

AN OLD ADVENT PRAYER

Hail and blessed
be the hour and moment
at which the Son of God
was born of a most pure Virgin
at a stable at midnight in Bethlehem in
the piercing cold.
At that hour vouchsafe,
I beseech Thee, to hear my prayers
and grant my desires.

*This 'St Andrew Prayer' was
traditionally prayed in Ireland
15 times a day during Advent.*

THIS WEEK

TUES 12: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, patron of the Americas. This recalls the apparitions on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico in 1531.

WED 13: ST LUCY, virgin and martyr, bearer of light to dark days, patron of the blind.

THURS 14: ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, priest and doctor of the Church. Carmelite poet, writer and mystic.

• *Next Sunday, 17 December, marks the 87th birthday of Pope Francis (born 1936). Being Bambinelli Sunday (The Third Sunday of Advent), the children of Rome will bring the statue of the Infant Jesus from their cribs to the Holy Father for his blessing.*

FINANCE NEWS

Aughadown: €880.

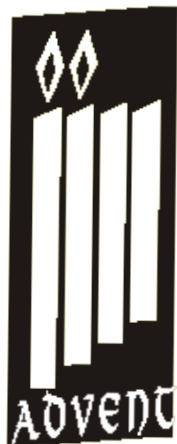
Castlehaven & Myross: €800.

Parish Development Fund €980.

Kilmacabea €594. **Skibbereen** €1,359.

☆ POINTS TO PONDER ☆

- The best revenge is NONE. Heal, move on — and don't become like those who hurt you.
- When a character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends.....



*Prayer on lighting the
second purple candle on
the wreath:*

**God of power and
mercy, open our hearts
in welcome. Remove the
things that hinder us
from receiving Christ
with joy, so that we may
share his wisdom and
become one with him
when he comes in glory,
for he lives and reigns
with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, forever
and ever. Amen**

Family of Parishes Office

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

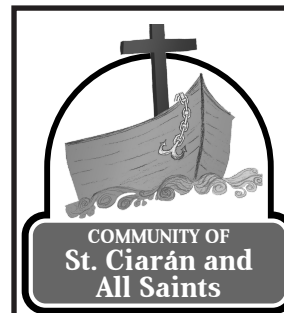
• Fr John Heinhold SPS Co-PP, Skibbereen (MODERATOR). PHONE: 028 22878

• 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

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. 10 DECEMBER 2023 SECOND ADVENT VOL 2: No 15

HE WROTE AN ACTION-PACKED GOSPEL. BUT WHO WAS MARK?

The Gospel according to Mark will be our companion at Mass readings this coming year. But who was Mark? Scholars say he was a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian, who also understood Aramaic. He was writing for a Greek-speaking audience, unfamiliar with Aramaic expressions and Jewish purification rites, which Mark had to explain.

Mark seems to have been a disciple of the apostle Peter, who taught him all he knew about Jesus. Justin Martyr, who died in 150, speaks of this Gospel as “Peter’s Memoirs”.

Writing shortly after the death of Peter, and before the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, Mark composed a narrative of the life of Jesus.

It faithfully reflects the reality of that life as experienced by Peter, the privileged eye-witness. The Gospel is a wonderfully balanced account of the life of Jesus, and has as its focal point the recognition of Jesus as Messiah by Peter at Caesarea Philippi (Mark 8:27-30).

Mark writes with utter conviction and energy about the events that took place from the baptism of Jesus, through the Galilean ministry, and some journeys outside Galilee, to his Jerusalem ministry, and finally his passion and resurrection. Writing some ten years later, both Matthew and Luke based their accounts on Mark and enlarged it, drawing on another source, in which the “sayings” of Jesus had been collected.

We owe a special debt to the evangelist Mark, the first of the evangelists, whose action-packed Gospel is full of original insights into the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth.

— **Fr Michael Curran MSC**

ADVENT SERVICE

Fr Evin O'Brien will lead the Penitential Service for our Family of Parishes, on Monday 18 December at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral, Skibbereen; several priests will be available for Confession.



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 9th December 2023

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

Monday – 9.30am - Billy Lombard, Assumption Place

Tuesday - 9.30am - Special intention

Wednesday – 9.30am – People of the Parish

Thursday – 9.30am - John and Mary Murphy, Bauravilla

Friday - 9.30am – Special intention

Saturday – 6.30pm - Rosie Dwyer, Cope and North Street

Josephine and Richard Palmer, Ringaskiddy

Sunday - 11am Eugene and 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.

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.

Christmas Offering Envelopes are in all Churches from this weekend.

Too often Jesus has been obscured by Christmas. Someone wrote in *The Times*: *Failing to find any religious books in the bookshop, I asked an assistant for help. She showed me an inconspicuous handful of Bibles and prayer books, saying: 'We had to move them down to the bottom shelf because of Christmas.'* **Surely, the point of Christmas is Jesus!**

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 Christmas Remembrance Book will be available in the cathedral from this weekend. All names in the book will be remembered at our Christmas masses.

Christmas Carol Services in St Patrick's Cathedral -

St Patrick's BNS on Tuesday 12th December at 7pm.

Skibbereen Community School on Wednesday 13th December at 7pm.

St Joseph's GNS on Thursday 14th December at 6.30pm.

Christmas Masses in St Patrick's Cathedral -

Christmas Eve - **24th Evening – Childrens Mass – 6.30pm**

Christmas Eve - **Mass – 9.00pm**

Christmas Day **25th Morning – Mass – 11.00am**

RED CROSS COLLECTION

A flag day will be taken up in Skibbereen town on **Thursday 14th December**, for humanitarian aid for the victims of Gaza, and those affected by the war in Israel. Please support this worthy cause.



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

Priest on Duty/Emergency – 086/7852262

Mass Intentions

Sunday 10th December – Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am Rath – Gerald Grace, Ballymacrown

10.00am Cape Clear

Monday 11th December – 10.15am Rath – May & Barry Devlin

Wednesday 13th December – 10.15am Rath – Michael Holland

Friday 15th December – 10.15am – Deceased members of the Davis & Hurley families

Saturday 16th December

4.45pm – Sherkin

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

10.00am Cape Clear

Weekday Masses – Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10.15am

Confessions by appointment.

Christmas Offering Envelopes are in all Churches from this weekend.

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

Christmas Mass Times –

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December – Rath 8.00pm

Christmas Day Monday 25th December

Sherkin 9.00am

Rath 9.30am

Oileán Chléire 10.00am

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

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Prayer Circles for Vocations

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Baltimore Community Market Christmas Craft Fair today Sunday 10th December from 11am to 3pm in Baltimore Sailing Club. Fun for all the family. Mulled wine and refreshments available. All Welcome.

Baltimore Village Turning on of the Christmas Lights today Sunday 10th December at 4.30pm. Come and meet Santa and Mrs Claus. Raffles, Mulled wine and face painting. All Welcome. Presented by Baltimore, Rath and The Islands Community Council.

Sherkin Island Christmas Carol Service on 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.

Breakthrough Cancer Research Annual West Cork Lunch is taking place on Saturday 10th February 2024 at the West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Cork. Enjoy a drinks reception on arrival and a delicious three course lunch with special guest RTE Star **Brendan Courtney**. We'll have an afternoon of wonderful music and dancing with fabulous goody bags to take home, amazing raffle prizes and stalls to browse to treat yourself or your loved ones. All the proceeds will go to support Breakthrough Cancer Research. Help us Make More Survivors. Tickets are €75.00 and available Mary@breakcancer.ie or 021 422 66 55.