

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY 24-25 DECEMBER

AUGHADOWN (Christmas Eve) Lisheen 6pm, Kilcoe 8pm;
Sunday 25th: Kilcoe 10 am, Lisheen 11.30 am.

CASTLEHAVEN: (Christmas Eve) Castlehaven 12 noon, Union Hall 6pm,
Sunday 25th: Union Hall 10 am, Castlehaven 11.30 am

KILMACABEA: (Christmas Eve) Glandore 5.30 pm, Leap 8pm
Sunday 25th: Glandore 10 am, Leap 12 noon.

RATH & THE ISLANDS: (Christmas Eve) Rath Parish Church 8pm,
Sun 25th: Sherkin 9 am, Oileán Cléire 10 am, Rath 10.30

SKIBBEREEN (CATHEDRAL)(Christmas Eve): 6.30 pm & 9pm
Sunday 25th: 9 am & 11.30 am

THIS WEEK

Sun 18 Dec: Hannukah begins today, the Jewish festival of lights, when the nine-candle Menorah is lit. Runs until 26 December.

Tues 20 Dec: St Fachanan (Kilfenora). International Human Solidarity Day (UN)

Wed 21 Dec: St Peter Canisius (1521-97), published a catechism in 1555.

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY (four options)

Vigil Mass of Christmas is said pre-sunset on 24 Dec, Night Mass after sunset; Dawn Mass early on 25 Dec, Day Mass later.

FINANCE CORNER, SUN 11 DEC

Aughadown €905, Castlehaven €805, Kilmacabea €950, Skibbereen €1,560.

• **The collection at Mass on 24/25 Dec is for the Clergy of the Parish.**

The Family of Parishes Newsletter is published at the Cathedral Presbytery, Skibbereen, by a team representing the parishes, with Fr Bernard Co-PP as overall Editor (frbernard1984@gmail.com).

Whilst every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of information, we cannot accept any responsibility for errors or omissions.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous, West Cork: phone 087 611 4946 — alcoholicsanonymous.ie
Pieta House Free 24/7 Crisis helpline 1800 247 247 or text HELP to 51444.
St Vincent de Paul, Market St, Skibbereen — Contact Number: **087 918 2698**
Samaritans Phone 116 123 free — www.samaritans.org **Southdoc** 0818 355 999
Women against Violence Helpline 1800 203 136 — westcorkwomensproject.ie

THERE IS A NEWSLETTER ON SUN 25 DEC, BUT NONE ON SUNDAY 1 JAN 2023.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES CLERGY

• Fr John Heinhold SPS Co-PP, Cathedral Presbytery, Skibbereen (Moderator) PHONE: 028 22878

• Fr Evin O'Brien CC, Cathedral Presbytery, Skibbereen. PHONE: 028 22877

• Fr Terry O'Brien, MSC Co-PP, Leap (kilmacabeparish@gmail.com) PHONE 028 33177.

• Fr Bernard Cotter Co-PP, Union Hall PHONE 021 201 8172.

• PASTORAL ASSISTANT: Maura O'Flynn, EMAIL mauracatechist@gmail.com

• SECRETARY, Cathedral Presbytery, 1 North St, Skibbereen P81 K767. Office Hours Tues & Wed, 10 am to 12 noon. Phone 028 22828.

Email skibbereeparish@gmail.com

Family of Parishes
ICON
(being designed)

Our Family of Parishes
NEWSLETTER

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

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

VOL 1: NO. 4

WHY GO TO CONFESSION?

Jesus came into the world to be a messenger of divine mercy. He called sinners to repentance, that is, to turn away from sin and to turn towards God. The first stage in the journey of repentance is our awareness of sin, our recognition of having done something wrong. Our conscience is the arbiter enabling us to do this.

The next step is confession, which has always been highly esteemed in our tradition. Living up to the moral and religious ideals of Christianity cannot be achieved in a day. We need to set out on the journey again and again.

The next step is to “do penance”, that is, to perform some action that costs us an effort, like alms-giving, or fasting, or a religious action, something that gives expression to our desire to make amends and turn over a new leaf. Grace does not negate our part in the story, but rather enables us to do what in us lies in order to avoid sin.

