

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This mystery has many implications for Christ and his Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia

**Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

A reading of the holy Gospel according to John

Whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.
The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Church of The Annunciation | St. Brendan's | St. Oliver's

Parish Newsletter

23rd August 2009

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

*We gather around the table of the Lord to celebrate the Eucharist and to hear
Jesus, the one whose words are spirit and life.*



FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Joshua

We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

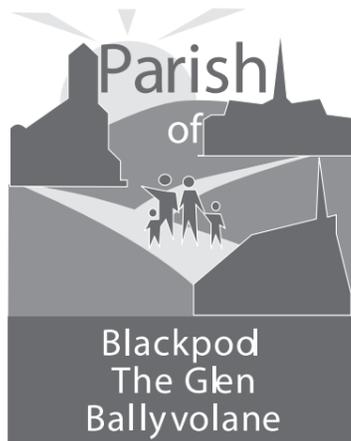
I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. **R.**

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R.**

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all, the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. **R.**

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**



Parish News

BLACKPOOL / THE GLEN / BALLYVOLANE PARISH ASSEMBLY have organised a special outdoor *Mass for our Departed Faithful at St. Catherine's Cemetery, Kilcully*, on Wednesday 2nd September 2009 at 7pm. All are very welcome to attend.

SUNDAYS AT 7PM CAN YOU SPARE THE TIME? Pope Benedict has announced a Year for Priests, in response

The Capuchins in Holy Trinity, Fr. Mathew Quay, invite you to Holy Hour on Sundays at 7pm. Can you spare the time for silent adoration, followed by rosary and benediction? Make time to pray for your own needs and the needs of the Church at this time! All are welcome.

NOVENA ~ OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART ~ begins on Monday 31st August to Tues. 8th September, 10:00am and 8:00pm daily. Preached by Fr. Tom Mulcahy, MSC Sacred Heart Church, Western Road, Cork.

LOURDES Cork & Ross Week-end Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2009
2nd – 4th October ~ 2 nights ~ Full Board Accommodation
Booking forms now available from Joe Walsh Tours 117 Patrick St Cork
Tel. 021-4277959 or 021-4277120
Pilgrimage Director: Monsignor Kevin O'Callaghan

KNOW YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH!

Know your Catholic Faith! In preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress a series of studies on the Catechism of the Catholic Church will be held at different venues in the Diocese of Cork and Ross, from September – December, 2009. (These studies are open to all adults who wish to have a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith).

Venues:

MSC, Myross Wood
Retreat Centre,
Introduction:
Monday 7th September 2009
7.30pm-9.30pm
Fr. Michael Curran MSC, DD

MSC, Manor House,
Carraig nabhFear,
Introduction:
Tuesday 8th September
7.30pm-9.30pm
Fr. Eugene Barrett, OFM.

SMA Parish Centre, Wilton,
Introduction: Tuesday 8th September, 2009. 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Fr. Tomás Walsh SMA

For further details: Máirín Ní Shúilleabháin, 087-7950325

Announcements

Bookings open for **BLACKPOOL PTA** PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES JULY 2010.
Enquiries & bookings can be made at Blackpool Community Centre on Mondays 7pm to 8pm.

THE MOST HOLY ROSARY will be recited by the members of the Legion of Mary every Sunday after 11am Mass in St. Oliver's Church. All are very welcome to join in.
Jack Murphy, President, Legion of Mary

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant's Introduction: : 'The Lord turns his eyes to the just.' Let us present our needs to that same Lord with confidence.

Intercessions:

1. We pray for the Church; That it may be a source of peace and unity and bring lasting joy to a changing world.
Lord, graciously hear us.....
2. For leaders of all nations; that they may work together to build peace and justice in the world.
Lord, graciously hear us.....
3. We pray for all married people; that couples may grow in love for each other.
Lord, graciously hear us.....
4. We pray for the sick; that the Lord may give them strength and healing.
Lord, graciously hear us.....
5. For those who mourn; that they may be comforted by the Lord who is close to the broken-hearted.
Lord, graciously hear us.....
6. For those who have gone before us marked by the sign of faith; that they may be raised to life on the last day.
Lord, graciously hear us.....

Celebrant: God our Father, you are the source of all truth, hear our prayers today and grant us what we need. We make these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Every day we make hundreds of decisions, most of which, like washing, dressing, breakfasting, going off to work and cleaning the house, are made so often and with such routine that they merit scant attention. We don't even think about them. On the other hand, some decisions are more important than others. This may be the day that we make a career choice, seek someone's hand in marriage or finish off some major project. These are occasions of consequence when we are faced with the possibility of life-changing decisions, of making choices that will affect who we are for the rest of our life. In some way the choices we make say something about the type of person we are, or hope to become. To choose means to take on responsibility and to trust, even in an uncertain future. Our goals are the result of the decisions we have made and determine future actions.

In today's gospel, it is decision time for the disciples and there is no unanimous consensus to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Upon hearing Jesus' teaching on the bread of life there is a major rift in ranks of the disciples. Up to that moment many of them who had found him a captivating preacher, watching him cure the sick, restore sight to the blind and witnessing the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, now turned their backs and walked away. They found his words on the Eucharist deeply upsetting, a severe challenge to their faith and they ceased to believe. His teachings confronted them with a 'take it or leave it' scenario. The moment of truth had arrived and there was no changing of his language or watering down of his message, no pleading with people to come back. The choice was to stay or join the ranks of unbelievers. Unable to take it, many departed. Left alone with the twelve, Jesus calls on them for a personal commitment and challenges them to follow him in his deep quest for truth. 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Jesus asks. Somehow, in the midst of all the confusion, Peter's inner eye of faith has got a glimpse of who Jesus Christ is and he knows that nowhere else is the message of eternal life to be found. Acting as spokesman for the twelve, he responds with a profession of faith. 'We believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The question Jesus posed to the apostles strikes a chord with all of us. There are times in life when our faith is challenged. While we are tempted to wander off, somehow we realise there is nowhere else to go. We can hanker after materialism until the money dries up, pursue power and ambition until our health fails, but without Christ life is meaningless. God has set eternity in the human heart and nothing less than the eternal can satisfy our thirsting spirit.

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY THOSE RECENTLY BAPTISED:

- Jenna Elizabeth Duncliffe-O'Mahony
- Jake Patrick Dennehy-O'Shea
- Lucy Susan Walsh-Kelly | Katelyn Mikeala O'Rahilly-Barry
- Jonathan George O'Mahony | Cian David Manning
- Kaci Catherine O'Mahony-Walsh | Sarah Michelle Sheehan

WE REMEMBER & PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY DECEASED FROM OUR PARISH:

- Mary Wallace | May Healy

WE REMEMBER & PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE 1ST ANNIVERSARY NOW OCCURS:

- Nora O'Mahony | Eileen McCarthy

PRIESTS OF THE PARISH:
V.Rev. John O'Donovan PP (021 4501022)
Hatton's Alley, Blackpool
Rev. Christopher Harrington CC (021 4303252)
1 Kilmorna Heights, Ballyvolane

PRIEST ON DUTY:
Fr. John O'Donovan, P.P.
Parish Mobile: 086 8527997

PARISH OFFICES OPENING HOURS:
Blackpool:
Mon-Thurs: 9am-12:00pm
021 4300518
St. Oliver's:
Mon-Thurs 10am-12:00pm
021 422 1977
St. Brendan's:
Tues & Weds 10.30am-1pm
see other numbers

Last weeks' offertory collections from the three churches of the parish came to €3,343.29. The Maintenance Funds came to €2,494.74. Sincere thanks for your generous support.