

## Learn about Vatican II, understand the Synod

The Second Vatican Council, called together by Pope John XXIII in 1959, met in Rome from 1962 to 1965. Documents drawn up by the Council gave expression to ideals and hopes for the renewal of the Church. We have all experienced the fruits of the Council's insights and decisions, greeted with joy by the people of God.

Pope Francis has now called for a new commitment to renewing the Church, in faithfulness to the Council, to other recent documents, and to God's word. He speaks of a synod, rather than of a new Council. A synod literally means "journeying together", talking to one another as lay people, religious, and priests, about God's will for the Church and for the world. What is God calling us to today? The Synod has begun already in conversations in parishes and dioceses around the world. It will come to a head in two sessions in Rome, one in October 2023, the second in October 2024.

As background to help you understand what is going on, we offer you the possibility of reading and studying the documents of Vatican II during the coming year. We will meet once a week to discuss our reading, and share our insights and impressions and questions. We will have our first session on Tuesday, 3 October. We will meet in the Presbytery, Skibbereen, on Tuesdays, from 7.30 to 9.00. Come and share this interesting journey!

**Frances MacMahon and  
Michael Curran msc.**

### THIS WEEK

**WED 20TH:** Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gon (the first Korean priest), Paul Chong Ha-sang (catechist) and 101 others, Korean Martyrs

**Wed 21:** St Matthew, author of the Gospel we read at Sunday Mass this year. Patron of tax-collectors & accountants.

**Sat 23:** St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) Priest & friend of all who suffer.

### FINANCE REPORT (Sun 10 Sept)

Aughadown: €885 Castlehaven-Myross: €840 Kilmacabea €944; Skibbereen €1,610.

### Office Opening Hours

Family of Parishes Office open this week: Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri from 10am - 1pm [Secretary Annette], phone 028-22828.

Email [stciaranasFOP@gmail.com](mailto:stciaranasFOP@gmail.com)

### ☆ POINT TO PONDER ☆

- Earth provides enough to serve every man's needs, but not every man's greed

### 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.

**Southdoc** Phone 0818 355 999

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

### CLERGY

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

• Fr Terry O'Brien, MSC Co-PP, Leap EMAIL: [kilmacabeparish@gmail.com](mailto:kilmacabeparish@gmail.com)

• Fr Bernard Cotter Co-PP, Union Hall EMAIL: [castlehavenandmyross@gmail.com](mailto:castlehavenandmyross@gmail.com)

• Fr Evin O'Brien CC, PHONE 028-22877



COMMUNITY OF  
**St. Ciarán and  
All Saints**

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

# NEWSLETTER

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

SUN. 17 SEPTEMBER 2023 24TH SUNDAY VOL 2: NO 3

## THE STATION MASS IN THE HOME: WILL WE PRESERVE IT, OR LET IT GO?

**A**t a recent meeting of the priests in our Family of Parishes, the clergy decided to respond positively to requests for home stations this autumn. We also decided that station masses will not be celebrated in any other venue apart from people's homes, in accordance with the traditional practice.

During the Penal Laws in Ireland, the Catholic Church was oppressed and public ceremonies involving Catholic clergy were banned. Nevertheless, Irish Catholics remained faithful to the Mass and two new traditions emerged: the Mass rock and the Station Mass. As well as Catholics gathering in secluded spots to celebrate Mass, they also gathered in people's homes. Quietly, the word was put

about locally that Mass would be said in a particular house on a particular day. The neighbours would gather for what was often the only opportunity to attend Mass for a long time. Because it was not safe for the priest to carry sacred vessels or vestments with him on his journeys, these were taken care of by the local people. They passed the "Mass box" from house to house as it was needed. These Masses became known as the "Station Mass" because of the random movement from place to place.

Following the repeal of the Penal Laws and the passing of Catholic Emancipation (1829), Catholics were free to worship publicly. It took a long time for churches to be built widely, so the tradition of the Station Mass continued. Even when each community built its own church, the Station Mass tradition was kept alive. The occasion of having a Mass in your home was seen as a blessing and

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### OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

Monday 18th marks the fifth anniversary of the death in 2018 of Fr Pat O'Sullivan MSC, the retired PP of Kilmacabea.

— MAY HE REST IN PEACE —



## 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.

**(Continued from Page 1):**

it was also seen as a great social occasion where neighbours came together. In recent years this great tradition has come under threat as the Station Mass was moved to a church or other venue, thus losing the true meaning and tradition of the Station Mass.

In the past, people who lived in particular townlands had a rota of parishioners who hosted the Station Mass, and each family knew when their turn was coming.

**As an attempt to keep this tradition alive, we are asking people to come forward and host a Station Mass for their area.** Apart from a table to be used as an altar, all the principal necessities for the Mass are provided by the Priest. The host family, if desired, can provide a cup of tea and a biscuit only. All that is essential is to invite your neighbours to pray together and have a social gathering. **Let's keep this tradition alive!**

**Please contact any of the priests or the Family of Parishes office if you are interested in hosting a Station Mass (phone 028 22828)**

Fr John Heinhold SPS

(Moderator, St Ciarán & All Saints Community)

Autumn Envelopes are available at the church from this weekend. Your contribution goes towards the income of the priests of the parish.

