and read a Catholic paper/magazine weekly.

Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 6th September for tea, bikkies and more chat!
Cheaper than the village - it's free!
Everyone welcome - Ah go on!



Christian Meditation Group – A group of people from our Family of Parishes continue to meet on each Friday morning at 10.15am in the Parish Centre. After a short introduction there is 20 minutes of silent prayer/meditation concluding with the Our Father. We welcome you to join us. Contact 087 6477841 for details.

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.

Appreciation Seamus Ahearne OSA
Kieran O'Mahony OSA died on 18th August in Our Lady's Hospice, at Harold's Cross, Dublin. Kieran was 75 and a very energetic young man! He was very healthy and his bike took him on many a long trip. There is almost a sense of abandonment in his going. I incline always to say – some resentment that he has gone. He had so much to give and gave so much. He fitted the oft-used phrase: A Renaissance man. He seemed to have all the gifts. He was a Scripture Scholar. He was immersed in History; in Liturgy; in Music; in Archeology. He could also cook rather well! He was an excellent lecturer who spoke with clarity, and with an ability to make connections with life; with politics; with current affairs. He gave a context to everything.



A real Scripture scholar is not someone who knows the Scriptural background but rather one who can remove the layers and let the Word speak. Much of what many of us do is too simplistic. Myth and Metaphor. Parable and prophetic gesture. The world of the past came alive through Kieran. There is was nothing fundamentalist in his approach. He wasn't ever intimidated by the Bible. He had the languages. He had read ‘everything’ and ‘everyone.’ He made sense of it all and then his applied theology burst forth. He was such a blessing. We (as ministers) are supposedly people who apply theology and let the Word become Flesh.

He came out here to Finglas on a regular basis. He took us through whatever was our chosen topic. John. Paul. Acts. The Prophets. The psalms. Isaiah. Or the Gospels for that year. Or the Readings for the weekends. Whatever and whichever we wanted. He spoke. We were mesmerized. The Word came alive. He was asked questions. Many of those questions came from people who wouldn't be overfamiliar with the Bible. He treated every question with respect, and entered into the world of Finglas and of the person. It was very special. On one occasion, I told John Byrne OSA (who worked with Kieran out of Orlagh) how good Kieran was here among us. I told him of the ease which everyone felt in listening and learning and asking questions. John replied: “Kieran learned so much from the people of Finglas.” That was a delightful surprise to hear. I had felt sometimes that Kieran was so learned that our rather simple questions might irritate the ‘Professor’!

The example that whirls around in my head comes from The Deserted Village by Oliver Goldsmith. The lines/comments on the village schoolmaster: “And still their wonder grew, that one small head could carry all he knew.” This was so true. My wonder grew too, that some of us had spent so much time in education, and had emerged (almost unlearned) with rather less ability to make FAITH take root in the everyday and the ordinary. Kieran could and did.

Kieran too was very searching and restless in his questions on how Liturgy could be and might be celebrated. He was a critical observer too of what was being given in many a Church! He felt so often that Scripture was misused and misunderstood. He was very strong too on the reasoning in Church thinking in regards to Priesthood. He could find no basis in Scripture for not ordaining women as Deacons and Priests.

We so much needed Kieran to stay with us. But our ways are not God's ways. He lived well. He died well. He inspired us. He was a great gift among us. He reached out across the world with his Scripture journeys; with his lectures online; with his presence in the Archdiocese of Dublin. In fact, I was always sad when that role ended a few years ago. Kieran had more to do and more to teach all of us. Bless him and Thanks be to God for him. His dying too was an inspiration. His leaving of us challenges us in some little way, to take on the baton in the relay race of faith. May he rest in peace. Seamus Ahearne OSA 18 August 2026.

Thought for the day
Jesus had the gift of saying things directly and plainly, with a power to penetrate all our defences and lead us to a new awareness. Today's message puts before us the paradox of the Gospel: we gain life by letting go of it. If I put my happiness, my being loved, at the centre of my life, then I will surely fail, even though to be loved and to be happy are really important. If on the other hand I put the happiness of others first and love them unconditionally, then I too will know unselfish love and deep happiness. This is the very insight and wisdom that Jesus puts before us as the key not just to love but to life and within that, the key to authentic discipleship precisely as a way of life.
Prayer
Teach us, Lord, that nothing is more life-giving than to love and be loved in return.
Kieran O'Mahony OSA

Reflections
1. Short-term loss is sometimes necessary for long-term gain as a student studying or an athlete training can testify. When have you found that denying yourself proved to be worthwhile because of what you gained afterwards.
2. Jesus was teaching his followers that the path of discipleship would involve pain and suffering. Peter would have none of it. When have you found that taking up your cross brought you life, even though at the time it may have been difficult?
3. Jesus knew that because his good news message was not acceptable to the authorities he would suffer and die, but God would see that evil would not have the last say. Have you seen a good news message survive even though opponents tried to stifle it?
4. Jesus promised that those who suffer for the kingdom would be rewarded. Perhaps, even in this earthly life, you have experienced reward.

PRAYER
O God, whose word burns like a fire within us, grant us a bold and faithful spirit, that in your strength we may be unafraid to speak your word and follow where you lead.
We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

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



Lourdes Pilgrimage Petitions – if you wish to send your prayer to Lourdes with the Diocesan Pilgrimage in September, petition sheets and envelopes are available in the church this weekend.

JUST LIKE THAT, PETER FALLS FLAT ON HIS FACE. YEAH.
BUT IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE. THE THOUGHT OF JESUS BEING CRUCIFIED IS HORRIFIC!
SURE, BUT PETER SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WOULD ALL WORK OUT, I MEAN.... IT'S JESUS!!
www.agnusday.org
MATTHEW 16:21-28

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Church Gate collection will take place on
Week ending 6th September
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.
THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND