

Rath & the Islands Parish Ministry Groups
July 2020

Sacred Heart Church, Rath
St Mona's Church, Sherkin Island
Séipéal Naomh Ciarán, Oileán Cléire

The following is a list of the many groups involved in the day to day life of the Faith
Community of Rath & the Islands Parish

1. Ministers of the Word - Proclaim the Scripture readings at Mass. This is done at:
 - a. Weekend Masses
 - b. Weekday Masses
 - c. Lay Led Liturgical Services on weekday mornings when no priest is available for Mass.
2. Ministers of the Eucharist: assist with Communion at:
 - a. Weekend Masses
 - b. Weekday Masses
 - c. With the Ministers of the Word as part of the Lay Led Liturgical Services
 - d. Supplement the First Friday Communion calls of the priests taking Communion to people's homes.
3. Church Music:
 - a. Adult Choir at Mass each Sunday
 - b. During Easter Ceremonies
 - c. Christmas Eve Mass and Christmas Day Mass
 - d. For the celebration of Holy Communion and Confirmation
 - e. At weddings and funerals, singers and musicians with knowledge of church Music are employed by the families involved.
 - f. Musicians who accompany the Choir at the above ceremonies.
4. Church Cleaning Team: who clean the inside of the Church each week.
5. Church Outdoor Team: who look after the grounds of the Churches - mowing lawns, cutting hedges and keeping Church grounds tidy.
6. Church Maintenance Team: who look after the maintenance jobs both indoors and outdoors.
7. Flower Arranging Team: who purchase and arrange the altar flowers each week.
8. Altar Servers: These young people assist the priest and sacristy team before, during and after Mass.
9. Altar Servers Parents: oversee the Altar Servers and are a part of the Safeguarding Team. They also organise the cinema trip and other treats for the servers.

10. Safeguarding Team: Three people, trained by the Diocese, oversee the safeguarding of the parish and the Garda Vetting standards.
11. Parish Finance Committee: with the Parish Clergy ensure that there is proper supervision of the Parish Income and Expenditure and publish annual accounts.
12. Parish Finance Sub-Group: group who set up the Direct Debit system for the financial contributions to the Parish fund and to the Priests of the Parish.
13. Church Collectors: who organise the taking up of the parish and diocesan collections each week.
14. Money Counters and Banking Group: who prepare and bank the collections.
15. Parish Catechists: on completing a diocesan training diploma they work with the parish and parents groups.
16. Weekend Mass Praying Community: the cornerstone of parish life.
17. Easter Ceremonies Team: who organise the smooth running of the various ceremonies and organise participants for the different ceremonies.
18. Easter Paschal Fire: those who make sure that we have a fire for the Holy Saturday night Vigil.
19. Easter Remembrance Garden: who organise the creation of the garden each year.
20. Entertainment and Social Team: who organise the tea parties during the year – St Patricks Day and Easter Sunday morning and other occasions.
21. Christmas Crib Team (Church): who organise the construction and dismantling of the crib each year in the Church.
22. Christmas Crib Team (Village): who organise the construction and dismantling of the crib each year in the village outside St Matthews Church.
23. November Cemetery Prayers: who organise the prayers and availability of the microphone for the priests in the local cemeteries.
24. Parish Assembly: who meet monthly 8 times per year. This group, chosen by parishioners, discusses and plans for the short term and longer term of the parish life.
25. Sacristans Teams: working with the Sacristan they assist with the preparation of Masses and other liturgical prayer and cooperate with the other groups involved in the Churches.
26. Secretarial Team: working with the Parish Secretary in the booking of anniversary Masses, Baptisms and weddings and also with parish administration and bill paying.

27. Parish Newsletter: – each week the Editor organises the many notices that are sent in and prepares and prints the Newsletter for Skibbereen, Rath, Sherkin and Cape Clear.
28. Parish Website: maintaining the Parish Website
29. Society of St Vincent de Paul: are supported by the Annual Summer Collection and are a faith led, social action group.
30. Primary Schools x 2: are involved with the Church throughout the year especially for the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Sacraments.
31. Skibbereen Community School: the School Chaplin and R.E team link with the parish in a variety of ways.
32. Church Stewards: Organising entry and exit to the Cathedral for church ceremonies in light of Covid 19 regulations and restrictions.