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THIS WEEK

SUN 24: Today marks the 44th anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was gunned down as he celebrated Mass in El Salvador. St Oscar was canonised in 2018.

MON 25: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD is deferred to Monday 8 April and Monday of Holy Week celebrated today instead.

• *International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Slave Trade (UN)*

HOLY THURS 28: Chrism Mass is at 10 am in North Cathedral, Cork, at which oils are blessed and priests renew their vows. All are welcome.

GOOD FRI 29: Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence for all Catholics. The Stations of the cross devotion is prayed today. No Mass.

HOLY SAT 30: The tradition of blessing the food consumed on Easter is a Polish/Slavic custom that dates back to medieval times. The Christian community ask God's blessing on the foods that will break the Great Fast (Lent) from which they have abstained for 40 days.

FORTY DAYS OF LENT:

Finish the journey this (Holy) Week

- DAY 35, HOLY MONDAY: Write an overdue card, or a letter, or a text.
- DAY 36, HOLY TUESDAY: Gather your donation for *Trócaire* and send it off.
- DAY 37, SPY WEDNESDAY: Pray for someone whose forgiveness you need.
- DAY 38, HOLY THURSDAY: An act of kindness honours Jesus, who washed feet.
- DAY 39, GOOD FRIDAY: Fast from food and abstain from meat; keep an hour's silence.
- DAY 40, HOLY SATURDAY: Keep your lenten promises till the Easter Vigil tonight. Then enjoy Easter and its fifty days of feasting!

EASTER HOLIDAYS

The newsletter teams take school holidays, so there will be no newsletter on 31 March or 7 April. This newsletter resumes on Sunday 14 April. A happy Easter to all who are part of the newsletter family, readers and editors alike! **FR BERNARD** (EDITOR)

FINANCE CORNER (17 MARCH)

Aughadown: €1,095. Skibbereen: €1,990. Castlehaven & Myross €1,180. Rath & the Islands: €845.

• SPECIAL COLLECTIONS THIS WEEK •

Good Friday — for the Holy Places
Easter Sunday — for the parish Clergy

✧ POINT TO PONDER ✧

• Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness of people.

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 OFFICE

TO BOOK MASSES, ARRANGE WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS, ANNIVERSARIES, CONTACT THE PARISHES' OFFICE, SKIBBEREEN: MON, Wed, Thurs. Fri: 10 am-1 pm (Closed bank holidays). **Phone 028-22828**
Email stciaranasFOP@gmail.com



St Ciarán & All Saints
FAMILY OF PARISHES

NEWSLETTER

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

PALM SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2024 VOL 2: NO. 28

“CANCEL LENT” SAYS RYANAIR! BUT CAN WE KEEP HOLY WEEK?

I love the latest Ryanair ad. “Cancel Lent!” it demands. And I would love to see Lent over and done with. It’s such a long season, with its forty fasting days. I can’t wait for Easter to finish Lent off, with all its gloom.

The ad reminds me of the prospect of warmer times ahead, not only in the destinations the airline flies to, but here in West Cork too: an end to rain and a dawn of longer, warmer days. I can’t wait!

But first, let’s get through Holy Week, and all its dramas. This Sunday, Palm Sunday, we bring palm from the church. And with it, we bring a blessing to our homes,

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

• **Tuesday 26 March** marks the ordination anniversary of Fr Michael Curran MSC, Parochial House, Leap (1966).

—“*AD MULTOS ANNOS, FR MICHAEL*”—

• **Wednesday 10 April** marks the fourth anniversary of the death of Fr Michael O’Donovan, former CC Skibbereen, RIP.

remembering the cheers and waving of greenery that brought Jesus into Jerusalem.

The cheers turned to silence by the Friday, Good Friday, the day when Jesus died for love of us. Good Friday is a day of stillness for Christians, a day to fast.

On the night before Good Friday, the Last Supper is remembered, with feet washed and Holy Communion taken by all.

Saturday night is the night above all nights. On Easter morning, the women went to the tomb and found it empty, so it must have been in the darkness of the night that Jesus was raised. It’s why Christians everywhere gather on that Saturday night, to rejoice. Darkness is conquered by the light of a thousand candles - come and hold one of them! When Easter comes, fasting is over. We feast. I love it. Lent 2024 will then be cancelled. But wherever you are this week, keep Holy Week first. The joy of Easter will surely follow for you.

Fr Bernard (EDITOR)



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 no later than 5pm Tuesday. **Mass Intentions from Saturday 23rd March 2024**

Saturday – 6.30pm Eileen and Cornelius Harrington, Gortnaclohy.
Sadie Walsh, High Street.

Paddy Collins, North Street, Month's Mind.

Palm Sunday – 11am Nellie O'Mahony, Inchinagotagh, First anniversary and remembering her late husband, John.
Timothy and Elizabeth O'Regan and Elizabeth Langley

Holy Week Schedule

Monday – 9.30am Margaret Bohane and Patrick Bohane, Drishanebeg (confessions after Mass)

Tuesday – 9.30am Leo O'Neill, Coronea (confessions after Mass)

Wednesday - 9.30am People of the Parish (confessions after Mass)

Holy Thursday - No parish morning Mass today

10am Chrism Mass in the Cathedral of St Mary and St Anne, Roman Street, Cork. All Welcome.

Holy Thursday – 6.30pm Mass of the Last Supper.