The final step in the journey is the Word

of God, giving us assurance that our sins are forgiven out of God's infinite mercy: “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord has forgiven you. Go in peace”. Apart from the words of consecration in the Eucharist, are there any words more wonderful for us to hear? This is indeed a wonderful sacrament.

Fr Michael Curran MSC
Parish House, Leap

PENITENTIAL SERVICE FORMAT

(MONDAY 7.30 PM, CATHEDRAL, SKIBBEREEN)

- Begins with Opening Song, then a reading and short homily by Fr Bernard
- Examination of conscience gives each the chance to review their life.
- Confessions follow: say simply “**I am sorry for all my sins, especially for** (then name one or two sins). Priest gives penance and absolution.
- Service concludes with an Act of Thanksgiving and final blessing.

LIGHTING THE FOURTH CANDLE

On this Sunday, the fourth (purple) candle of the Advent wreath is lit, celebrating the love at the core of the Christmas story. As you light this candle, pray that God's love may fill your heart, and that God will give you the grace to share it at Christmastime.



Skibbereen Parish News

Submitting items for inclusion in the parish newsletter – Please email Skibbereen Parish Office: skibbereeparish@gmail.com no later than 5 pm Tuesday

Parish Office Christmas Schedule: The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 21st December and will reopen on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 10am.

Mass Intentions from 19th December

Monday - 9.30am- Dermot Jeremiah Grace, Reenascreena, Co Cork

Tuesday - 9.30am- Kitty and Patrick Hodnett, Goleen

Wednesday- 9.30am- The Burns Family, North Street, Skibbereen

Thursday - 9.30am- Anthony Coakley, 9 Glencurragh, Skibbereen

Friday - 9.30am - Kitty and Hans Rahr, Mardyke and Florida

Saturday - 6.30pm - Christmas Eve Children's Mass

Saturday – 9pm Christmas Eve Vigil

Sunday - Christmas Day 9.00am

Sunday - Christmas Day 11.30am

Intentions on December 24th and 25th Book of Remembrance

Pre signed Mass Cards and Christmas Mass Bouquets are still available in the office until Wednesday 21st December. Please contact the office by phone on 028 22828 or by email: skibbereeparish@gmail.com if you need Mass Cards.

We extend our condolences to the family of Danny O'Donovan, Mardyke Street, Skibbereen whose funeral Mass and burial took place recently. Danny RIP.

Wedding: Congratulations to Niamh Connolly and Denis Cahalane who recently celebrated the sacrament of Marriage in St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 10th December. We wish you both every happiness and blessings for your married life together.

First Holy Communion and Confirmations: Thanks to the parents who attended the meetings that were held over the past few weeks in the Presbytery, Skibbereen. These meetings were held to encourage the parents and suggest ways that the parents could help their children in their preparations to receive the sacraments. Congratulations to the children of the First Holy

Communion classes and the Confirmation classes who have attended and participated in the enrolment Masses. We ask all to remember these children in your prayers.

Skibbereen Parish Pastoral Council – Meeting on Thursday 5th January in the Presbytery, North Street, Skibbereen at 7.30pm.

Commissioning of the New Parish Pastoral Council will take place within the Mass of Sunday 8th January at 11am. The Parish Pastoral Council will then officially take their post for three years from 2022 – 2025.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - We are hoping to reintroduce the Apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration in St Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen beginning the first week of January 2023. You can choose either Monday or Friday (just tick the box) and any hour from 10am until 6pm each day (just tick the box). Please find forms at the porches of St Patrick's Cathedral, complete the form, and return it to the Parish Office by Christmas Day.

Christmas Offering Envelopes – From this weekend the Christmas Offering envelopes will be available at the porches of the Cathedral. These offerings go towards the income of the priests. We thank you for your support.

Confessions leading up to Christmas – Penitential service for Advent-Monday 19th at St Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen at 7.30pm.

Confessions after Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral each morning from Tuesday 20th to Friday 23rd, and on Saturday 24th (Christmas Eve) from **10am to 12 noon.**

Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve-6.30pm and 9pm Christmas Day- 9am and 11.30am.

Christmas Week – St Stephen's Day 26th to Friday 30th each morning at 9.30am.

New Year's Eve- 31st December -6.30pm.

