

### OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

Sunday 3rd December is the feastday of St Barrahanne, patron of Castlehaven Church (1840), and of the Parish of Castlehaven (Gleann Bearcháin).

- The First Sunday of Advent marks the first anniversary of the launch of this newsletter, first published on 27 November 2022.

### THIS WEEK

**SUN 3 DEC: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** — a new year in the Church's life begins. The Gospel of Mark is read at Sunday Mass each Sunday, starting today. Mark's was the first gospel to be written and the shortest, reflecting the teachings of St Peter.

**WED 6: ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA.** Patron of Russia, sailors, pawnbrokers, children — and the city and diocese of Galway

**THURS 7: ST AMBROSE:** The people of Milan insisted on his becoming their bishop. Patron of Milan and of beekeepers.

**FRI 8: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY.** This feast honours the very beginning of the life of Our Lady, and is celebrated as a holyday of obligation for Catholics the world over. *[Local Mass times overleaf.]*

**SAT 9: St Juan Diego Cuanhtlatotzin** (1474-1548): visionary at Gualalupe.

- *International Anti-Corruption Day (UN)*

### ☆ POINTS TO PONDER ☆

• Before Mass, we talk to God  
During Mass, God talks to us  
After Mass, we talk to each other.

— SIGN IN A CHURCH IN MALAGA, SPAIN

- 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



### Advent Wreath Blessing

*F*ather, all powerful  
Lord of Light, bless  
our wreath of evergreens.  
May the increasing light  
of these candles brighten  
our minds and hearts  
— to be steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and untiring  
in love, so that we are ready  
again to receive in true  
peace, Jesus, the Light of the  
World, who lives and reigns  
with you, for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*

### FINANCE CORNER (26 Nov)

**Aughadown:** €995.

**Castlehaven & Myross:** €580.

**Kilmacabea** €865.

**Skibbereen** €1,345

**Rath & The Islands** 19 & 26 Nov: €1799

### 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

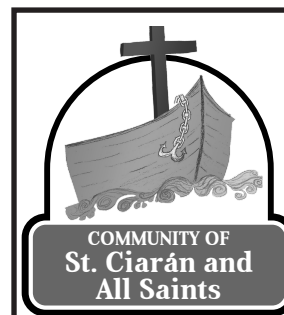
• Fr John Heinhold SPS Co-PP, Skibbereen (MODERATOR). PHONE: 028 22878

• 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

*Whilst every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of information in this Family of Parishes Newsletter, we cannot accept any responsibility for errors or omissions.*



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. 3 DECEMBER

FIRST ADVENT

VOL 2: NO 14

## HOW THE STATIONS WERE HELD IN MYROSS IN TIMES PAST

One of the great highlights of the year was the station rounds, when the parish priest and his curate came to the farmhouse to celebrate Mass. The preparation for this was a tedious job. The farmhouse was cleaned out, scrubbed from top to bottom. Every place was spotless as the priest would bless all the rooms in the house and the out-offices. This, the people thought, would give them blessings for the year ahead.

On the night before the Stations, the big wooden kitchen table was raised up a foot or two by placing the crossbeams on two wooden kitchen chairs. A white linen cloth was nailed to the rafters of the ceiling, over the altar table, as an act of respect and to keep any dust off the priest.

The people knelt on the kitchen floor while Mass was being celebrated. They showed great reverence towards this

Mass. At the interval the priest faced his small congregation. He thanked the people of the Station house and asked, "Whose turn is next for the Stations?" The correct person answered and he recorded it in his ledger. Then each person paid their station dues.

When the business of the priest came to a conclusion, a number of the parishioners accompanied him to the parlour. Next to the priest sat the person from the townland, who was fluent in conversational matters. The remainder sat and took their places around the breakfast table as they pleased. This was known as the priests' breakfast.

As dusk grew over the horizon of the station evening, the kitchen was cleared out to make way for the dancing, with music supplied by the accordian. The party continued on through the night.

