

## MASS SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2023

AUGHADOWN: Kilcoe 10 am, Lisheen 11.30 am

CASTLEHAVEN & MYROSS: Union Hall 10 am, Castlehaven 11.30 am

KILMACABEA: Glandore 10 am, Leap 12 noon

RATH & THE ISLANDS: Sherkin Sat 4.45pm, Rath 9.30am, Oileán Cléire 10 am

SKIBBEREEN (CATHEDRAL): Saturday 6.30 pm, Sunday 11.00 am

### THIS WEEK

**Tues 31 Jan:** St John Bosco, founder of the Salesians, patron saint of youth.

**Wed 1 Feb:** Feast of St Brigid (AD 454-524) Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland: renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick.

**Thurs 2 Feb:** Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas Day), is celebrated the 40th day after Christmas, when Jesus, the Light of the World, entered the Temple. Candles are blessed today to remind believers of this entry.

**Fri 3 Feb:** St Blaise, Bishop, was martyred in Armenia, and is venerated as patron of those who suffer from ailments of the throat. Throats are blessed today (It is the First Friday also).

### FINANCE CORNER

Reports on the collections of 22 & 29 January will be published in the newsletter of 5 Feb.

*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.*

### NEXT SUNDAY'S MASS (5 FEB.)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Isaiah 58: 7-10** — Isaiah suggests some ways of living a good life.

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5** — In Paul's letter to the people of Corinth, he speaks of his reliance on the power of God.

**Matthew 5:13-16** — Jesus calls us to be examples of Christian living.

### FAMILY OF PARISHES INFORMATION

• 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  
Text or WhatsApp: 087 901 0627

• PASTORAL ASSISTANT: Maura O'Flynn.

• SECRETARY: Annette Glanton.

Office open to the public Mon, Wed, Thurs, and Fri. from 10 am to 1 pm, for Mass bookings, certs etc.

Address: Family of Parishes Office, 1 North St, Skibbereen P81 K767.

Phone 028 22828.

Email skibbereenparish@gmail.com

### USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

**Alcoholics Anonymous**, West Cork: phone 087 611 4946 — [alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://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](http://www.samaritans.org) **Southdoc** 0818 355 999

**Women against Violence** Helpline 1800 203 136 — [westcorkwomensproject.ie](http://westcorkwomensproject.ie)

Family of  
Parishes  
ICON  
(being designed)

## Our Family of Parishes NEWSLETTER

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

SUNDAY 29 JANUARY 2023, FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME VOL 1: NO. 9

## ST BRIGID, 'MUIRE NA NGAE' — PRAY FOR US

February 1, Lá Fhéile Bríde, heralds the coming of spring, signalling the end of winter darkness, and the beginning of a new season of hope and growth. This feast day, predated by the Celtic festival of Imbolc (*imb+fholc* meaning to immerse or cleanse) associated with fertility and new life, continued through Christianity.

According to tradition 'Chaith Bríd tamall dá saol ar Oileán Bríde' (Rabbit Island, off the coast of Myross parish). Local folklore is rich with 'evidence' of this.

Tobar Bríde, (Biddy's Well) once located on the island, was supposedly transferred to Drom na Cille, in the townland of Ardra directly opposite the island, in an 'ámhscarnach' (magical dawn mist), because of the desecration of the well by a local 'cábóg', or the drown-

ing of pilgrims retuning from the island. People visit this Holy Well on Lá Fhéile Bríde to pray, or leave daffodils, or a votive offering. The water is reputed to have healing properties – in particular a cure

for blindness. Bubbling or spouting of the water, believed to be the action of the saint, or the sighting of an eel, is to expect a cure.

The formation of Lough Cluthir (on the left side of the road from Union Hall to Reen Pier) is also attributed to St. Brigid who

caused a spring to become a lake because the local chieftain refused to give her milk.

On 30 June 1929, Union Hall church was dedicated to St Brigid, on the centenary of Catholic Emancipation.

**Teresa Shanahan**  
Union Hall



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Three churches on the south coast of our diocese are dedicated to St Brigid: Ballydehob, Crosshaven and Union Hall, and the ancient Kilcrea Abbey (near Ovens).
- The new St Brigid Bank Holiday (Feb 6 this year) honours those who died in the pandemic — and the frontline healthcare workers who worked so hard to protect us.



## Skibbereen Parish News

**Submitting items for inclusion in the parish newsletter** – Please email Skibbereen Parish Office: [skibbereenparish@gmail.com](mailto:skibbereenparish@gmail.com) no later than 5 pm Tuesday.