New Year's Day– 1st January 2023 at 11am(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE)

New Year's week – Monday 2nd to Thursday 5th at 9.30am.

Solemnity of the Epiphany – Vigil Thursday 5th at 6.30pm and Friday 9.30am.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord–Vigil Mass Saturday 7th at 6.30pm and Sunday 8th at 11am.



Mass Intentions

Saturday 17th December 2022

4:45pm Sherkin: Special Intention

7:30pm Rath: Kieran & Hester Cotter, Cape Clear & Baltimore

Sunday 18th December 2022 – 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00am Cape Clear: Special Intention

10:15am Rath: Mary Holland, Rath

Monday 19th December 2022

10:15am Rath: Neasa Ní Annracháin Ó'Brian

Wednesday 21st December 2022

10:15am Rath: Deceased Members of the Davis & Hurley Families

Friday 23rd December 2022

10:15am Rath: Jim Canty, Old Court & Cape Cod

Saturday 24th December 2022 - Christmas Eve

8:00pm Rath: Christmas Carols before Mass starting 7:30pm

Sunday 25th December 2022 – Christmas Day

9:00am Sherkin

10:00am Cape Clear

10:30am Rath: Christmas Carols before Mass starting 10:00am

Rath & The Islands Parish Pastoral Council

The final meeting for the 'old' Parish Pastoral Council (Parish Assembly) took place on Tuesday 6th December 2022. Highlights from the meeting included:

- A Big Thank You to Michael Coleman for his many years of preparing the Newsletter for Skibbereen and Rath and The Islands.
- Preparations for Christmas discussed along with the new Mass schedule which will start on Sunday 1st January 2023. Mass will be at 9:30am on Sundays from this date and there will be no Saturday Vigil Mass.
- Thank you to the retiring members of the Parish Pastoral Council and to those staying on for a second 3 year term.
- Training for the new council took place on Wednesday 7th December and the following officers were elected: Maeve Devlin, Chairperson: Breda Herlihy, Secretary.

Next Meeting of Parish Pastoral Council - Tuesday 3rd January at 7.30pm in the meeting room at Rath Church.

Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule – Sacred Heart Church, Rath

Christmas Eve at 8pm – Christmas Carols from 7.30pm.

Christmas Day at 10.30am – Christmas Carols from 10am.

St. Stephen's Day Monday 26th, Wednesday 28th, and Friday 30th at 10.15am.

New Year's Eve - Saturday 31st December at 7.30pm.

New Year's Day - Sunday 1st January 2023 at 9.30am (**NOTE TIME CHANGE**).

Monday 2nd January and Wednesday 4th January at 10.15am.

Solemnity of the Epiphany - Friday 6th January at 7.30pm.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Mass - Sunday 8th January at 9.30am

Christmas Confessions:

Penitential Service for Advent- Monday 19th in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 7.30pm.

Confessions will take place after morning Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Rath on Monday 19th, Wednesday 21st and Friday 23rd December.

Christmas Offering Envelopes: From this weekend the Christmas Offering envelopes will be available at the porches of the Church. These offerings go towards the income of the priest. We thank you for your support.

Parish Office Christmas Schedule: The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 21st December and will reopen on Wednesday January 4th 2023 at 10.00am.

Pre Signed Mass Cards and Christmas Mass Bouquets: are still available in the Parish Office until next Wednesday December 21st. Please contact the Office by phone on 028-22828 or by email skibbereenparish@gmail.com if you need Mass Cards.

Christmas Carols St Mona's Church, Sherkin: On Sunday 18th December from 11am to 5pm, solo recordings and audio from previous carol services will be streamed through the speakers in St Mona's Church. The recordings will loop the whole time, so people can drop in whenever they like for quiet reflection and to enjoy the singing. The collection for St Vincent De Paul will take place as usual and can be put in the safe in the back of the church. Thank you for your support.

Baltimore Community Market Christmas Fair will take place at Baltimore Sailing Club on Sunday 18th December from 11am to 2pm. The market will then take a short break for January and February.

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

If you have any items for inclusion in our newsletter, please submit no later than 5pm on Tuesday of each week to the Parish Office, North Street, Skibbereen or email skibbereenparish@gmail.com