



### BE RECONCILED TO GOD

You are invited to the Penance Service for Advent, led by Fr Michael Curran MSC at the Cathedral, Skibbereen on Mon. 16 December (7.30 pm). Priests from the Family of Parishes will be available for Confessions.

### 2025 IS A HOLY YEAR

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 to be a Jubilee, a Holy Year. He will inaugurate this upcoming Holy Year on Christmas Eve, by opening the Holy Door at St Peter’s Basilica in Rome, which has been bricked up since 2000. Holy Year pilgrims to Rome will enter St Peter’s by that door.

Hope is the central message of the Jubilee, says the Holy Father: “For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope... may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the ‘door’ of our salvation...”

### ☆ POINTS TO PONDER ☆

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

“If I can help at least one person to have a better life, that justifies the offering of my life.”

—Pope Francis in EVANGELII GAUDIUM # 274

### FINANCE CORNER (1 DECEMBER)

Aughadown: €725

Kilmacabea: €825 (Maintenance Fund €625)

Castlehaven: €745 (Development Fund €660)

Rath & the Islands: €525 Skibbereen: €1,405.

### THIS WEEK

**MON 9, Solemnity: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN** (transferred from Sun 8th, not a holyday of obligation in 2024): honours the sinless Virgin Mary.

**THURS 12, OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**, patron of the Americas (from the Marian apparitions on Tepeyac Hill, by Mexico City).

**FRI 13, St LUCY**, martyr, patron of the blind, and opticians (and Santa Lucia).

**SAT 13, St JOHN OF THE CROSS**, Carmelite poet, wrote about ‘the dark night of the soul’. His advice was that the time of crisis would pass and the dark night would lighten: so, just keep on praying. Patron of mystics.

### CLERGY

- Fr Kevin O’Regan 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 Skibbereen PHONE 028-22877

### USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

- Alcoholics Anonymous**, in West Cork phone 087 611 4946.
- Pieta House** Crisis helpline 1800 247 247 or text HELP to 51444.
- St Vincent de Paul**, 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)

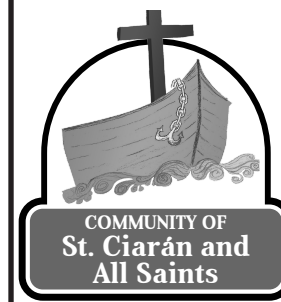
### FAMILY OF PARISHES OFFICE

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

CONTACT THE PARISHES’ OFFICE, 1 NORTH ST, SKIBBEREEN:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 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)

SUNDAY 8 DEC 2024

SECOND ADVENT

VOL 3: NO 15

## I’D LOVE TO BE IN PARIS TODAY

**S**unday 8 December is the day when Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris re-opens, five years after its devastating fire. Its reopening is nothing less than a miracle.

The sight of the ancient cathedral burning affected not only the French nation but people all over the world. Notre Dame was more than a church, it was the centre-point of France, the ‘ground zero’ from which every distance in the country was measured. When President Macron said it would be reopened for 2024, no one thought it would. And yet it has.

Some changes have been made inside. A beautiful baptismal font is installed straight inside the door - similar to the font in our cathedral

in Cork. Its new altar echoes the shape of the font. These are the two key items in any church: the font by which we become part of the Body of Christ and the altar at which we share the Body of Christ.

At Sunday Mass in Notre Dame today, the new altar will be consecrated: the relics of the martyrs installed, the surface anointed with Sacred Chrism and a brazier lit, with smoke wafting up to the heavens, with the prayers of the faithful.

And today’s Mass will end as every service in that church ends, with everyone turning to the statue of the Virgin for a hymn to Our Lady, Notre Dame de Paris. May she pray for us too.

**Fr Bernard** [frbernard1984@gmail.com]





**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](mailto:skibbereeparish@gmail.com) no later than 5pm Tuesday.

### **Mass Intentions from Saturday 07.12.2024**

- Saturday – 6.30pm** Rosie Dwyer, North Street and COPE  
Danny O'Donovan, Mardyke Street.
- Sunday - 11am** Vera McCarthy, Skibbereen and Caheragh.  
The Crowley and Nolan families.
- Monday – 9.30am** Kathleen Sweeney, Maultrahane and Clonakilty.
- Tuesday - 9.30am** Brian O'Donovan, North Street
- Wednesday - 9.30am** People of the Family of Parishes
- Thursday - 9.30am** Timothy P. O'Donovan & Mary Simpson,  
Lassanroe  
Margaret Harnedy, Inchinagotagh, First Anniversary.
- Friday – 9.30am** John and Mary Murphy, Bauravilla.
- Saturday – 6.30pm** Josephine Palmer, Ringaskiddy and John Breen,  
Market Street.  
Kathleen O'Donovan, Mardyke.
- Sunday - 11am** Nora Leonard, Assumption Place.  
James and Bridget Keane, Mardyke Street.

Recently deceased: We extend our sympathies to the family of Marie Evans, who died recently in London and will be buried in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim on Thursday 19 December.

