

**ALWAYS ATTEND MASS IN YOUR FAMILY OF PARISHES:**

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS 6.30 PM Skibbereen, [4.45 pm Sherkin].

SUNDAY 9.30 AM MASS: Rath Parish Church.

SUNDAY 10 AM MASS: Glandore, Kilcoe, Oileán Cléire & Union Hall.

SUNDAY 11 AM: Skibbereen. Sunday 11.30 AM: Castlehaven & Lisheen

SUNDAY 12 NOON MASS: Leap Parish Church.

**THIS WEEK**

**MON 15:** St Carthage (or Mochuta), founded the great monastery in Lismore, Co Waterford, where he died in ad 637.

International Day of Families (UN).

**TUES 16:** St Brendan (Abbot). Patron of Kerry, travelled widely:

*O God*

*who helped St Brendan navigate the seas  
in his eagerness to spread the Gospel;  
grant us, at his intercession  
on our journey through life  
to set our course according to your peace  
and bring us*

*to the harbour we desire in heaven.*

[ROMAN MISSAL 2011]

**SAT 20 :** St Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444) Franciscan preacher, promoted devotion to the Holy Name and St Joseph.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS (ASCENSION)**

**Acts 1:1-11** — Luke describes the Ascension: this excerpt is taken from the very beginning of the book of Acts

**Ephesians 1:17-23** — Paul interprets the event as Christ's exaltation at the right hand of the Father.

**Matthew 28:16-20** — Matthew's description of the command to make disciples of all nations, given at the Ascension.

**SEANFHOCAL:** "IS GAIRE CABHAIR DÉ NÁ AN DORAS." *God's help is closer than the door.*

**FAMILY OF PARISHES INFORMATION**

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

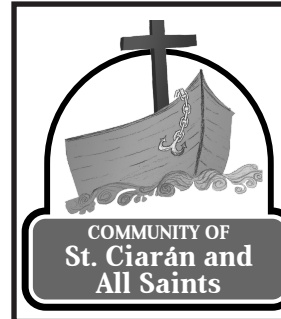
**Alcoholics Anonymous**, West Cork: phone 087 611 4946 — [alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://alcoholicsanonymous.ie)

**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)



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

# NEWSLETTER

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

SUNDAY 14 MAY 2023 6TH SUN. EASTER VOL 1: NO.23

## HOW MANY HOLY WELLS IN YOUR PARISH?

The 387 surviving holy wells in Co Cork date mostly from when public practice of the Catholic religion was forbidden, though some predate this period. They are generally in secluded places where customs and piseogs still exist. These were places of prayer, meditation, even baptism.

Three extensively documented holy wells can be found in Castlehaven & Myross parish. Saint Brigid is associated with the townland of Ardra, overlooking the picturesque Oileán Bhríghide. Strangely, this well is said to have originated on the island but was supernaturally transported to the mainland where, on Lá Fhéile Bhríghide (1 February), locals come to pray and take some water. A cure for eye ailments is asso-

ciated with it. Many wells are found alongside a *singirlín* or rag tree, where people hang their worries and, as the rags disintegrate, so too do their worries.

Another secluded well is Saint Barrahan's (Tobar Bearcháin) at Castlehaven Strand, locally known as *Tobar na Súil*. Barrahan's feast day is 3 December and the custom here is to walk around the well three times in a clockwise direction, praying as you go.

At Toe Head, visitors to Tobar Phartaláin place pebbles in the water to honour St Bartholomew who was himself cured of blindness. On 14 May (today), patrons take water home, making sure not to take any of the magical eels with them.

So how do we know so much about holy wells? Many are mapped in the Ordnance Survey maps of 1841, while stories are recorded in the Schools' Collection of 1938. Generations of locals have also ensured that holy wells have been preserved. This is how it should be.

**Vincent O'Neill**  
Castlehaven

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR 'MISSION & MINISTRY', 13-14 MAY:** *Two diocesan roles are financed by this collection: Eilis Casey, our Parish Life co-ordinator, and a colleague who will soon join her to help with Faith Formation. The Office for Mission & Ministry provides parish resources and workshops, trains baptism teams ETC.*  
**PLEASE SUPPORT THIS SPECIAL COLLECTION.**



## 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: [skibbereeparish@gmail.com](mailto:skibbereeparish@gmail.com) no later than 5pm Tuesday.

**Mass Intentions from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

**Saturday – 10.30am – First Holy Communion**

**6.30pm - Stephen Buckley, Farranconnor**

Jerome Hodnett, St Fachtna's Terrace

**Sunday – 11am –** Michael and Teresa O'Donovan, Derrygool

Kathleen O'Donovan, Skeagh

**Monday – 9.30am -** Margaret Geary, RIP

**Tuesday – 9.30am –** Mary and Paddy Hayes, Castlehaven and their son Patrick

**Wednesday – 9.30am -** People of the Parish

**Thursday – 9.30am –** Joe and Sadie McDonald, Mill Road

**Friday - 9.30am -** Deceased members of the O'Sullivan family Lisheenroe

**Saturday - 6.30pm -** Manuel José Oliveira Costa, Portugal

John O'Halloran, Coronea, Month's Mind

**Sunday – 11am –** Mary Hurley, Market Street

Diarmuid O'Donovan, Coolnagurrane

We send our condolences to the family of Christopher (Christy) Davis of Bantry and Marsh Road, Skibbereen, who died recently. May he Rest in Peace.

