

THIS WEEK

MON 22: Autumnal equinox in the northern hemisphere falls this Monday. Day and night are of equal length today.

TUES 23, PADRE PIO (St Pius of Pietrelcina): Capuchin friar, who carried in his body the five wounds of Christ (stigmata), confessor and friend of all who suffer, died 23 September 1968.

THURS 25, ST FINBARR (died AD 623): Left his hermitage at Gougane to found a monastery at the mouth of the Lee (first bishop of Cork, and its patron).

FRI 26, INTERNATIONAL DAY for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (UN). Pray for this, today.

SAT 27, ST VINCENT DE PAUL, patron of all charitable works and of volunteers. Worked to protect the poor, invoked by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

FINANCE CORNER (14 SEPT)

AUGHADOWN: €835

CASTLEHAVEN & MYROSS: €795;

Development Fund €715;

KILMACABEA €945 (7 Sept €550)

Maintenance Collection: € 400

SKIBBEREEN: €1,670;

RATH & THE ISLANDS: €1,990 (incl July-Aug collections of Oileán Cléire).



www.ecocongregationireland.com

The Season of Creation continues until Sat. 4th October. For ideas, please visit:

☆ POINT TO PONDER ☆

‘Is there anyone we wouldn’t love, if we only knew their story?’

MARY LOU KOWNACKI

CLERGY

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- *Fr Bernard Cotter Co-PP (EDITOR)* Email frbernard1984@gmail.com TEXT/WHATSAPP: 087 901 0627
- *Fr Evin O'Brien CC, Family of parishes.* PHONE: (028) 22877

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous in West Cork: 087 611 4946.

Pieta Hse Helpline 1800 247 247; or text **HELP** to 51444.

St Vincent de Paul, Skibbereen: 087 918 2698

Samaritans: 116 123 free.

Women against Violence Helpline 1800 203 136

FAMILY OF PARISHES OFFICE

TO BOOK MASSES, ARRANGE WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS, ANNIVERSARIES, ETC.

CONTACT THE FAMILY OF PARISHES' OFFICE, 1 NORTH ST, SKIBBEREEN.

Open: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 10 am -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)

SUNDAY 21 SEPT 2025 25TH SUNDAY VOL 4: 3

HOW TO BECOME AN ECO-FRIENDLY PARISH

The challenges of climate change and loss of biodiversity are enormous. Parishioners often do not know what to do. Begin by identifying the good things already happening. Recognise who is responsible. Success can build on success.

Eco-Congregation Ireland is an ecumenical group which offers resources to begin the journey towards an eco-friendly community. A starting point might be to download ‘AN ENVIRONMENTAL CHECK-UP’ from the website (see back page). It will identify your parish’s good practice and future priorities. Not a test, pointers to help the group get started.

Then sign up to join ECI – there is no fee, and the benefits are myriad. To become an eco-friendly parish, a user-friendly guide is provided. Examples

of good practice can be found on the website; get the newsletter.

Parishes vary, so no one plan will work across all parishes. Each can progress at its own pace, remembering: ‘Do what you can, where you are, with what you have!’ Following the initiative of the Irish bishops, many parishes are planning to leave 30% or more of church grounds vacant for nature by 2030.

No matter what shape the eco-journey takes, the light of hope for the care of creation needs be kept alive. Each of us can with small actions make a difference.

• *Sister Anna Byrne DC, a member of Eco-Congregation, visited Aughadown this summer and offered to write on the work of the group. Contact her on annabyrne@daughtersofcharity.ie*



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 Wednesday

Mass Intentions from Saturday 20 September 2025

- Saturday – 6.30pm** The O’Sullivan family, late of High Street.
Betty Sheehan and Sheila Horvath, Mardyke Street.
Mary Weblin, Gortnaclohy. Month’s Mind.
- Sunday – 11am** Pat O’Donovan, Cork Road and Noreen Daly and her son Michael, Union Hall.
The Vocation Society of St Joseph.
Paddy Harrington, Reenmurrigha.
- Monday – 9.30am** Birthday Intention.
- Tuesday – 9.30am** Special Intention.
- Wednesday** No Mass
- Thursday – 9.30am** Special Intention
- Friday – 9.30am** Special Intention
- Saturday – 6.30pm** Jimmy O’Mahony, Newcestown.
Jim O’Regan.
Catherine Hickey, Schull Road and her sister Betty Holland, Boston.
- Sunday – 11am** Josie Dempsey, Shepperton.
Hugh Quinn, First Anniversary.
Joe Coughlan, Skibbereen and Ballydehob.

Tuesday 23 September is the feast of **St Padre Pio**. There will be a blessing with the relic after Mass on this day for those who wish to receive it.

