

In Jesus' time, being a shepherd was not a pleasant job. Sheep became easily lost and the shepherd's job was to guide them back to safety. There were many dangers and the sheep were totally dependent on the shepherd. Shepherds would round up their sheep in the evening and guide them into their pen. But it had no gate so the shepherd would have to lie across the space in case the sheep were attacked in the night. The shepherds literally laid down their lives for their flock. John compares the sacrifice of the shepherd to the 'hired hand' who is not really committed to the flock. He does what he has to but flees at the first sign of trouble.

'We think we are fleeing from God, but in fact we are running into his arms.'

Wedding

Congratulations to Sinéad Kennedy and Liam Supéil on the occasion of their recent wedding.

Renovation Fund

I wish to thank you all for your generous support. We have collected €16,425 with donations, 2nd collections and cake sales. We have spent €110,724 and have budgeted €18,000 to complete the work and outstanding payments. We have used up our reserve fund completely and need to build it up in order to plan to do a job on our roof which is long overdue.

CORK & ROSS LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage 11-16 June 2018. To book contact Joe Walsh Tours on 021 4277959.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

The SMA Novena in honour of Our Lady begins on Friday 18th May and ends at Knock Shrine on Saturday 26th. The Novena will be preached each evening at the African Missions Church,

Blackrock Road. Wherever you are, each evening at 7.30pm, we invite you to join us in prayer during the Novena. **View the Novena**

Live online: Click on the Blackrock Parish Webcam link at

www.sma.ie/category/parishes/

Cork Alzheimers Café for people with Alzheimers and other dementias, their carers, family, friends & health professionals to meet. Last Friday of each month 1.30-3.30pm, St. Finbarrs Hospital. **Friday 27th April next meeting.**

bettycogan@hotmail.com.

Scout Organisation

The Annual Mass for current and deceased members of the Scout Organisation in Cork will be held on Thursday next April 26th, at the SMA Church, Blackrock Road at 8.00pm. All present and past members, as well as their relatives and friends, are welcome to attend.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is spreading to many parishes in the Diocese of Cork & Ross. Why? A speaker will supply the answer on May 6th.

Blackrock St. Pio Prayer Group

Will take place on Wednesday 25th April 2018, Ardfoyle Convent. Rosary 7.45pm. Mass 8pm.

Parish First Communion

Our children from our School are receiving their First Communion this coming Saturday 28th. We ask you to keep them in your prayers. The ceremony will be at 11.00 am and our normal 10.00 am Mass will be at the earlier time of 9.00am..

Vocations Sunday

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is Vocations Sunday. The forthcoming Vocations Afternoon is on Sunday in Ballyphehane. Pope Francis recently said that every vocation is the fruit of the prayer of the parent, grandparent, friend or community.

SMA Website where you will find news of the SMA, its work in Africa and other parts of the world www.sma.ie.



St Joseph's SMA Church, Blackrock Road Parish, Cork

Priests of the Parish:

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Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B - Psalter Week 4 22nd April 2018

Mass Times

Sunday: 10.00am and 12 noon

Saturday Vigil: 7.00pm

Weekdays: 7.15am, 10am.

Confessions: Saturday 10.30am & 6.20pm.

Sunday Devotions: 5pm

Adoration: 1.30 - 3.30pm

Reflection

Pastoral letter on the right to life by Bishop John Buckley

The title "Mother" is possibly the most honoured title in the world. Mothers are the most loved and respected in every culture, in every continent, in every country down through the ages. Children become very much aware of this when they sit by their mother's deathbed and ask the nurse: "Can you find a heartbeat?" and the nurse simply replies: "I am afraid not, I am sorry" ... life and heartbeat are inseparable.

Masses Saturday 21st April 2018

7.00pm Vigil: Jane & Kathleen Howard

Masses Sunday 22nd April 2018

10.00 am Brigitte Williams R.I.P. Anniversary

12 noon Pro Populo

In Remembrance/Anniversaries

Brigitte Williams

Pauline Hogan

Thomas & Patricia Mullane

Paschal Carey

Denis & Mary McCarthy

Michael O'Brien 1st Anniversary

Recently deceased R.I.P.

Deirdre (Walsh) McMurtry

Noel Downey

May they Rest in Peace

Church collection €800

Diocesan Needs collection €560

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Today's 2nd collection is for P.A.F.A.

OFFICIAL FAMILY PRAYER FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

God our Father, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, One family, in the spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need.

Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.

Protect all families with your loving care, especially those for whom we now pray:

(We pause and remember family members and others by name).

Increase our faith, Strengthen our hope,

Keep us safe in your love, Make us always

grateful for the gift of life that we share.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary, mother and guide **pray for us**

St Joseph, father and protector, **pray for us**

Sts Joachim and Anne, **pray for us.**

St Louis and Zelig Martin **pray for us.**