

LENT 2025

The joyful season of Lent begins in ten days time on **Wed. 5 March** (Ash Wednesday). Easter follows after 40 fasting days on **Sunday 20 April**, the highpoint of our year.

THIS WEEK

WED 26 FEB, NATIONAL 'LETTER TO AN ELDER' DAY. Put pen to paper and write to an elderly person. Loved ones enjoy hearing from you; a simple letter brightens their day.

THURS 27, ST GREGORY OF NAREK: Armenian monk, named Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis in 2015.

SAT 1 MARCH, ST DAVID, patron saint of Wales, died around AD 601.

• *Birth centenary of Fr John Walsh, late PP Castlehaven, born 1 March 1925.*

• **Sunset on Saturday 1 March to sunset on Sunday 2 March** is "Global Day of Unplugging", a 24-hour period to unplug, unwind, and relax. Turn off smart-phones, computers, personal assistants, gaming systems, televisions for 24 hours...

☆ POINT TO PONDER ☆

"An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind." — Gandhi

FAMILY OF PARISHES OFFICE: To book masses, arrange weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, etc. contact the Parishes' Office, 1 North St, Skibbereen: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 10 am -1 pm. [CLOSED BANK HOLIDAYS]
• **Phone** 028-22828 • **Email** stciaranasFOP@gmail.com •

FINANCE CORNER (16 FEBRUARY)

Aughadown €905.

Castlehaven & Myross €995.

Kilmacabea €920.

[Lourdes collection will be taken there on this Sunday, 23 Feb.]

Rath & the Islands €615.

Skibbereen (Cathedral): €1,395.

CLERGY

- *Fr Kevin O'Regan Co-PP (MODERATOR) PHONE: 028 22878*
- *Fr Terry O'Brien MSC, Co-PP, Leap kilmacabeparish@gmail.com*
- *Fr Bernard Cotter Co-PP Castlehaven (Union Hall) TEXT/WHATSAPP: 087 901 0627*
- *Fr Evin O'Brien CC Skibbereen, PHONE 028 22877*

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Alcoholics Anonymous in West Cork: 087 611 4946.
Pieta House Crisis 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



St Ciarán & All Saints
FAMILY OF PARISHES

NEWSLETTER

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

SUNDAY 23 FEB 2025 SEVENTH SUNDAY VOL 3: 24

PEOPLE HURT YOU. DON'T HIT BACK.

What a daunting message Jesus gives us, particularly in a world of hatred, greed, division, discrimination, injustice and distrust of 'the other'. It is only through forgiveness that we can move beyond the anger and hatred we feel when we are treated badly by others.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu struggled to dismantle apartheid, but never became bitter or hateful. He described true forgiveness like this:

"Exposing the awfulness, the abuse, the hurt, the truth; it is not forgetting, it's actually remembering, and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance

for a new beginning."

The love God has for us is not simply seeing our pain from a distance. God enters into it with us, suffers alongside us: this is compassion.

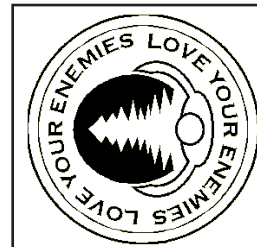
We must show compassion to those who are hurting, not simply because it makes us feel good, but because it reflects what Jesus taught us. Compassion is love in action, giving others the benefit of the doubt.

Jesus showed true compassion on the cross, when he prayed to his Father: "*Forgive them for they do not know what they are doing*".

Jesus turns the hatred and violence of the mob into total self-giving love for all humanity.

Siobhan O'Brien [Catechist]

RATH & THE ISLANDS PARISH





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 22.02.25

- Saturday – 6.30pm** Paddy Collins, North Street, First Anniversary.
Teresa and Patrick O'Donovan, Lassanaroe
- Sunday – 11am** Pat Cleary, Skibbereen and Union Hall
John O'Donovan, Ballyalla, Skibbereen, First anniversary.
- Monday – 9.30am** Jeremiah and Catherine McCarthy, Inchinagotagh.
- Tuesday - 9.30am** James and Julia O'Sullivan, Lakelands.
- Wednesday - 9.30am** People of the Family of Parishes.
- Thursday - 9.30am** Kathleen Kiely, Cork.
- Friday – 9.30am** John and Julie Ann O'Regan, Gortnaclohy.
- Saturday – 6.30pm** Archbishop Denis Hurley, south Africa and Mary Crowley, Mill Road.
Arvydas, Mantas, Genute, Kazys, and Jonas.
- Sunday - 11am** Leo Werner, Poundlick
Michael Walsh, Dunmanway.
Cornelius McCarthy, Carrigfadda, First Anniversary.
Anthony Keane, Coomnageehy, Month's Mind.

