

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The Christian life is a calling from God to be companions of Jesus and work for the spread of his love and justice. All of us are asked to do this in our own lives.

### MASSES

Vigil Saturdays: 6pm

Sundays: 9am & 11am

Weekdays: Monday to Saturday 10am

### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30am and 5.30pm

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### Feast days of the week

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> St. Ita** was born in Co. Waterford of noble and Christian parents. Early on she set her mind on serving Christ in religious life. She founded a monastery in Killeedy, Co. Limerick, which attracted a vast variety of young people. She was given the title 'foster-mother of the saints of Ireland.'

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> St. Fursa** was born in Ireland and became one of the great monastic missionaries abroad. He went first with his brothers Foillan and Ultan to live the monastic life in East Anglia. But as vast numbers continued to visit him there, he left Foillan as abbot and sought refuge in France. A patron gave him a hermitage at Lagny on the Marne. He was buried in Péronne, which became a great centre of devotion to him.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> St. Anthony**, died 356, 'Father of monasticism,' lived a life of solitude but also attracted many others to form communities of hermits.

### Deaths

We remember in our prayers Donie Cronin, Carrigmore Park and George Shaw, Hettyfield, may they rest in peace. Our prayerful condolences to their families, relatives, friends, and neighbours.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



Ballinlough, Blackrock, Blackrock Road, Mahon Family of Parishes

Representatives from the Office of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese will speak at all Masses across the four parishes during February. In preparation for this we will pray at all Masses during January asking God's blessing so that Parish Councils will be formed in a spirit of prayer and discernment to specifically serve the prayer and faith lives of the parishes. This will not be rushed and will be a more synodal way of discernment, prayer and eventually Parish Council formation.

### Two Alpha Training Days – 27<sup>th</sup> January & 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

Following on from our highly successful Alpha Information afternoon, the Office for Mission and Ministry are hosting two Alpha training day for Parishes/Families of Parishes.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Cork City (Blackrock Parish Centre)

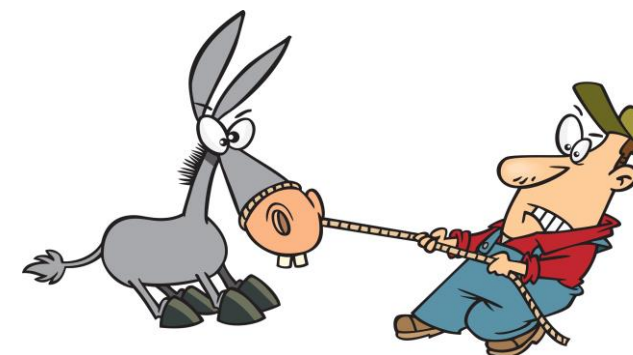
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 West Cork (Clonakilty Parish Centre)

Both Training days begin at 10am and finish at 3.30pm

Alpha helps people not just know about the person, Jesus, but to come to know him, and into a relationship with him. Alpha also brings new life and energy back into the parish community because people form friendships, experience Christian community, and experience God in a new and life-giving way through Alpha.

### *A lighthearted story*

A farmer was trying to get his donkey to move on, but the donkey was having none of it and refused to move. The farmer was



getting frustrated, roaring, and shouting at the poor donkey. Then he picked up a stick to hit the donkey when a car skidded to a halt next to him and out steps a beautiful woman. She gave out to the farmer, "How dare you shout and roar at this poor animal and worse again that you should hit

him. You need to be gentle and give it some words of encouragement." With that she went over to the donkey, stroked its ear, rubbed its nose, kissed its mane, and talked to him. Sure enough, the donkey happily set off on its travels. The woman turned round to find the farmer stretched on the ground. "Oh my God" she shouted, "are you ok?" "Oh, I'm fine" he said, "but I think I need some encouragement too!"

