

MASS SCHEDULE FOR SAT. & SUN. 23-24 DECEMBER (FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

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**, Sun: Rath 9.30am, Oileán Cléire 10 am
SKIBBEREEN (CATHEDRAL): **Saturday 23rd 6.30 pm**, Sunday 11.00 am.

THIS WEEK

MON 18: ST FLANNAN, Abbot of Killaloe and patron of that diocese (Clare & North Tipp.)

• *International Migrants Day (UN)*

WED 20: ST FACHANAN, Patron of the diocese of Kilfenora (in North Clare).

• *International Human Solidarity Day (UN)*

FINANCE CORNER (SUNDAY 10TH DEC)

Aughadown: €760 — Dec 8th €165

Castlehaven €700 — Dec 8th €215

Kilmacabea €593 (8th & 10th together)

Rath & The Islands €1220 (Dec 3rd & 10th)

Skibbereen : €1,613 — Dec 8th €425.

• *Collection at Christmas Eve & Day masses in every church is for the parish clergy.*

✧ **POINTS TO PONDER** ✧

• “If you want light to come into your life, you need to stand where it is shining”.

• “Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps if you are not willing to move your feet”

• TO BOOK MASSES, ARRANGE WEDDINGS, CHRISTENINGS, ANNIVERSARIES ETC, CONTACT THE PARISHES' OFFICE, NORTH ST, SKIBBEREEN.

Office open: Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri. 10 am-1 pm. Phone 028-22828 (Annette)

Email stciaranasFOP@gmail.com

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.

Southdoc Phone 0818 355 999

Women against Violence

Helpline 1800 203 136: westcorkbeacon.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

• Fr Bernard Cotter Co-PP, Union Hall TEXT OR WHATSAPP : 087 901 0627

• Fr Evin O'Brien CC — PHONE 028-22877

FAMILY OF PARISHES CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE (24 DEC PM & 25 DEC)

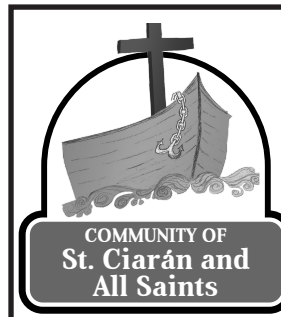
CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES: Castlehaven, 5pm; Glandore 6pm; Skibbereen 6.30 pm; Lisheen 7pm, Leap 7.30 pm; Rath Parish Church 8pm; Skibbereen 9pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: Sherkin 9 am; Rath Parish Church 9.30 am; Glandore, Kilcoe, Oileán Cléire & Union Hall 10 am, Skibbereen (Cathedral) 11 am, Castlehaven & Lisheen 11.30 am; Leap, 12 noon.

CHURCH OF IRELAND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE: 4pm Family Crib Service & 11.30 pm Eucharist, Abbeystrewry.

CHRISTMAS DAY: 9am Eucharist, Castletownshend, 10 am Eucharist Baltimore; 10.15 am Eucharist, Caheragh; 11.30 am Eucharist, Abbeystrewry.



St Ciarán & All Saints
FAMILY OF PARISHES

NEWSLETTER

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

SUN. 17 DECEMBER THIRD ADVENT VOL 2: No 16

MAKE SPACE FOR GOD IN YOUR LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS

The Christmas crib has fascinated me from a young age, ever since my father brought back a crib made from olive wood outside Bethlehem. I am sure you all have traditions about not putting the infant Jesus in until Christmas Day. In our case, the wise men were not allowed to make a show until Epiphany!

For the first half of Christianity, Christmas was not considered a hugely significant feast; we were an Easter Church not a Christmas one. St Francis of Assisi changed that. Francis

wanted everyone to see the drama of Christ's birth, so he had a manger prepared and hay carried in; an ox and an ass were led to the manger. Francis' biographer wrote that as the people of Greccio arrived at the manger:

'All creation sang with joy: the forest amplified its cries, the night was rendered brilliant and solemn by a multitude of bright lights and by resonant and harmonious hymns of praise'.

Perhaps this Christmas we can reflect on the way Francis of Assisi celebrated Christmas and be attentive to how we are celebrating. Are we too worried about the dinner meal — or the gifts we did or did not buy?

We do not have to worry about things going right on Christmas day, or any day. God has come to us, is with us, and will forever be born in us as our future, if we make space for God in our lives.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us allow ourselves the time to invite the Christ child in, and when we next spend time at a crib scene, be caught up in the simplicity and wonder of the miracle of the Word made flesh.

— **Reverend John Ardis**

Rector of Abbeystrewry Union,

[CHURCH OF IRELAND]

Email: abbeystrewryunion@gmail.com



Prayer on lighting the third candle on the wreath (pink candle)

Lord God,
may we, your people,
who look forward to the birthday of Christ, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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 Officer: skibbereenparish@gmail.com no later than 5 pm Tuesday. **Mass Intentions from Saturday 16th December 2023**

Saturday – 6.30pm - Rosie Dwyer, Cope and North Street
Josephine and Richard Palmer, Ringaskiddy

Sunday - 11am
Eugene & Mary McCarthy and Sheila & Ted McCarthy, Ilen Street and New York
Kathleen Mullally, Mardyke Street, first anniversary,
Jim and James Mullally and Frank Murray, London
John Long, Lissalohorig, first anniversary.

