

FORTY DAYS OF LENT:

The journey to Easter

- DAY 5, MON 19: Do a random act of kindness for someone you meet.
- DAY 6, TUES 20: Feed the birds.
- DAY 7, WED 21: Gather glass, paper and cardboard for recycling.
- DAY 8, THURS 22: Pray the Rosary, or say your favourite prayer.
- DAY 9, FRI 23: Miss one meal, give the money saved to Trócaire or any charity.
- DAY 10, SAT 24: Walk or cycle today instead of driving — but be safe.
- *Ten days complete, 30 to go to Easter!*

THIS WEEK

TUES 20: *World Day of Social Justice (UN)*

WED 21: ST PETER DAMIAN. A great reformer of church life and discipline, he promoted clerical celibacy and apostolic poverty, to purify the Church. Patron of Olympic-style sports.

THURS 22: CHAIR OF ST PETER, apostle. This was a Christian adaptation of a Roman feast honouring ancestors. St Peter is our ancestor in faith, who draws the Christian family into unity. St Peter is patron of popes, fishermen, bridge builders — and against fever, frenzy and foot problems.

FRI 23: ST POLYCARP was bishop of Izmir, Turkey, disciple of St John the apostle. He is patron against ear aches, because he once said he would rather be deaf than to hear heresies.

FINANCE CORNER (11 FEBRUARY)

- *Regular Sunday offerings and the collection for the diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage.*

Aughadown: €905 (Lourdes €760)

Castlehaven: €885 (Lourdes €600)

Kilmacabea: €785 (Lourdes €610)

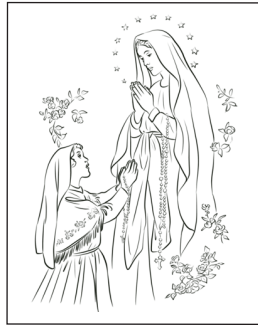
Rath & the Islands: €940 (Lourdes €415)

Skibbereen: €1,280 (Lourdes €1,140)

Lourdes

Pilgrimage

Bishop Fintan would like if people from our Family of Parishes would travel as a group to Lourdes, as part of the diocesan pilgrimage in September. A local priest would go as part of such a group. If you would be interested in joining, please contact Annette in the Parishes' Office, as well as booking a place with the pilgrimage (see notice in church porch).



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

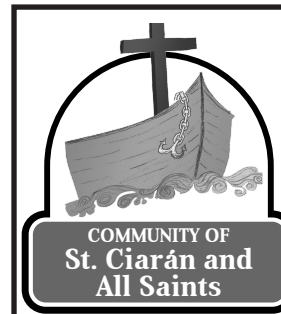
OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

Family of Parishes Office

To book masses, weddings, christenings, anniversaries etc, contact the Parishes' Office, North St, Skibbereen. Open on Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Friday from 10 am to 1 pm.

• **Phone 028-22828.**

• **EMAIL: stciaranasFOP@gmail.com**



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)*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

18 FEB. 2024

VOL 2: NO 23

BE LIKE BRENDAN BEHAN THIS LENT, LAUGH MORE!

*A Leipreachán a chuaigh ar strae
Bhí sé amuigh i rith an lae
Gan blúirín arán agus cupán tae
Agus é do bhí go brónach*

And the poor leipreacháin was go *brónach* all of one day without *blúirín arán* and *cupán tae*. Yet he got off lightly, Jesus did it for forty days and nights in the silence of the desert.

And how about us doing it in the silence of our homes or wherever — for five to ten minutes each day for prayer this Lent? After all, someone says somewhere 'To come into silence is to come into the

presence of the Divine'. And, of course, God himself says in his holy bible: 'Be still and know that I am God'.

'There is no bad publicity except an obituary', said the great Brendan Behan. But his came all too young. And was it any wonder, for a man prone to saying: "For the love and honour of Jaysus, let's get out of here and have a jar!". He did it all too often. On seeing that sign 'Drink Canada Dry' for the first time, "I did my best", he said, "I did". Of course it did him no favours.

And what of us? How about six days each week without 'the jar' — with one day off of our choosing until Easter.

Finally, could we become like Brendan this Lent, experts in humour? After all to laugh with me is human. And those who can laugh at themselves will have no end of fun. To laugh is music to the soul.

Fr Donal Cahill
AUGHADOWN PARISH

☆ POINTS TO PONDER ☆

- 'When a man has compassion for others, God has compassion for him'. — *Talmud*
- 'Money is made round to slip through your fingers' — *Spanish proverb*



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 no later than 5pm Tuesday. **Mass Intentions from Saturday 17th February 2024**

Saturday – 6.30pm Michael O’Riordan, Riverdale.
Bert and Liz Humphries, Derrygool.
Eileen O’Sullivan, Month’s Mind.

Sunday - 11am Filip Stromecki & Ewa Stromecka, birthday intentions
Denis Murphy, Ballybane East, Ballydehob
Leo O’Neill, Coronea, Month’s Mind.

Monday - 9.30am Julie Keohane, Rossmore.

Tuesday - 9.30am Ted Harnedy, Shepperton.

Wednesday – 9.30am People of the Parish

Thursday – 9.30am Margaret Harnedy, Shepperton.

Friday - 9.30am Special Intention

Saturday – 6.30pm Breda Forde, Mill Road, First anniversary.
Denis Kelleher, Home Rule Terrace.

Sunday - 11am Richard and Kerry Hodnett, Gortnaclohy.
Dr Dan O’Sullivan, Cork Road.