*This article on the Stations in times past was composed by Therese O'Mahony, Cooldurrageha, Union Hall, and recorded in her memoir "Growing up on Céim Hill" (2002). A longer version can be read in Castlehaven & Myross Historical Journal, Vol 4 which is being launched this Sunday 3 December in Myross Rowing Boathouse (P81 RW01) Union Hall at 1.30 pm.*



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**

- Saturday – 6.30pm** Declan Price, Skibbereen and Baltimore  
Lorraine Flanagan, Tralee
- Sunday – 11am** - Kathleen O'Donovan, Mardyke Street  
Ann Madden (née Foley), formerly of Skibbereen  
AnnMarie O'Regan, Rosscarbery and Skibbereen,  
Month's Mind
- Monday – 9.30am** - The O'Regan family, Lisalohorrig
- Tuesday - 9.30am** - MaryAnn O'Mahony
- Wednesday – 9.30am** – Special intention
- Thursday – 9.30am** – Timothy P O'Donovan and Mary Simpson, Lassanaroo
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Vigil Mass in Rath on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm and in St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am**
- Friday - 9.30am** – Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Eileen O'Sullivan, Shountellig
- Saturday – 6.30pm** John Carmody, Gortnaclohy  
Danny O'Donovan, Mardyke St, first anniversary
- Sunday - 11am** Jerry and Paddy McCarthy, Skibbereen and late of Schull.  
Nora Leonard, Assumption Place

We welcome to our faith community Fiadh Crowley, Coronea, who was baptised 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Her parents are Eileen and Colin.

We extend our condolences to the family of Kathleen Crowley (née Coakley) of Lahertydaly, who died recently. May she Rest in Peace.

**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.**

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

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

**Christmas Mass bouquet** cards are now available from the parish office.

**Message from the priests.** Many thanks to all who hosted the Autumn Station Mass in their homes and to all who returned the Autumn offering envelopes. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated. The blessings of God be with you all.

**ADVENT- Beginning the Church's liturgical year**, Advent (from the Latin meaning "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. The scripture readings during Advent tell us of Jesus' promise to come back but more importantly they tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world. Like Lent, the liturgical colour for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. The final days of Advent, from 17 to 24 December, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. Advent devotions, including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. The Jesse Tree helps us by revealing one ornament each day, telling the story of a person or event from the Old Testament that leads up to the coming of Christ. The Advent calendar can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Safeguarding Meeting** to be held in the Presbytery, North Street, Skibbereen on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.**

**PPC Meeting** to be held in the Presbytery, North Street, Skibbereen on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm.**

**Society of St Vincent de Paul, Skibbereen** – members will be in the **SVP Rooms, Market Street** on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 10am to 4pm** to accept donations to support people in the area.

**Christmas Carol Services in St Patrick's Cathedral -**

**St Patrick's BNS** on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.**

**Skibbereen Community School** on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.**

**St Joseph's GNS** on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.**

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December – First Sunday of Advent

**9.30am** Rath – Peter & Mary Leonard, Reengaroga and Dingle

Mary & Richard Connolly, Lissanuhig

Paddy & Mary Holland, South Rath

**10.00am** Cape Clear

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – 10.15am Rath – Special Intention

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – 10.15am Rath – Special Intention

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – 7.30pm Rath – **Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Mary Burke, Lough Hyne

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – No Mass

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**4.45pm** – Sherkin

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** – **Second Sunday of Advent**

**9.30am** Rath – Gerald Grace, Ballymacrown

**10.00am** Cape Clear

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - Vigil Mass in Rath on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm and in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am

**Weekday Masses** – Monday and Wednesday at 10.15am – (No Mass Friday morning 8<sup>th</sup> December).

**Recently deceased:** We extend our condolences to the family of Fr Jerry Singleton, Cullen, Co Cork and Baltimore. May he rest in peace.

**Parish Finance meeting** to be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of December in the meeting room at 7.30pm.

**Parish Pastoral Council meeting** to be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of December in the meeting room at 7.30pm.

**Message from the priests.** Many thanks to all who hosted the Autumn Station Mass in their homes and to all who returned the Autumn offering envelopes. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated. The blessings of God be with you all.

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**Sherkin Island Christmas Craft Fair** – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December starting at 12pm in Sherkin Island Community Hall. All Welcome.

**Baltimore Community Market Christmas Craft Fair** on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 11am to 1.30pm in Baltimore Sailing Club. All Welcome.

**Sherkin Island Christmas Carol Service** on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.