We also extend our sympathies to the family of Donald (Don) Morrison of Mary Street, Dunmanway and Skibbereen who died recently.

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

Confessions on Saturday 10am to 11am.

**Confessions** will be heard after morning Mass on Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18, Thursday 19 and Friday 20 December and on Saturday 21 December from 10am to 12 noon.

**Christmas offering envelopes** are now available.

**Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards** are available in the Parish office.

**The Christmas Remembrance Book** is in place in the cathedral. All names in the book will be remembered at our Christmas masses.

**Hospitality Morning**, in the Presbytery, on Wednesday after the 9.30am Mass.

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

"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host" Pope Benedict XVI.

**The Rosary** will be recited at the Lake Cross Grotto on today **Sunday 8 December at 3pm** to Celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. This is the seventieth Birthday of the Grotto which was erected by the local people in the Marian year. On Sunday 5 December 1954 the Grotto was blessed and opened. We remember and pray for all who worked, prayed and contributed in any way to the Grotto during the seventy years.

**Skibbereen Community School carol service** takes place on **Thursday 12 December at 7pm in St Patrick's Cathedral.** All are welcome to attend.

**Skibbereen Geriatric Society** fundraising draw will take place on **Friday 13 December in Cara House, Skibbereen.**

The Society respectfully asks that tickets be returned to Cara House, Skibbereen or to any member of the Society.



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

**Priest on Duty/Emergency** – 086/7852262

#### **Mass Intentions**

#### **Sunday 8th December – Second Sunday of Advent**

**9.30am** Rath – Mary Burke, Lough Hyne  
Peter & Mary Leonard, Reengaroga and Dingle  
Kathleen Scully, Creagh

**10.00am** Cape Clear - Cecilia Griffin, Ciarrai.

**Monday 9th December 10.15am** Rath

**Wednesday 11th December 10.15am** Rath

**Friday 13th December 10.15am** Rath

**Saturday 14th December**

**4.45pm** Sherkin

#### **Sunday 15th December – Third Sunday of Advent**

**9.30am** Rath – Gerald Grace, Ballymacrown  
Bernadette O'Connor

Mary & Paddy Holland, South Rath

**10.00am** Cape Clear - Michael & Josephine Brosnan

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

Confessions by appointment.

**Rath Church will be closed on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** for essential maintenance. **The Church will be open for morning Mass on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** and will close following mass.

**Cleaners:** We have a rota of very dedicated volunteers who clean our church on a weekly basis. We are looking for some new people to replace some of our older volunteers who feel it is time to hand over to some younger members of the community. Please contact Maeve Devlin (086 365 6054) if interested in any of these worthwhile volunteer jobs.

**Penitential Service for Advent** will be held in St Patricks Cathedral, Skibbereen on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.

**First Friday Calls** - If you know of anyone who is sick or housebound and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion, or would appreciate a visit from a priest, please contact the parish office 028 22828.

**Adoration of Blessed Sacrament** continues every Monday and Friday from 10am to 6pm both days in St Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen. All are welcome

**Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards** are now available in the Parish Office, Skibbereen – Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri – 10am to 1pm.

**Skibbereen Geriatric Society fundraising draw** will take place on Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> in Cara House, Skibbereen. The Society respectfully asks that tickets be returned to Cara House, Skibbereen or to any member of the Society.

**World famous Irish musician and songwriter, Phil Coulter returns to the very special venue of St Patrick's Cathedral Skibbereen on Wednesday 18th December at 8pm.** This joint fundraising concert for Skibbereen Rowing Club and St Patrick's Cathedral Bicentenary will be particularly atmospheric so close to Christmas and tickets are sure to sell out fast. Ticket Price €40. Make sure to get your ticket from Abbey Furniture Skibbereen, Parish Office or <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/skibbereen-rowing-club-and-st-patricks-cathedral-bicentenary-95289226873>.

**Trócaire Christmas Gifts of Change** bring real hope and opportunity to families and communities living with poverty and injustice across our world, and a chance to create lasting and positive change from Somalia to Guatemala, from Sudan to Palestine. There are gifts for everyone starting at 5 euro for the Gift of Soap. You can support the gifts by buying them online at [trocaire.org/gifts](http://trocaire.org/gifts); by phone 1800 408 408/021-4275622; by post or in person to Trócaire, 9, Cook Street, Cork. T12 F583.

**Ilen Vibe Choir** will host a Christmas concert by candlelight on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen. Special guests Gemma Hayes, Aoibhe Daly and Seolta (local trad band). Raising funds in aid of West Cork Rapid Response. Tickets €20 from Thornhills Electrical and Eventbrite.ie

**The Rosary will be recited at the Lake Cross Grotto on Sunday 8th December at 3pm** to Celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. This is the seventieth Birthday of the Grotto which was erected by the local people in the Marian year. On Sunday 5th December 1954 the Grotto was blessed and opened. We remember and pray for all who worked, prayed and contributed in any way to the Grotto during the seventy years.