Thursday 22nd February 7pm First Confession, St Patrick’s Boys’ School

We extend our condolences to the family of Michael McCarthy of Iveagh Trust Hostel (formerly of Skibbereen) who died recently. May he Rest in Peace.

We also extend our condolences to the family of Joseph (Joe) Coughlan of Lassanaroe and Market Street, Skibbereen who died recently. May he Rest in Peace.

Weekday Masses Monday to Friday at **9.30am**. The Rosary is prayed before each morning mass. (The Rosary on Thursday is said for the special intention of vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood).

Confessions Saturday 10am to 11am.

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

Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) on **Saturday** mornings from **11.15am to 12 noon** in the Presbytery North Street.

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

Spring Station Masses. If you would like to host a Spring Station Mass in your home, please contact the **Parish Office on 028 22828** as soon as possible.

Stations of the Cross - will be followed on every **Friday** at **6.30pm** for the season of Lent in **St Patrick’s Cathedral**.

First Confessions. Our First Holy Communion Children from **St Patrick’s Boys’ N.S.** will be making their First Confessions on **Thursday 22nd February at 7pm** at St Patrick’s Cathedral.

First Sunday of Lent: Jesus went into the wilderness after his baptism to prepare for his life and ministry. We too may now enter the wilderness of our Lenten season. Perhaps our wilderness is that of the world’s suffering, oppression, and injustice. Perhaps it is the wilderness of the pain and suffering in our own lives. Maybe we feel that our spirits are in prison, captive to our own failures and weaknesses and our lack of sense of self-worth, crushed by our anger and inability to forgive others. Christ, the righteous, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. Now in that living spirit Christ proclaims the good news of forgiveness and freedom to us. We believe that the light of Christ shines in our darkness. The darkness can never overcome that light. Instead, the light shines before us. It triumphs over all the dirt in our lives which is washed away as we believe in and claim his freedom that is offered to us in Christ Jesus.

Confirmation: Due to the high number of children, 114, making their confirmation this year and the new diocesan guidelines on how the confirmation ceremony should be celebrated, our upcoming confirmation due on the **11th March** will be held in two sessions: **St Patrick’s Boys’ N.S.** confirmation ceremony will be **at 10am**. **St Joseph’s Girls’ N.S., Gaelscoil Dr Uí Shúilleabháin, and Abbeystrewry N.S.** will be at **12.30pm**. This will allow us to accommodate everyone wishing to attend safely and comfortably.

The **Annual World Day of Prayer** service will be held in Abbeystrewry Church Skibbereen, on **Friday, 1st March at 8pm**. The prayers this year will give special emphasis to peace in the world. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.



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

Priest on Duty/Emergency – 086/7852262

Mass Intentions

Sunday 18th February – First Sunday of Lent

9.30am Rath – Claire Connolly, Lough Hyne

Pat Gaffney, Fisherman's Row, Baltimore

10.00am Cape Clear

Monday 19th February 10.15am Rath

Wednesday 21st February 10.15am Rath – Denis O'Driscoll, Kilkilleen

Friday 23rd February – 10.15am Rath – George & Flo Devlin

Saturday 24th February

4.45pm – Sherkin

Sunday 25th February – Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am Rath – Margaret & Jerome Minihane, Creagh

Julia & Michael Forde, Creagh and London

10.00am Cape Clear

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

Confessions by appointment.

Rath Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 19th of February at 7.30pm.

Stations of the Cross - every Friday at 6.30pm for the season of Lent in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen.

Spring Station Masses. If you would like to host a Spring Station Mass in your home, please contact the Office on 028 22828

Report on February Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The following points were discussed at our first meeting in 2024:

1. The next Children's Mass will take place on Sunday 3rd March 2024.
2. Volunteering for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes was discussed. This year's pilgrimage will take place from 20th to 25th September.
3. A discussion on how best to inform our community if Sunday Mass must be cancelled due to one or more of our priests being unavailable at short notice. Suggestions included Facebook, via Parish Pastoral Council WhatsApp group who would then in turn inform their neighbours & family.

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Trócaire's Lenten Campaign 2024

The Diocese of Cork and Ross together with Trócaire will host an evening to reflect on Trócaire's Lenten Campaign for 2024. This event will take place in the S.M.A. Parish Centre, Wilton, Cork on **Wednesday 21st February 2024 commencing at 7.30pm**. This year's campaign will explore the issues of water justice and climate change. The evening will also have a moment of prayer and reflection. Salome Mumba from Trócaire's Malawi Office will address the gathering and share Trócaire's work in the region. Bishop Fintan will share some of these experiences of his trip to Malawi in November and looks forward to meeting as many people as possible at this event.

Finding hope in a hopeless world – Lent 2024: This is a seven-week programme for Parish groups or individuals which will be available on the Diocesan website (www.corkandross.org) from Ash Wednesday (February 14th). This programme explores how we can still be people of faith and hope in today's world. It includes a series of reflections, Scripture readings and prayers.

Clonakilty Bereavement Support Group

Bereavement is any significant loss in our lives. Grief is our natural response to this loss, Death is a very significant loss, but bereavement can also be in marriage breakdown, miscarriage just to mention a few.

The process of grief can take time, it is a journey that has to be worked through. Grief is unique to each person, the greater the loss the more painful it can be. One of the greatest healers of grief is to share. A support group like Clonakilty Bereavement Support Group is a wonderful way to work through the pain of grief, where you feel understood, listened to, and encouraged to look inward at your inner strengths.

We are offering support over a 5-week period, starting Tuesday the 20th of February at 8:00 pm.

It's a free community service, Bookings are now through the Clonakilty Parish Office. 023 8835654. Open Mon-Fri 9.30am to 1.30pm.