Weekday Masses Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30am. The **Rosary** is prayed before each Mass and on **Thursday** it is said for the special intention of vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the **Cathedral** every Monday and Friday from **10am to 6pm**. There are scheduled hours available for adoration, but all are welcome for any period of time.

"By being faithful to a Holy Hour of Adoration, you can teach by example. The young should be taught the value of Eucharistic Adoration." St Pope John Paul II

Eucharistic Adoration in Sacred Heart Church, Rath on Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9pm. All are welcome even if only for ten minutes, half an hour or an hour to spend time with the Blessed Sacrament.

Rosary every Tuesday at 8pm at Our Lady’s Grotto, Cork Road, Skibbereen. All welcome.

Confessions every Saturday **10am to 11am**.

Hospitality Morning in the Presbytery **Monday** after the 9.30am Mass.

Second collection: There will be a second collection this weekend 20/21 September for the **Priesthood Education fund**. Your continued support in promoting vocations is sincerely appreciated.

Community Call Offers a friendly call and listening service for older people, those living alone, or people living in isolated areas, predominantly in the West Cork region. This service is provided by a team of volunteers. Calls can be made in the morning or afternoon, at a time that suits you and is convenient to talk. The conversations are strictly confidential, and information stays within the service team.

If you are interested in receiving a call, or wish to find out more on behalf of a loved one, family member, friend, or neighbour or if you are interested in volunteering your time and wish to join our call team...

Please feel free to contact Louise, Mobile: **083 400 5125** **Local Link Bantry Office: 027 52727.** Email: communitycall@locallinkcork.ie



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

Priest on Duty/Emergency – 086/7852262

Mass Intentions

Saturday 20th September

4.45pm Sherkin

Sunday 21st September – Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Rath

10.00am Cape Clear

Monday 22nd September – 10am Rath – John & Annie O'Driscoll

Wednesday 24th September – 10am Rath

Saturday 27th September

4.45pm Sherkin

Sunday 28th September – Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Rath – Donie Sheehy, Ballylynch

10.00am Cape Clear

Weekday Masses – Mass on Monday 22nd and Wednesday 24th at **10am**.

We welcome Daniel O'Driscoll, Ballylynch, son of Pdraig and Magdalena, into our faith community here in Rath & The Islands. Daniel was baptised on 13th September in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

Eucharistic Adoration in Sacred Heart Church, Rath on Wednesday evenings from 7pm-9pm. All are welcome even if only for ten minutes, half an hour or an hour to spend time with the Blessed Sacrament.

"By being faithful to a Holy Hour of Adoration you can teach by example. The young should be taught the value of Eucharistic Adoration." St Pope John Paul II

The annual collection for the Priesthood Education Fund will take place across the Diocese this weekend 20th & 21st September.

This fund plays a vital role in supporting the formation and ongoing education of those serving in priestly and diaconal ministry.

Your continued support in promoting vocations is sincerely appreciated.

New Parish Pastoral Council

After three years the present Parish Pastoral Council for Rath and the Islands is coming to the end of its term. I wish to thank all the members of the outgoing Council for all their commitment and work over the last three years.

The process is now in place for forming the new Parish Pastoral Council for Rath and the Islands. Nomination papers will be handed out at Mass this weekend. A Member of the present Council will be speaking at Mass about their experience of being on the Council next Sunday.

As we move forward and continue to develop our Family of Parishes it is more important than ever that people will make themselves available for the very important work on our new Parish Pastoral Council. I earnestly invite you to take a nomination form that contains a lot of information and seriously consider becoming a member. Fr Kevin

Report on 2nd September Parish Pastoral Council Meeting (PPC):

Positive feedback on the Graveyard Mass at Tullagh on Friday 22nd August. This tradition of celebrating Mass at Tullagh Graveyard will continue.

Clarification on the changes that will occur as of 1st September due to the reduction of active priests (3) in the Family of Parishes. Two weekday Masses at Rath on Monday and Wednesday, but Monday Mass will fall out when a priest is on holidays or sick.

Next Family/Children's Mass planned for 19th October 2025.

Lack of Newsletter during the summer months was sadly missed - in particular for our summer visitors. It was suggested that this should be reviewed.

The present PPC is coming to the end of their 3-year term and preparations for the nomination of new members will take place from 21st September 2025. One can serve 2 terms of 3 years and this means a number of our present members will no longer be eligible to remain on the PPC. We need some new members who will contribute to the developing our Christian Community. This is very important in these days of dwindling priests.

The Legion of Mary annual pilgrimage to Knock will take place on **Sunday 28th September**. The bus will leave Skibbereen at 5am and will pick up pilgrims along the Clonakilty to Bandon route. The cost including the bus, breakfast and evening meal is €80. Please book by contacting Kathleen Courtney at 086 4084688 or Anne Power 087 6255254.