

### 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.

### TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

**TUES 26: ST STEPHEN**, First Christian martyr, outstanding for forgiving his enemies. Patron of deacons, stonemasons and bricklayers.

**WED 27: ST JOHN**, the disciple Jesus loved, author of the fourth Gospel, Apocalypse and three Letters, teachings on the law of love.

**THURS 28: THE HOLY INNOCENTS**, martyrs.

**FRI. 29:** Christmas Octave

**SAT 30:** Christmas Octave

**SUN 31: THE HOLY FAMILY** of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the model for the human family

**MON 1 JANUARY 2024: SOLEMNITY** of Mary, Mother of God, World Day of Peace.

**TUES 2 JAN:** St **BASIL** the Great & St **GREGORY** Nazienzen, bishops and doctors of the Church

**WED 3 JAN:** The Holy Name of Jesus.

**THURS 4 JAN:** Christmas Weekday

**FRI 5 JAN:** Christmas Weekday

**SAT 6 JAN: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** (Solemnity & Holyday of Obligation). In Ireland: *Nollaig na nBan*, "little Christmas".

Then: **SUN 7 JAN: BAPTISM OF THE LORD**, last day of the Christmas season.

• The next Newsletter will be published on Sunday 14 January. Happy Christmas!

### OUR COMMUNITY THIS CHRISTMAS

- **THURS 28 DEC.** marks the 4th anniversary of Fr Peter Queally CSSp, late Oileán Cléire.
- **MON 1ST JAN.** is the feast of St Mary, patron of Leap Church, parish church of Kilmacabea (1848)

### FINANCE CORNER (17TH DEC)

**Aughadown:** €900 **Castlehaven** €935  
**Kilmacabea** €949.50 **Skibbereen** : €1,370  
**Rath & The Islands** €1235.

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

### ☆ POINT TO PONDER ☆

• "Every day is beautiful. Sometimes the weather is bad. But every day is beautiful".

FAMILY OF PARISHES OFFICE, NORTH ST, SKIBBEREEN  
Phone 028-22828 (leave a message).  
Email [stciaranasFOP@gmail.com](mailto:stciaranasFOP@gmail.com)  
OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL MONDAY 8 JANUARY.

### 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: [westcorkbeacon.ie](http://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](mailto:kilmacabeparish@gmail.com)  
• Fr Bernard Cotter Co-PP, Union Hall  
TEXT OR WHATSAPP : 087 901 0627  
• Fr Evin O'Brien CC — PHONE 028-22877



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

# NEWSLETTER

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

SUN. 24 DECEMBER    ©CHRISTMAS EVE    VOL 2: NO 17

## REFUGE ПРИТУЛОК

On the eve of 24 February, 2022, we heard a lot of information about a possible war in Ukraine, but each of us did not want to believe it. At 5 a.m. our family was woken up by explosions, with rockets flying and exploding. Everyone was in a panic. We didn't know what to do. Mobile communications were overloaded; there were long lines at petrol stations; in shops, people were panic buying. It was very scary.

Many people began to leave and go to neighbouring countries in search of asylum. We decided to leave, temporarily, and take our

child to a safer place. Yeva was three years old at that time and had just started play-school. We left with the hope of returning soon, since we really believed that this would soon end and peace would come.

Ireland is a country with a big heart; it has become our second home. The first thing we noticed upon arriving in Ireland was people's smiles and greetings when they met us; it was very nice. Our child feels safe in this country, she often tells us that she really likes school and her teacher. Yeva remembers her home in Ukraine as cosy and safe. She asks when we will return but we don't have an answer to this question. She does not know that it is not safe there now, as there are a lot of weapons in the country and missiles continue to fly over our house.

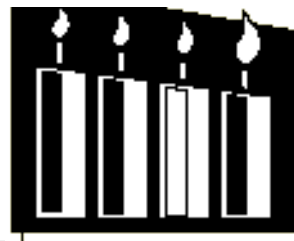
On Christmas Eve we would like to wish peace in the whole world, for all families to be reunited, that people are happy and healthy. Remember that today will not be repeated. Enjoy every day.

— Tetiana & Valentyn Stepanchuk

*Tetiana and Valentyn and their daughter Yeva live in the Skibbereen area. We wish them and all our Ukrainian friends a happy Christmas in their Irish home: Щасливого Різдва*

### ADVENT 2023 ENDS

*The last prayer of Advent 2023 — on lighting the fourth candle on the wreath:  
Know today that the Lord will come: in the morning you will see his glory!*





## 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 5 pm Tuesday. Mass Intentions from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

**Saturday (23<sup>rd</sup>) – 6.30pm** - Bebe and Denis O'Mahony, Newcestown  
Anthony Coakley, Glencurragh

**Sunday (24<sup>th</sup>) - 11am** Michael Stromecki, birthday intention  
Michael Martin Crowley

**Christmas Eve (Sunday) 24<sup>th</sup> evening – Children's Mass - 6.30pm**  
**Christmas Eve Mass (Sunday) - 9pm**  
**Christmas Day (Monday) 25<sup>th</sup> Morning Mass - 11.00am**

