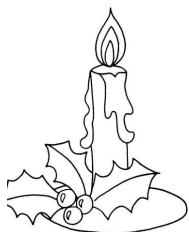


## FAMILY OF PARISHES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



**CHRISTMAS EVE:** OILEÁN CLÉIRE 3PM, CASTLEHAVEN 5PM,  
GLANDORE 6.15 PM, SKIBBEREEN 6.30 PM  
LISHEEN 7PM, RATH 8PM, SKIBBEREEN 9 PM.

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** SHERKIN 9 AM, RATH 9.30 AM,  
GLANDORE, KILCOE, UNION HALL 10 AM,  
SKIBBEREEN (CATHEDRAL) 11 AM,  
CASTLEHAVEN, LISHEEN 11.30, LEAP 12 NOON.

## CHRISTMAS FEASTS

**NEW YEARS DAY** (Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God) — Skibbereen 9.30  
am. Mass, Kilcoe & Union Hall 11 am:  
— HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026! —

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, TUES. 6 JAN

(NOLLAIG NA MBAN)

Skibbereen Mon 5th at 6.30 pm  
& Tues 6th at 9.30 am;  
Kilcoe 10, Castlehaven 11.30 am  
Leap 12 noon, Rath 7.30 pm.

## ☆ POINT TO PONDER ☆

‘If you wish to be borne with,  
bear also with others.’

THOMAS A KEMPIS (‘IMITATION OF CHRIST’)

## NEWSLETTER HOLIDAYS

*The Family of Parishes Newsletter takes two  
weeks holidays at Christmas, resuming Sun-  
day 11 January 2026. Happy Christmas!*

**FAMILY OF PARISHES OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS TILL 5 JAN.**

Phone **028-22828** (ANSWERING MACHINE CHECKED REGULARLY)

## FINANCE CORNER, 14 DEC

AUGHADOWN: €780

CASTLEHAVEN €710

RATH & THE ISLANDS : €750

SKIBBEREEN: €1,430

**COLLECTION FOR CLERGY CHRISTMAS DAY**

### CLERGY

- Fr Kevin O'Regan Co-PP  
(MODERATOR) PHONE: 028 22878
- Fr Bernard Cotter Co-PP (EDITOR)  
Email [frbernard1984@gmail.com](mailto:frbernard1984@gmail.com)  
TEXT/WHATSAPP: 087 901 0627
- Fr Evin O'Brien CC, Family of  
parishes. PHONE: (028) 22877

### USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

**Alcoholics Anonymous** in West  
Cork: 087 611 4946.

**Pieta Hse** Helpline 1800 247  
247; or text **HELP** to 51444.

**St Vincent de Paul**,  
Skibbereen: 087 918 2698

**Samaritans:** 116 123 free.

**Women against Violence**  
Helpline 1800 203 136



COMMUNITY OF  
**St. Ciarán and  
All Saints**

**St Ciarán & All Saints**  
FAMILY OF PARISHES

# NEWSLETTER

*(for the parishes of Aughdown, Castlehaven & Myross,  
Kilmacabea, Rath & The Islands, and Skibbereen)*

**SUNDAY 21 DEC 2025    FOURTH ADVENT    VOL 4: 16**

## AN ‘ILEN ROVERS’ REFLECTION AT CHRISTMAS-TIME

Last November, I was in the garden when Fr Bernard popped in for a bowl of porridge, as he sometimes does after Monday Mass, he wondered if I might write for Christmas. I thought of poet Robbie Burns writing about disturbing a nest of mice in his garden, when he wrote: ‘*The best laid plans o’ mice an’ men go oft astray and leaves nought but grief and pain....for promis’d joy.*’ All of Florrie’s best-laid plans too were in place in Páirc Uí Chaoimh but luck wasn’t and they lost in the dying seconds, it was so disappointing. Bitterly cold winds were blowing across the fields as we awaited the arrival of the lads, back to Church Cross from Cork.

