

### PRAYERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

For our mothers, who have given us life, that we may show them reverence and love;  
For mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope;  
For mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom;  
We pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer...

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mon 20 March:** Feast of St Joseph, husband of Mary, patron of the dying.

**Wed 22 March:** Start of Ramadan. Pray for our Muslim brothers and sisters.

**Sat 25 March:** Solemn feast of the Annunciation (Conception of our Saviour).

**Mon 27 March:** Lenten Penitential Service for our Family of Parishes, 7pm in the Cathedral, Skibbereen (led by Fr John); priests available for Confessions.

### THINGS TO DO FOR LENT

— **Try something new every day** —

DAY 23 (MON 20) Pray for your parents

DAY 24 (TUES 21) Pay a sincere compliment to someone you meet.

DAY 25 (WED 22) Do not use the Lord's name in vain today, only in prayer.

DAY 26 (THURS 23) Recycle bottles & jars

Day 27 (Fri 24) Fast from food.

Day 28 (Sat 25) De-clutter a room today.

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS (26 MARCH)

• **Fifth Sunday of Lent:** The three readings today focus on the question: 'Life is

*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).*

our goal, so how do we obtain life?'

**EZEKIEL 37: 12-14** — Ezekiel says that those committed to God will find life after they die.

**ROMANS 8:8-11** — Paul says that through the Spirit we can find life.

**JOHN 11: 1-45** — The Gospel describes the raising of Lazarus and shows that all God's power is found in Jesus, who brings believers the fullness of life.

### 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 PHONE 028 33177.

EMAIL kilmacabeparish@gmail.com

• Fr Bernard Cotter Co-PP, Union Hall

• PASTORAL ASSISTANT: Maura O'Flynn.

• SECRETARY: Annette Glanton,

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

Office open Mon, Wed, Thurs, and Fri.

from 10 am to 1 pm for Mass bookings baptismal certss etc. Phone 028 22828.

Email skibbereeparish@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 unveiled at  
the **Easter Vigil**)

Our Family of Parishes

## NEWSLETTER

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

SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE) VOL 1: NO. 16

## OUR CATHEDRAL'S BIG BIRTHDAY IS APPROACHING

Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen, which in its title honours the patron saint of Ireland, is soon to celebrate the first 200 years of its existence. The foundation was laid in 1825; from 1826, the Cathedral was open for worship.

By the early 1800s, a previous Skibbereen chapel, located in the burial ground immediately east of Home Rule Terrace, had reached an advanced stage of decay. In 1814, Fr Michael Collins had come to Skibbereen as PP of the then parish of Creagh and Tullagh. He it was who planned and raised funds to build a new cathedral at the top end of North Street. A man of remarkable drive and ability, he continued to reside in Skib-

bereen, spending the last two years of his life as Bishop of Cloyne and Ross. Following his sudden death at the age of 51 in 1832, he was interred in the soil under the cathedral he had built.

In the mid-1840s, three internal galleries, not part of the original design, were added. These concided with the visit to Skibbereen of Fr Theolbald Mathew, the temperance crusader. But the changes carried out by George Ashlin on the instructions of Bishop William Fitzgerald in 1881-1882 must be seen as the most radical in the cathedral's history. The wall behind the original high altar was opened and a semi-circular apse added, embellished by three stained-glass windows. The cathedral was re-configured to full cruciform shape. In 1948-1950, extensive repairs were carried out by Bishop Denis Moynihan, who subsequently travelled to Rome to have the building's status raised from pro-Cathedral to full Cathedral, a title it retains to this day.

**Fr John Heinhold hopes to assemble a Bicentenary Committee to prepare for the great event of the 200th birthday of Skibbereen's cathedral. If you would be interested in being part of such a group, please contact Fr John at 028 22878. Or email [jheinhold@gmail.com](mailto:jheinhold@gmail.com)**

**Gerald O'Brien, Curragh  
Skibbereen**



## 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 Tuesday.

### **Mass Intentions from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Saturday – 6.30pm –** James and Mary O’Brien, Home Rule Terrace  
Patsy, Margaret & John Joe O’Regan, Boulibawn  
Skibbereen

**Sunday – 11.00am -** Geraldine Hurley, Poundlick  
D.F. O’Sullivan, Schull Road, Skibbereen

**Monday - 9.30am –** Larry Butler, Galley Head lighthouse

**Tuesday – 9.30am -** Liam O’Donovan, Skeagh

**Wednesday – 9.30am -** Missa Pro Populo/People of the Parish

**Thursday – 9.30am -** Special Intention

**Friday – 9.30am -** Nancy Goggin, Cork

**Saturday – 6.30pm –** Jim McCullagh, Mill Road  
Jerome Hurley, Coolnagurrane

**Sunday – 11.00am -** Eileen and Cornelius Harrington, Gortnaclohy  
Mary McCarthy, Lisalorig  
Breda Forde, The Moorings, Skibbereen, Month’s Mind

**Recently Baptised:** We welcome into our faith community baby Matthew O’Regan who received the sacrament of Baptism on Saturday. Parents Aaron and Jennifer

**Recently deceased:** We extend our condolences to the family of Josephine Griffin (née McCarthy) of Glencar, Cork Road (formerly of Rosscarbery) who died recently. May she rest in peace.