**Tuesday (26<sup>th</sup>) - 9.30am** - Joe O'Brien, Coronea

**Wednesday (27<sup>th</sup>) – 9.30am** – People of the Parish

**Thursday (28<sup>th</sup>) – 9.30am** - Ina Herlihy, Knockskeagh, Leap

**Friday (29<sup>th</sup>) - 9.30am** – Maura Hayes, Cork Road

**Saturday (30<sup>th</sup>) – 6.30pm** - Florence McCarthy and Ellen Burchill, The Abbey and Castlehaven  
The Burns family, North Street

**Sunday (31<sup>st</sup>) - 11am** Helen O'Brien, St Fachtna's Terrace  
Kazimierz Kazieczko, birthday intention

**New Year – Masses as usual –**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December Vigil 6.30pm**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 11.00am**

**The Epiphany of the Lord Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Vigil Mass in Rath at 7.30pm**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January – 9.30am** -

**The Baptism of the Lord – 6<sup>th</sup> January – Vigil Mass 6.30pm**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January – 11.00am**

**Parish Office Christmas Schedule:** The Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December and will **reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at 10.00am

**Christmas Offering Envelops** are in all Churches from this weekend. The Offering goes to the priests of the parish as one of the two collections during the year for the priests. Thank you for your support.

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

**Please see notice boards** in the churches for Mass intentions for first two weeks of January.

**CONFESSIONS** over Christmas Holidays and New Year: **On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December 10am to 11am. No confession on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> January.** Confession will resume on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January as usual.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** over Christmas and New Year: **No Adoration of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day).** Adoration will be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December. **No Adoration on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January (New Years Day).** Adoration will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January and will return to its normal schedule on Mondays and Fridays from 10am until 6pm both days. **ALL WELCOME.**

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

**Hospitality Morning** will take a Christmas break. **No gathering** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. We will be back on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January** and every Wednesday following. See you then!

**On behalf of Fr Evin and Fr John** we would like to wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year 2024. We thank the Parish Pastoral Council, Financial Committee, Bicentenary Committee, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, all the sacristans, the newsletter team, Annette in the office, the hospitality group, the cleaners, and the Altar Society. To the many people who do so much behind the scenes and to all who contributed in any way to our parish in 2023 we send a sincere **THANK YOU.**

**Fr John will make his usual first Friday calls the first week of January.** If you know of anyone who is housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, or would like a visit from a Priest, please contact the **parish office 028 22828.**

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the students of St Patrick's BNS, Skibbereen Community School, and St Joseph's GNS for their wonderful performances of music and song at the Carol services presented by them in St Patrick's Cathedral last week. We are grateful to the students who participated in their native language. The parents and guardians of the students, together with the teachers and assistants deserve our gratitude for all the work they do - thank you for going above and beyond to ensure success each night.

We have received a letter from Fr Michael Kelly SPS, Missio Ireland National Director, thanking the parishioners for supporting World Mission Sunday with their donation of €305.00. Fr Kelly will remember us in his prayers.

# RATH & THE ISLANDS

## BALTIMORE, WEST GORK

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

Priest on Duty/Emergency – 086/7852262

### Mass Intentions

#### 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

Wednesday 27th December – 10.15am Rath – Pat Joe O'Driscoll, Inane

Friday 29th December – 10.15am – Catherine O'Driscoll, Kilkileen and Heir Island

#### Saturday 30th December

4.45pm – Sherkin

#### Sunday 31st December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9.30am Rath – Christine Browne and her husband Denis, Baltimore

10.00am Cape Clear

Monday 1st January 10.15am Rath - Helena O'Regan, Ballylynch

Wednesday 3rd January – 10.15am Rath

#### Friday 5th January

7.30pm Rath – Vigil Mass for The Epiphany of the Lord

#### Saturday 6th January

4.45pm – Sherkin

#### Sunday 7th January – The Baptism of the Lord

9.30am Rath – Bridie Goggin, Mallavonea, Skibbereen.

Monday 8th January 10.15am Rath

Wednesday 10th January – 10.15am Rath

Friday 12th January – 10.15am Rath

#### Saturday 13th January

4.45pm – Sherkin

#### Sunday 14th January – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Rath – Josie Leonard, Rath

Eileen Connolly, Birmingham and South Rath

10.00am Cape Clear

Fr Evin and Fr John we would like to wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year 2024.

We would like to thank the Parish Pastoral Councils, Finance Committees, Bicentenary Committee, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist.

To all the sacristans, the newsletter team, Annette in the office, the hospitality group, the cleaners and Altar Society.

To the many people who do so much behind the scenes and to all who contributed in any way to our parish in 2023 we send a sincere THANK YOU.

### Christmas Mass and New Year 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

#### New Year

30th December - Vigil - Sherkin 4.45pm & Skibbereen 6.30pm

31st December- Rath 9.30am & Oileán Chléire 10.00am

#### The Epiphany of the Lord

5th January - Vigil Mass in Rath at 7.30pm

6th January – No Mass in Rath

#### The Baptism of the Lord

6th January – Vigil Mass - Sherkin 4.45pm & Skibbereen 6.30pm

7th January – Rath 9.30am & Oileán Chléire 10.00am

#### Weekday Masses – Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10.15am

Confessions by appointment.

**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.

**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.

**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.