**Weekday masses Monday to Friday at 9.30am.**

**Confessions on Saturdays at 10am – 11am.**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** continues every **Monday and Friday** from **10am until 6pm** both days. **All are welcome.**

### Mass Intentions from Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September

**Saturday – 6.30pm** - Nancy Casey, Poundlick  
Eily-May Wall, Mill Road and Lissaclarig

**Sunday – 11am** - St Joseph's Young Priest Society  
Paddy Walsh, Maulatrahane

**Monday – 9.30am** Eily-May Wall, Mill Road and Lissaclarig

**Tuesday - 9.30am** Special Intention

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

**Thursday – 9.30am** – Special Intention

**Friday - 9.30am** - Get Well Intention

**Saturday – 6.30pm** - The O'Sullivan family, High Street  
Catherine Hickey, Schull Road

**Sunday – 11am** - John and Mary Newman, Ilen Villas  
Jim O'Donovan, Lisheenapingina

**Hospitality Morning Wednesdays** in the Presbytery, after the morning Mass. **All are welcome** for tea or coffee and a chat.

**Second collection** weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> **September** for the education of the Priesthood.

**First Holy Communion & Confirmation** Teachers meeting in the Presbytery on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm.**

**What is Alpha?** - Alpha is a ten-week experience, commencing in **Clonakilty on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm** covering, such topics as Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus' die? How does God guide us? Why and how do I pray? Alpha is relaxed, non-threatening, low key, friendly and fun. Alpha can help you to deepen your relationship with the Lord. **What is involved?** We begin every session by chatting with one another over food. Then we watch an interesting talk on DVD. After that we divide into groups and discuss some questions raised on the DVD.

Alpha is free - so why not come along and give it a try!

Contact: Finola [087 6838082](tel:0876838082) Email: [alphaclonakilty@gmail.com](mailto:alphaclonakilty@gmail.com)

The West Cork Choral Society would like to welcome anyone keen to join us for a free choral workshop. Warm up your voice and your heart and come alive to the joy of harmony singing. You can also learn about our performance plans for the 2023/2024 season on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023** commencing at **7.45 pm** at **St Matthew's Parish Hall** Aghadown P81TH29



it was also seen as a great social occasion where neighbours came together. In recent years this great tradition has come under threat as the station Mass was moved to a church or other venue, thus losing the true meaning and tradition of the Station Mass.

In the past, people who lived in particular townlands had a rota of parishioners who hosted the Station Mass, and each family knew when their turn was coming. As an attempt to keep this tradition alive, we are asking people to come forward and host a Station Mass for their area. Apart from a table to be used as an altar, all the principal necessities for the Mass are provided by the priest. The host family, if desired, can provide a cup of tea and a biscuit only. All that is essential is to invite your neighbours to pray together and have a social gathering. Let's keep this tradition alive!

Please contact any of the priests or the Family of Parishes office if you are interested in hosting a Station Mass (phone 028 22828).

Fr John Heinhold SPS

(Moderator, St Ciarán & All Saints Community)

#### Mass Intentions

**Sunday 17th September – Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9.30am** Rath – Fred Chaplin, Ballylynch

John Walsh, Baltimore & London

**Monday 18th September – 10.15am** Rath – John & Betty Finn,

**Wednesday 20th September - 10.15am** Rath

**Friday 22nd September – 10.15am** Rath

**Saturday 23rd September**

**4.45pm** – Sherkin

**Sunday 24th September – Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9.30am** Rath – Donal Sheehy, Ballylynch

**10.00am** Cape Clear

**Weekday masses** – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10.15am.

Confessions by appointment.

**Autumn Envelopes** are available at the churches from this weekend. Your contribution goes towards the income of the priests of the parish.

**Altar Server Training** will take place in Rath church following the Friday mass on 22nd September.

#### Report on September Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The following points were discussed at the meeting

- 1) The next Children's Mass will take place on Sunday 1st October 2023.
- 2) First Holy Communion and Confirmation children will actively participate in the mass. As of October two First Holy Communion children will present the bread and wine and the Confirmation children will say the prayers of the Faithful.
- 3) Station Mass: It has been decided by St Ciaran & All Saints Family of Parishes that the tradition of holding the Station Masses in homes in the parish. Please read Fr John's article for details.

**First Friday Calls** - If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and would like to receive the sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion or would appreciate a visit from a priest, please contact the parish office 028 22828.

#### Your Invite to Alpha

We want to invite you to try Alpha with us on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 - 9.00pm starting September 27th at 7.30 pm in Clonakilty. All are welcome.

Every session begins with some food, so come along for the first evening and see what you think! Numbers are limited.

What is Alpha? Alpha is a 10-week experience covering such topics as Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus' die? How does God guide us? Why and how do I pray? Alpha is relaxed, non-threatening, low key, friendly and fun. Alpha can help you to deepen your relationship with the Lord.

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#### WCCS OPEN REHEARSAL

The choir would like to welcome anyone keen to join us for a free choral workshop. Warm up your voice and your heart and come alive to the joy of harmony singing.

You can also learn about our performance plans for the 23/24 season.

Monday September 25th 2023, 7.45pm starting time.

St Matthew's Parish Hall, Aughadown, P81 TH29.

**THE LEGION OF MARY PILGRIMAGE to KNOCK** will take place on Sunday 24th.

September 2023. The price including bus, breakfast and evening meal will be €80.

The bus will leave the Cathedral, Skibbereen at 5am and will pick up pilgrims on the route as in previous years. Bookings will be taken by Kathleen Courtney at 086 408 4688 or Anne Power at 087 625 5254.