Congratulations to Karen and Eamon who got married last Friday. We wish you every blessing and happiness for your future life together.

**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM** – Over the weeks of May we have begun to look at this topic and share with you some thoughts. **This is the second part:** A leadership team is not made up of “yes father” people. A team allows for different opinions to be considered and helps ensure the best decisions are made. It helps deal with blind spots of the individuals, through the collective effort of the team. Leadership team members are themselves supporting other teams in the parish (Parish Pastoral Council, Ministers of the Word, Communion Ministers, Finance, Maintenance, etc) it helps ensure a unity of vision and purpose. The four non-negotiables of a leadership team are: **1.** Unanimity of vision. **2.** Balance of strengths. **3.** Healthy conflict and trust. **4.** Vulnerability (The first two get people on board. The second two keep them there.)

Let's look at **Unanimity of Vision and Balance of Strengths:** Vision is essentially about where the parish is heading. Imagine four people in a canoe in the middle of a lake. Each person is paddling frantically towards a different shore. You know what is going to happen, nothing - or at best, they will go round and round in circles, getting exhausted and going nowhere. If there are two visions, if each person is there to protect his/her own patch, there will be “de-vision”. There must be an agreed vision, one shared vision for all to work towards. There is no such thing as a balanced person! We are all a little odd (some of us more than others!)

There is, however, a balanced team. A Leadership team must identify the strengths of each individual and at the same time they must identify the blind spots of each individual team member and then find a balance. You may be gifted in one area, like organising, but you may have a blind spot in the area of budgeting. A balanced team would have someone who is gifted in budgeting, and may not be so great in organising things, so they complement each other. (We will look at parts three and four next week.) **Reflection Questions:**

- What are the positives that you feel in the Parish? What are the frustrations that you feel in the parish?
- Can our parish move from maintenance (keeping things as they always have been) to mission (focus on the evangelisation of others beyond ourselves?) What needs to happen?
- Where would you like to see our parish in five years' time? Reflect and pray about your own vision for our parish? Write it down, share it with a friend.

**To be continued...**

**Congratulations** to the children of the First Holy Communion Class from St Joseph's G.N.S. who received First Holy Communion this weekend.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each **Monday and Friday from 10am to 6pm** in the **Adoration Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen.**

**Second Collection this weekend** for the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Office.

The Charity Walk in Baltimore on 2<sup>nd</sup> April for **Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association** raised €2,890.00. Thank you to everyone.

At a recent meeting of **Skibbereen Parish Pastoral Council** it was decided that tea/coffee would be available in the Presbytery, Skibbereen on Wednesday mornings, **after 9.30am Mass**, commencing on 17<sup>th</sup> May. All welcome

We are delighted to welcome the Inistioge Choir from Kilkenny who will sing at the **6.30pm Mass this Saturday** and will join our local Choir at the **11am Mass on Sunday.**



#### Mass Intentions

##### Sunday 14th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Rath – Fr Owen Cashman

10.00am Cape Clear

Monday 15th May – 10.15am Rath

Wednesday 17th May - 10.15am Rath

Friday 19th May – 10.15am Rath

Saturday 20th May - 4.45pm Sherkin

##### Sunday 21st May – The Ascension of the Lord

9.30am Rath – Paddy Cahalane, Ballymacrown & Con Kelleher, Mardyke St

10.00am Cape Clear

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#### Report on May Parish Pastoral Council Meeting:

The meeting opened with Fr. John presenting a Guide for Prayer. Prayer is central to the work and life of the Parish Pastoral Council as its source of inspiration and vision.

Fr. John lit a candle and we spent time in silence, followed by the opening prayer, followed by a Gospel reading, invitation to say a word or phrase from the Gospel, prayers of intercession and a closing prayer.

**Easter Services Feedback:** It was suggested that we just have one service on Good Friday in the future; Stations of the Cross at 12noon was poorly attended where as there were more people at the 3pm Service. The Easter Vigil Mass took place in Skibbereen for the family of parishes however its absence in Rath was greatly missed. Easter Sunday Mass was very well attended.

**Children's Mass:** The next Children's Mass will take place on Sunday 18th June 2023, Father's Day.

**Lectio Divina:** A Lectio Divina group meeting in Skibbereen will take place over the four Saturday mornings in June. All are welcome to attend.

**Bishop Fintan's Meeting:** Bishop Fintan Gavin is organising two diocesan gatherings on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May, another step in building a shared vision for our Families of Parishes. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with one another and share their experiences, while also spending time in prayer and reflection. The West Cork gathering will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in the Celtic Ross Hotel,

Rosscarbery from 2:00pm to 5:30pm. Approximately 6-10 people are invited from the parish and these individuals may be part of the different teams i.e. Funeral team, Ministers of the Word/Eucharist, Finance committee etc

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