Visitation of altar of repose until 8.30pm.

Good Friday – 12 noon Stations of The Cross. Led by local children

3pm Celebration of the passion. (confessions after ceremony)

7pm Prayer around the Cross

Holy Saturday – 10.30am Polish blessing of food

11am to 1pm confessions

9pm Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday – Easter Day of the Lord's Resurrection Mass 11am

Good Friday Children's Stations of the Cross – all children are welcome to take part. First practice on Monday 25th March at 3.30pm.

Fr John will make his usual calls to the housebound during the first week of April.

We extend our condolences to the families of:

John Daly, "Ardagh" Coronea, Skibbereen

Mary Hague (née Moloney) Carrigaline & Skibbereen

Patrick Mullan, Newcastle, Galway and Skibbereen and

Niall O'Donovan, Cullenagh West who died recently.

May they Rest in Peace.

Confessions – Holy Week – **Skibbereen, Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday.** after weekday masses, Good Friday after ceremony,

Holy Saturday 11am to 1pm.

Confessions in Rath after weekday masses on Monday and Wednesday.

Weekday Masses (Easter Week) 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).

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place this **Monday from 10am until 6pm**. Please note that there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Good Friday, nor Easter Monday. Adoration returns as usual on Friday 5th April.

Hospitality Morning every Wednesday, in the Presbytery, after the morning Mass. **All are welcome** for tea or coffee and a chat. No hospitality morning on Wednesday 3rd April, resumes as usual Wednesday 10th April.

Spring Station Masses. Saturday April 13th at 11.30am a station mass will be held in the home of Maria and Declan Groarke for the area of Lurriga. If you would like to host a Mass in your home, please contact the **Parish Office on 028 22828** as soon as possible.

Collection for Priests: The collection at the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday and on Easter Sunday is for the priests of the parish.

Bicentenary Bingo: A fundraising Bingo night has been organised by **St Vincent de Paul Society** on **Monday 8th April at 8.30pm**, in **Abbeystrewry Hall** for the Cathedral Bicentenary Conservation project. Your support would be very much appreciated.

The parish office will be closed from the 1st to the 5th of April.



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

Priest on Duty/Emergency – 086/7852262

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

9.30am Rath – Charlie & Mary Davis, Ballylynch

10.00am Cape Clear

Monday 25th March - 10.15am Rath – Special Intention

Wednesday 27th March - 10.15am Rath

Thursday 28th March – Holy Thursday

7.30pm Rath – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper with visitation of the Altar of Repose until 9.30pm

Friday 29th March – Good Friday

11.00am Sherkin – Stations of the Cross

12.00noon Rath – Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Rath – Celebration of the Lord's Passion

3.00pm Cape Clear – Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Saturday 30th March - Holy Saturday

9.00pm Easter Vigil for the Family of Parishes in St Patricks Cathedral, Skibbereen

Sunday 31st March – Easter Day of the Lord's Resurrection

9.00am Sherkin – Easter Sunday Mass

9.30am Rath – Easter Sunday Mass

10.00am Cape Clear – Easter Sunday Mass

Confessions Holy Week in Rath following weekday masses on Monday & Wednesday at 10.15am. There will be no 10.15am Mass on Good Friday morning.

Confessions also available following the Good Friday ceremonies at 3.00pm.

Holy Thursday 28th March – Chrism Mass in the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne, Cork at 10am. All Welcome.

Special Collection for The Holy Places will be taken up on Good Friday.

The traditional Polish Blessing of Food for the Easter table will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen on Holy Saturday, 30th March at 10.30am. All welcome to attend.

Collection for Priests: The collection at the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday and also on Easter Sunday is for the priests of the parish. The Bishop only allows two days in the year when the offertory collection is given to the Priests – Christmas and Easter. All other collections are for the running of the Parish. Envelopes for the Easter offering are available in all the Churches.

Easter Sunday: Weather permitting there will be refreshments after 9.30am Mass. All are Welcome.

Report on March Rath Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The following points were discussed at the March meeting:

1. Easter Ceremonies at Sacred Heart Church, Rath:
Holy Thursday Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm.
Good Friday ceremonies will take place at 3.00pm
Easter Sunday Mass will take place at 9.00am in Sherkin and 9.30am in Rath.
2. The Easter Vigil will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen for the Family of Parishes at 9.00pm. All parishes will be involved. The Paschal candles for all parishes will be blessed prior to the vigil with the Skibbereen Paschal candle being blessed during the ceremony. To make the ceremony more inclusive the Paschal fire will be lit in the Cathedral.
3. The next Children's Mass is tentatively planned for Pentecost Sunday, 19th May.
4. The most recent newsletter from the Office of Mission and Ministry was discussed.

The Parish Office will be closed from April 1st to 5th and will reopen on Monday April 7th at 10am.

Reminder to please return your Trócaire Boxes to the church, so all monies collected can be forwarded to Trócaire.

Finding hope in a hopeless world – Session 6. Lent 2024:

Available on the Diocesan website (www.corkandross.org). Why should I hope in the church? 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.

Charity Walk for Breakthrough Cancer research at 2.30pm on Easter Sunday 31st March. From Baltimore Sailing Club to Spain Tower and back to the Baltimore village.

Delightful concert with The Vanbrugh & Friends, violins, violas, cellos - Sunday 24th March at 3pm in St. Matthew's Church, Baltimore. Tickets: €15
www.barrahanemusic.ie