Sport brings out the best in all of us, it creates community and helps us to belong .... we were on a

high, wonderful lads, role models. Can we learn from them? We can only say thanks to Florrie and Co. and the lads.

What should we now be doing to prepare for Christmas? Their thoughts on it? Any suggestions?

Let us not forget, God too had ‘a best laid plan’ ... a plan in place for every Christmas. Where would we be without it?

And how has ours been so far? And you have no doubt had the extra prayer, party or two, a trip to the city (fitting Sunday Mass on the way perhaps) and dare I say it ‘a pub crawl’ — or simply nothing. And in God’s best-laid plan, the message is clear, threefold, calls on us to do three things. What might they be?..... Worth a look surely...

**Fr Donal Cahill**

AUGHADOWN PARISH



### **Skibbereen Parish News**

**Contact numbers:** Parish Office 028 22828.

**Priest on duty/emergency** 086 785 2262.

**Submitting items for inclusion in the parish newsletter** – Please email Skibbereen Parish Office:

[skibbereenparish@gmail.com](mailto:skibbereenparish@gmail.com) no later than 5pm

Wednesday

### **Mass Intentions from Saturday 20 December 2025**

**Saturday – 6.30pm** - John Long, Lisalohorig.

Members of the Legion of Mary.

Michael Martin Crowley, Bunlun.

**Sunday – 11am** -

Hester O'Brien, First Anniversary.

James and Elizabeth Murphy, Coolnagurrane.

Carmel O'Driscoll, Pound Hill, First Anniversary.

**Monday – 9.30am** - Anthony Coakley, Glencurragh.

**Tuesday – 9.30am** - Kitty and Patrick Hodnett, Goleen

**Wednesday 6.30pm and 9pm** - **Christmas Eve**

**Thursday – 11am** - **Christmas Day**

**Friday - 9.30am** - Joe O'Brien, Newbridge, Coronea

**Saturday – 6.30pm** - Bebe and Denis O'Mahony, Newcestown.

Hugh Quinn.

Florence and May McCarthy, The Abbey.

**Sunday - 11am** - Helen O'Brien, St Fachtna's Terrace.

Jerome Hurley, Coolnagurrane and his brother

Donal Hurley, Reenascreena.

Eugene McCarthy, Ilen Street

**Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral every Monday and Friday from **10am to 6pm**. The adoration will not take place on St Stephen's Day.

**Confessions** will be heard **after morning Mass** on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 December.

**The Parish Office** will re-open on Monday 5 January 2026.

**Rosary every Tuesday at 8pm at Our Lady's Grotto**, Cork Road, Skibbereen. All welcome.

**Weekday Masses - Monday, Tuesday, and Friday at 9.30am.** The **Rosary** is prayed before each Mass and on **Thursday** it is said for the special intention of vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood.

**Hospitality Morning in the Presbytery** will resume on **Monday 12 January 2026**.

**Christmas offering** envelopes are available at the porches of the Cathedral. These offerings go towards the income of our Priests. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Fr Kevin and Fr Evin** would like to wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year 2026. To the many people who do so much behind the scenes and to all who contributed in any way to our parish in 2025 We send a sincere Thank You.

**First Friday Vigil in St Patrick's Cathedral on second January 2026 from 8pm to 12 midnight.** It includes adoration, confession, benediction, and devotional prayers to the Sacred Heart with Mass at 10pm. Everyone is welcome to all or part.