Recently deceased:

We extend our condolences to the families of the following:

Denis Martin (Denny Mattie) Murphy, of The Laurels, Mill Road and Ballydehob.

Denis Dwyer, of Tig Na Gile, Baltimore Road, Skibbereen & Terenure, Dublin.

Elaine Quinn, of Munnig North, Skibbereen & Malahide, Dublin.

May they Rest in Peace

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).

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

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

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

Trust in the Holy Spirit – the dream of Jesus was for a world where the Father's unconditional love would be reflected in the lives of his children on earth. He saw the barriers of distrust healed by forgiveness. The ideal he set before his disciples is to "*love one another as I have loved you*". Where will this supernatural power come from? St Paul has the answer. "*Hope will not let us down, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us*". This year 2025 is a Jubilee Year anchored in hope. *Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. Enkindle within us the fire of your love. May the heat of this fire melt all hardness of heart and mould us into the likeness of Christ.*

Cork and Ross Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025. The diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this year will take place from **Friday 19 September to Wednesday 24 September**. We will fly from Cork to Lourdes. Bookings are now open with Joe Walsh Tours on 01 2410 800 for anyone wishing to travel as a pilgrim. Volunteers are also required: Doctors, Nurses, Care Assistants and Helpers (Adults and Young Adults aged between 18 to 25 years). For general enquiries contact **085 2525 040** or Email: lourdes@corkandross.org

Please note - A special Reunion Mass for those who travelled to Lourdes last September will be on **Friday, February 28 at 7.30pm** in the Church of the Incarnation, Frankfield, followed by a social afterwards. This will officially launch this year's Pilgrimage, and all are invited to attend this Mass.

The **February 2025** meeting of the Bantry and Surrounding Areas **Cardiac Support Group** will be held on **Tuesday, 25 February at 8pm** in the Bantry Primary Care Centre (The South Doc Building) P75 T611. Blood pressure will be taken from 7.30 pm.



Parish Office, Skibbereen - 028/22828 – Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri – 10am to 1pm.
Priest on Duty/Emergency – 086/7852262

Mass Intentions

Sunday 23rd February – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Rath – John Connolly, Crow Hill

10.00am Cape Clear

Monday 24th February – 10.15am Rath – George Devlin

Wednesday 26th February – 10.15am Rath

Friday 28th February – 10.15am Rath

Saturday 1st March

4.45pm Sherkin

Sunday 2nd March – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Rath – Sean Coughlan, Church Strand, Baltimore

10.00am Cape Clear - John O'Donoghue, Oileán Chléire

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

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.

Baltimore Women's Shed every Tuesday from 2.15pm to 4pm in the Community Hall, Baltimore. Everyone welcome.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are going to Lourdes from the 25th-30th May 2025 from Cork. For more details, please ring Mary at 021 4546691 or email mary.morrish@mscmissions.ie.

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The February 2025 meeting of the Bantry and Surrounding Areas Cardiac Support Group will be held on **Tuesday, February 25th at 8pm** in the Bantry Primary Care Centre (The South Doc Building) P75 T611.

This month's speaker is Claire Hurley. Claire is the Health Promotion & Improvement Officer (West Cork) and will present on the initiatives spearheaded by the Team in West Cork. Blood pressure will be taken from 7.30pm.

Cork Scripture Group would like to invite anyone who is interested in Scripture to join us for the following course.

Exploring Prophecy in the Bible

4 Monday nights (24th & 31st of March and 7th & 14th of April) from 7.30-9.30 p.m. in Scala, Blackrock

Presenters: Fr Seán O'Sullivan, Sheila Curran, Marian Mortell, Rosalie Moloney
Workshop on "Prophecy: Reading the signs of the times" with Jessie Rogers (Maynooth) in Sacred Heart Hall, Western Road from 10.00- 1.00 p.m. on Sat.5 April. Cost €50. To book a place please email corks scripturegroup@gmail.com

Clonakilty Bereavement Group - Are you grieving? Would you like help with your particular loss? Clonakilty Bereavement Group is a safe and secure place in which you work through your grief.

We are offering you support over a five-week period commencing on **Tuesday February 25th at 8pm in Clonakilty**. For more information please contact. Phone 023 8835654 (Mon-Fri 9.30am - 1pm)