Last week we began to look at the three Lenten actions of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. We reflected on Prayer in last week newsletter. Let us look at **Fasting** this week. Questions people frequently have about the Lenten fasting are: Why is it important? Is it required? And what’s the history of fasting in the Church? Today, people talk about fasting in different ways, often with enhancing physical health. Spiritually speaking fasting has a different meaning. What does it mean to fast in Lent? To fast is to abstain from food. There is a distinction between fasting and abstinence in Lent. When we use abstinence in reference to Lent, we are speaking about regulating the quantity of food that is taken or abstaining from something we enjoy eating e.g. chocolate, cake etc. Traditionally anyone from the age of 14 is asked to abstain for the 40 days of Lent. When we use fasting, we are thinking more about the days of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday where we abstain from meat or food altogether.

Traditionally those between the ages of 18-59 are asked to fast on these two days and abstain from meat on Fridays. Fasting in the Church is an ancient practice as a sign of sorrow and repentance for sins. In the Old Testament fasting also accompanied fervent prayer to God. The idea was that fasting made one’s prayer more acceptable to God. It was a way of demonstrating one’s level of commitment before the Lord. As the adage goes, actions speak louder than words. In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus does not seem to emphasise fasting while his disciples are with him. When questioned about this by John’s disciples, Jesus insists that fasting is inappropriate in times of joy. In saying this, he compared himself to the bridegroom and his disciples to wedding guests. Jesus notes however that when the bridegroom is taken away, then there will be fasting, which seems to imply fasting as a sign on mourning the loss of the bridegroom and also in anticipation of the preparation for his return. In the concept of anticipation and preparation for the Lord Jesus we find a connection to the practice of fasting and abstinence during Lent. Lent is a time of penance and atonement for sin in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter, and this is why we fast for Lent.

**Lenten Penitential Service for the Family of Parishes** will be held in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Skibbereen on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. All Welcome.

First Confession for the First Holy Communion Children will take place: **St. Joseph’s Girls NS on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7pm** in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. **St. Patrick’s Boys NS & Gaelscoil Dr Uí Shúilleabháin on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm** in St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

In preparation for the **12 noon Stations of the Cross on Good Friday** in St. Patrick’s Cathedral we are very happy to welcome back again the Children’s presentation of the Way of the Cross. We are encouraging children to participate by inviting them to register now and come along to a practice at 3.30pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (Holy Week). Register now by emailing the parish office, [skibbereenparish@gmail.com](mailto:skibbereenparish@gmail.com) or contact Cliodhna O’Sullivan.

**First Aid for Parents** – The Skibbereen Parish Pastoral Council has organised an evening for parents to help them to respond to accidents in the home; choking, CPR, etc. This training will take place on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in The Presbytery, North Street at 7.30pm**. Limited places maximum – Ten.

**Skibbereen Community Playgroup CLG. Open Day - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023-10am-12pm**. Please come to see our service and meet our wonderful teachers. Limited ECCE & NCS Spaces for September 2023 - All Welcome

**Charity Walk** for Motor Neurone Disease on **2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.30pm** from Baltimore Sailing Club to Spain Tower, Baltimore

Eileen Dineen is doing her second annual Laps Walk around the Ilen Rovers Pitch, Church Cross on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30am**. The charities to benefit from the walk are Critical & Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders)



**Parish Office**, Skibbereen - 028/22828 – Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri – 10am to 1pm.  
**Priest on Duty/Emergency** – 086/7852262

#### **Mass Intentions**

##### **Sunday 19th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent**

9.30am Rath – Fiona Scully, Creagh and London

10.00am Cape Clear - Special Intention

**Monday 20th March** – 10.15am Rath – Special Intention

**Wednesday 22nd March** - 10.15am Rath – Janie Murphy, Reengaroga

**Friday 24th March** - 9.30am Rath – Bertie Connolly, Harbour View, Baltimore

**Saturday 25th March** – 4.45pm Sherkin - Special Intention

##### **Sunday 26th March – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

9.30am Rath – Kathleen & John Joe O’Driscoll, Ballymacrown

10.00am Cape Clear - Special Intention

**Recently Baptised:** We welcome Jack Ryan into our faith community here in Rath and the Islands as he received the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Recently deceased:** We extend our condolences to the family of Sean Boyd Coughlin, Church Strand View, Baltimore. May he rest in peace.

**Special Collection** for Turkey & Syria Earthquake will take place this weekend - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March at all Masses.

A Meeting for **All Communion Ministers** for Rath and the Islands will be held on Monday 20th of March at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room in Sacred Heart Church Rath.

**First Confession** for the First Holy Communion Children will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Rath.

**Lenten Penitential Service for the Family of Parishes** will be held in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Skibbereen on Monday 27th March at 7pm. All are Welcome

**Spring Station Mass** for all Rath Station Areas will take place on Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 7:30pm in the Sacred Heart Church, Rath. All station areas are invited to attend. The mass will be offered for your intentions. The Spring Station Envelopes will be available in the porches of the church from this weekend.

A big **Thank You** to Agnieszka, her helpers and all those who participated in the wonderful Children’s Mass last weekend.

**Charity Walk** - for Motor Neurone Disease will be held on the 2nd of April at 2.30pm from Baltimore Sailing Club to Spain Tower, Baltimore.

Last week we began to look at the three Lenten actions of Prayer, **Fasting** and Almsgiving. We reflected on Prayer in last week's newsletter. Let us look at Fasting this week.

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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 [skibbereeparish@gmail.com](mailto:skibbereeparish@gmail.com)