**The Parish Tax Back Scheme** - If you've generously given €250 or more to Skibbereen Parish in a calendar year, you could make your donation work even harder by letting the Parish claim some of the tax that you've already paid to Revenue! How it works: The tax back scheme allows our Parish to claim more than 40% in tax back on a year's donations totalling over €250, at no cost to you. Do you qualify? If you pay any Irish tax, either PAYE or self-assessed, and you live in Ireland, then you probably do! In order to claim any tax back, you need to have donated a minimum of €250 in any one year. It doesn't matter if you're PAYE or self-assessed for us to be able to claim back your tax paid. If you didn't get the forms yet, and wish to participate in the scheme, forms are available at the back of the main aisle of the church or from the parish office. Please return the completed forms to the parish office and arrangements will be made for you to receive your box of envelopes. For any questions you may have please contact the parish office on 028 22828 or email [skibbereenparish@gmail.com](mailto:skibbereenparish@gmail.com). **Thank you to those who have already return the forms. Your box of envelopes can be collected from the Sacristy at Mass times.**



**Parish Office**, Skibbereen - 028/22828 – Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri – 10am to 1pm.

**Priest on Duty/Emergency** – 086/7852262

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday 20th December**

**4.45pm** Sherkin

**Sunday 21st December – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**9.30am** Rath – Jackie Carey, Ballymacrown

Kieran & Hester Cotter, Baltimore and Cape Clear

Connie & Agnes O'Driscoll, Lackahane

**10.00am** Cape Clear – Ciaran G O'Driscoll, Lisamona

**Monday 22nd December – 10.00am** – Rath

**Wednesday 24th December – The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**2.00pm** Cape Clear - Christmas Eve Mass - Tom O'Regan, Oileán Chléire.

**8.00pm** Rath – Christmas Eve Mass – Christmas Carols from 7.30pm

**Thursday 25th December - The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**9.30am** Rath – Christmas Day Mass – Christmas Carols from 9.15am

**Saturday 27th December**

**4.45pm** Sherkin

**Sunday 28th December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

**9.30am** Rath – Helena O'Regan, Ballylynch

Annie Bohane, Drumadoon

Denis O'Regan, Freke Terrace

**10.00am** Cape Clear – Mick Hurley, Skibbereen

**Monday 29th December**

**10.00am** Rath – Pat Joe O'Driscoll, Inane

Christine & Denis Browne, Baltimore

**Wednesday 31st December – 10.00am** – Rath

**Saturday 3rd January**

**4.45pm** Sherkin

**Sunday 4th January – Second Sunday of Christmas**

**9.30am** Rath – John & Hannah Sheehy, Creagh

**10.00am** Cape Clear – Pdraig O' Lionáin, Oileán Chléire – Months Mind

**Monday 5th January - 10.00am** - Rath

**Tuesday 6th January – The Epiphany of the Lord**

**7.30pm** Rath - Mass for The Epiphany of the Lord

**Wednesday 7th January 10.00am** - Rath

**Saturday 10th January**

**4.45pm** Sherkin

**Sunday 11th January – The Baptism of the Lord**

**9.30am** Rath – Josie Leonard, Rath

Sean Cahalane, Gorteenalomane

**10.00am** Cape Clear

### **Christmas Mass Times**

**Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December**

Oileán Chléire 2.00pm

Rath 8.00pm – with Christmas Carols from 7.30pm

**Christmas Day Thursday 25th December**

Sherkin 9.00am

Rath 9.30am – with Christmas Carols from 9.15am

Fr Kevin and Fr Evin would like to wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year 2026.

To the many people who do so much behind the scenes and to all who contributed in any way to our parish in 2025 we send a sincere THANK YOU.

**Christmas Carol Service** Sunday 21st December at 3pm in St Mona's Church, Sherkin Island. Donations welcome in aid of St Vincent De Paul.

Ferries leaving Baltimore at 12 noon and 2pm. Return Ferry leaving Sherkin at 6pm.

**Christmas Offering Envelopes:** The Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the porches of the Church. These offerings go towards the income of our Priests. We thank you for your support.

**Parish Office Christmas Schedule:** The Parish Office will close on Thursday 18th December and will reopen on Monday 5th January 2026, at 10.00am.

**Baltimore Christmas Day Swim:** will take place on Christmas morning at 12 noon. Proceeds in aid of The Wild Atlantic Pool, Baltimore.