Monday – 9.30am - Paddy, Sheila, Thomas, and Michael Herlihy,
Coolnagurrane

Monday 7.30pm Family of Parishes Reconciliation Service

Tuesday - 9.30am - Kitty and Patrick Hodnett, Goleen

Wednesday – 9.30am – People of the Parish

Thursday – 9.30am - John Long, Lissalohorig, first anniversary

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

Saturday – 6.30pm - Bebe and Denis O'Mahony, Newcestown
Anthony Coakley, Glencurragh

Sunday - 11am
Michael Stromecki, birthday intention
Michael Martin Crowley

Christmas Eve (Sunday) 24th evening – Children's Mass - 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Mass (Sunday) - 9pm

Christmas Day (Monday) 25th Morning Mass - 11.00am

We welcome to our faith community, the following who were baptised on 9th December 2023: Ian Butson, Gortnaclohy, son of Adrian and Fiona Clodagh Keohane, Dublin, daughter of Colum and Margaret Etain Keohane, Riverdale, daughter of David and Breiffní.

Christmas Mass bouquet cards are now available from the parish office. **Available until 21 December. Office re-opens Monday 8th January 2024.** **Christmas Offering Envelopes** are in all Churches from this weekend.

The Christmas Remembrance Book is available in the cathedral. All names in the book will be remembered at our Christmas masses.

Weekday masses Monday to Friday at 9.30am.

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

CONFESSIONS: During the week before Christmas: **Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd December following 9.30am morning Mass. Saturday 23rd 10am to 12noon. No confession on Christmas Eve as it is a Sunday.**

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

Lectio Divina on Saturday 23rd at 11.15am – 12 noon in the Presbytery, North Street. Christmas Break: **Lectio Divina will take a break** for the weeks of Saturday 30th December and Saturday 6th January. Lectio Divina will resume on **Saturday 13th January 2024.**

REJOICE - Gaudete Sunday takes its name from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: **“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near”**. We take a break from our penitential preparations for the coming of the Lord, and we celebrate the nearness of Christ's coming at Christmas time. We light a pink candle on our Advent Wreath. In the words of C.S. Lewis, at Christmas we remember **‘the central event in the history of the earth – the very thing the whole story has been about’**. So, let us truly **REJOICE!**

Prayer Circle for Vocations – Are you worried about the lack of vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood? If so, you may be interested in the suggestion which has been made to the Diocesan Vocations Team that a “Prayer Circle” would be set up in each parish where people would meet, on a weekly basis, to pray for vocations. This Prayer Circle would complement, and build on, the work of St Joseph's Young Priests Society which is already active in the parish. We propose to set up a **Prayer Circle in January 2024 in Skibbereen parish**, and if you are interested in joining, please contact the parish office, phone 028 22828 as soon as possible.

The Legion of Mary Newsletter is on sale, after Masses, this weekend.

Skibbereen Rowing Club will hold their annual **Charity Swim at 12 noon on Christmas Day at Tragumna**, all proceeds to the special classes of St Joseph's and St Patrick's National Schools. A great place to catch up with everyone home for the holidays. Bucket collection for donations on the day.



Parish Office, Skibbereen - 028/22828 – Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri – 10am to 1pm.

Priest on Duty/Emergency – 086/7852262

Mass Intentions

Sunday 17th December – Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am Rath – Kieran & Hester Cotter, Baltimore and Cape Clear

Annie Bohane, Drumadoon

Dermot McSweeney, Baltimore - Months mind

Bernie O'Connor (nee Fehily), Dublin, Ballineen and Baltimore

10.00am Cape Clear

Monday 18th December – 10.15am Rath –

Neasa Ní Annracháin (Hourihane) Ó Briain, Howth and Skibbereen

John Corr, Passage West

Wednesday 20th December – 10.15am Rath – Denis O'Regan, Freke Terrace

Friday 22nd December – 10.15am Rath

Saturday 23rd December

4.45pm – Sherkin

Sunday 24th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am Rath – John & Hannah Sheehy, Creagh

10.00am Cape Clear

8pm Rath – Christmas Eve Mass

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.00am St Mona's Church, Sherkin Island

9.30am Sacred Heart Church, Rath

10.00am Séipéal Naomh Ciarán, Oileán Chléire

Christmas Confessions: Penitential Service for our Family of Parishes will be held on Monday 18th December in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen at 7.30pm.

CONFESSIONS During the week before Christmas: Wednesday 20th Dec and Friday 22nd Dec following the 10.15am morning mass.

Recently Baptised: We welcome Tadhg Goggin, son of Brian & Anna, Munig into our faith community here in Rath and The Islands as he received the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday 9th December in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

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

Christmas Mass Times in Rath and The Islands–

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December

8.00pm Sacred Heart Church, Rath

Christmas Day Monday 25th December

9.00am St Mona's Church, Sherkin Island

9.30am Sacred Heart Church, Rath

10.00am Séipéal Naomh Ciarán, Oileán Chléire

Christmas Offering Envelopes: The Christmas Offering envelopes are available at the porches of the Church. These offerings go towards the income of our Priests. We thank you for your support.

Sherkin Island Christmas Carol Service today Sunday 17th December at 3pm in St Mona's Church, Sherkin. Donations welcome in aid of St Vincent De Paul. Ferries leaving Baltimore at 12 noon and 2pm. Return ferry leaving Sherkin at 6pm.

Rath NS Christmas Carol Service - in Rath Church on Wednesday 20th December at 7pm.

Christmas Book of Remembrance: The book for remembering your deceased loved ones is available at the side altar rail. You are invited to write the names of your deceased family members, neighbours, and friends in this book of remembrance. This book will then be placed on the altar for our Christmas Masses.

Parish Office Christmas Schedule: The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 21st December and will reopen on Monday 8th January 2024, at 10.00am.

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

Lectio Divina on Saturdays at 11.15am – 12 noon in the Presbytery, North Street, Skibbereen.

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament continues every Monday and Friday from 10am to 6pm both days in St Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen. All are welcome