**Mass Intentions from Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

**Sunday - 11am -** Teresa & Patrick O'Donovan, Lassanaroe  
- Denis O'Shea, Drishanemore  
- Kathleen Mullally, Mardyke Street, Month's Mind  
**Monday - 9.30am -** Danny O'Donovan, Mardyke Street  
**Tuesday - 9.30am -** Margaret Harnedy, Shepperton  
**Wednesday - 9.30am -** John Bohane, Kilderry  
**Thursday - 9.30am -** Henry Peglar, Riverdale, Skibbereen  
**Friday - 9.30am -** Eileen Collins, Rosnagoose, Skibbereen  
**Saturday - 6.30pm -** John Collins, Chapel Lane  
- Anna and Frank McCarthy, Coronea  
**Sunday - 11.00am -** Dan Collins, Lake Marsh  
Michael McCarthy, Riverdale

**Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 – St. Brigid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland.** St. Brigid – Legend has it that she was a pupil of St. Patrick and became famous for her kindness, mercy, and her miracles. St. Brigid is Ireland's first native saint, the most celebrated Irish female saint. St. Brigid founded Ireland's most famous mixed (male and female) monastery in Co. Kildare, along with the hermit Conleth who served as bishop and St. Brigid as abbess. Some would say that the legends about a St. Brigitte echo myths and legends about the three-faced Celtic fertility goddess Brigid – the goddess of war, poetry, crafts, and healing. This goddess Brigid was celebrated in pre-Christian times on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, and like many other pagan feasts they were adapted by Christians.

St. Brigid's Cross (Bogha Bride) is a symbol of the day. Traditionally, reeds are collected from the fields and crafted into a cross. St. Brigid's Day is now a Bank Holiday in Ireland, introduced to recognise the enormous sacrifices made by the Irish people, in particular the frontline workers, during the Covid pandemic.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2023 – The Presentation of the Lord** (World Day for Consecrated Life). Known originally as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a relatively ancient celebration, earlier than the fourth century. The feast celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after His birth to fulfil the Jewish law. Inspired by the words of the Canticle of Simeon, ("a light to the revelation of the Gentiles"), by the eleventh century, the custom had developed to bless candles on the Feast of the Presentation. Because of this, the feast also became known as Candlemas. This emphasis on light, as well as the timing of the feast, falling as it does in the last weeks of winter, it reminds us that darkness will not prevail, but we have the light of Jesus revealed to us. Today also celebrates all those who have

consecrated their lives to Jesus, in the past, present and we hope long into the future.  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2023 – Feast of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr.** The blessing of St. Blaise is a sign of our faith of God's protection and love for us and for the sick. Since the eighth century he was venerated as patron of those who suffer from disease of the throat. Using two crossed and unlighted candles, the minister touches the throat of each person, saying, *'Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop, and martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'*

**Blessing of Candles** will take place at the **9.30am** Morning Mass on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023** the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. **People are invited to bring candles to this Mass if they wish to have them blessed.**

**Blessing of Throats** – will take place at the **9.30am** Mass on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**, the Feast of St. Blaise.

**The Skibbereen Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** meeting will take place on **Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.00pm** in the Presbytery, North Street.

**Second Collection** - There will be a second collection **next weekend the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> February** in support of the Lourdes Pilgrimage. The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage will take place this year for the first time in three years. The Collection goes to support the efforts to bring as many sick people to Lourdes as possible along with the numerous Doctors, Nurses, Volunteer Carers, and Volunteer Youths and for all the equipment, medication, and care items needed. Please give generously, as you always do.

**Confessions** are available in the Adoration Chapel every Saturday morning from **10am to 11am.**

**Scripture Studies** continue every **Tuesday at 7.30pm** in the Presbytery, North Street. All welcome.

**The Skibbereen Cathedral choir** invites new members to join with us in singing at the **11.00am Mass** on any or every Sunday. It is very simple, just sit in and join us on any Sunday or come and talk with any of us after Mass and we will be delighted to answer your questions. Thanks to technology it is very easy to learn the responses and hymns as I can send the music and audios online. Nancy Long.

**The Alliance of the Two Hearts** - First Friday and First Saturday Devotion in Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place from **8pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February to 12.30am on Saturday** in St Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen. The evening will include **First Friday Holy Mass at 8pm**, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, Rosary, Devotional Prayers, Silent Prayer with **First Saturday Holy Mass at 12am**. All this is done to make reparation to the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary. All are welcome.

**Irish Wheelchair Association** Charity Shop, North St is looking for **volunteers**, as well as **donations** of clothes, books and bric-a-brac in reasonable condition.



#### Mass Intentions

**Monday 30th January 2023** - 10:15am Rath: Special Intention

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023** - 10:15am Rath: Special Intention

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023** - 10:15am Rath: Special Intention

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023** - 4:45pm Sherkin: Special Intention

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023** - **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30am Rath – Peggy Davis Moore, Church Strand – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

10.00am Cape Clear: Special Intention

**Recently Deceased** – we extend our condolences to the family of Eileen Connolly, Birmingham and late of South Rath. May she rest in peace.

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**Eucharistic Adoration** takes place every Monday and Friday from 10am to 6pm in the Adoration Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen. All Welcome. Confessions are available on request.

**Rath National School is now enrolling.** We welcome all perspective pupils to visit on Friday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2-4pm. More information can be found on our website or email us at [rathnationalsc@gmail.com](mailto:rathnationalsc@gmail.com)

**Bauravilla Cheval Ride** on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 12.30pm in aid of Co-Action leaving from Skibbereen Showgrounds with refreshments served in Skibbereen Rugby Club afterwards.