

CLONAKILTY FAMILY OF PARISHES

Newsletter

Clonakilty Family of Parishes comprises the parishes of Ardfield, Barryroe, Clonakilty, Kilmeen, Rosscarbery, and Timoleague.

Parishes' Office (023) 883 5654.

Feast of Christ the King
23rd November 2025
34th Sunday of the year

Urgent Calls 086 876 0608

www.OneFaith.ie

One body, one spirit, in Christ

LET'S GET SINGING!

In order to bring back more singing of the Mass, and in order to encourage the whole congregation to join in that singing, the pastors of our six parishes have asked our wonderful choirs to make some small changes to singing the Mass from the First Sunday of Advent (30th November), which is next weekend.

1. The choir will sing 'A Thiarna, déan trócaire', not a cantor, but the whole choir, and then remain silent while the rest of the congregation repeats. We will do the same for 'A Chríost, déan trócaire', and again 'A Thiarna, déan trócaire'.
2. The choir will sing a well known version of the 'Alleluia' and we will first listen. Do NOT sing yet! Sometimes we are too quick to join in. Listen first. Then, when the choir has finished the refrain, it will be the congregation's turn to sing the acclamation 'Alleluia' while the choir listens to us. The choir or a cantor will sing the verse given for the Mass, and then every one of us, choir and congregation together, will sing the Alleluia refrain one final time. This is rather like a responsorial psalm, first listening to the leaders, then repeating, then listening to the verse, finally all repeat the response together. During the season of Lent, we will have the same approach, but use a different response: 'Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of eternal glory.'
3. Finally, we will sing Seán Ó Riada's 'Ár nAthair' - Our Father - at every Sunday Mass which has singing. The middle and older generations know this musical setting of the Lord's Prayer very well, but perhaps the younger ones do not. We hope it will become known among them too with its reintroduction to our Sunday Masses.

Why sing?

The Church always prefers to sing the hymns, psalms, prayers, acclamations and responses of the Mass. Singing these words well helps us express more readily the meaning they hold and offers to God a more beautiful prayer and one that has taken us more effort.

Does God hear our prayers better when we chant them? If we feel our prayer more intensely, if we make it with more sincerity, we would agree it might well be more effective. The Church holds that sung prayer is prayer that has been made twice, according to a famous saying '(s)he who sings prays twice': qui cantat bis orat.

Singing the Mass, if we join together in the singing, can help unite us, and a prayer that is united with others is a stronger prayer.

Even if we are not personally inclined to like Mass with lots of singing, it is easy enough to understand that the Mass has parts which are meant to be sung: hymns, psalms, and even short acclamations or shouts that are musical in nature.

The Mass, and other celebrations, as rituals like those of other religions, has also traditionally be sung on a kind decorated of monotone, or 'chanted', when it comes to prayers, dialogues and responses, although English and Irish speakers are only beginning to recover this beautiful tradition. Those in Africa, Central and Western Europe, and Asia have practiced their own versions of this simple singing, often inspired by Gregorian chant.

The priests of our six parishes are anxious the next generation will learn to join in singing the three pieces of music mentioned above, using them in First Confession, First Communion, and Confirmation celebrations.

What if it doesn't work?

It is already working. When the priests begin singing any of these, people do indeed join in. Some congregations are more enthusiastic than others. The priests will remind us all when we are about to begin this new practice, and that reminder will be important in giving us all confidence in making the little change to singing. In time, more people will sing more confidently. It will take twelve months at least for all congregations to become confident in singing these simple tunes, and that's in line with other Catholic countries who have made similar changes. We must also be patient and allow the singing to be integrated into our common prayer.

Thank you!

Finally, we are all grateful to our church musicians and choirs for their time and energy and regular presence at Sunday Mass in ensuring our celebrations are sung celebrations and we acknowledge their effort in helping bringing about these changes to Sunday Masses.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Timoleague Harvest Festival AGM

will be held on Tuesday 25th November at 8.30pm upstairs in the new hall. The proceeds from the festival are going directly towards the upgrade off the ball alley. Please come along help shape the future of the festival.

PARISHES' NEWS & EVENTS

Darrara Cemetery Prayers

Sunday 23rd November at 3.00pm followed by Ballintemple Cemetery prayers at 4.00pm.

Annual Prayer Gathering for Funeral Ministry Teams

The annual gathering for Funeral Ministry Teams will be held on Wednesday 26th November at 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Church, Dunmanway, offering a valuable opportunity for Funeral Ministry Teams to come together. We look forward to seeing you there.

Advent Reflection Day

On Saturday, 29th November join the Office for Mission and Ministry from 10.00am to 3.30pm in Frankfield and Grange Parish Centre for a peaceful Advent Reflection Day. 'Waiting in Hope: Listening for God's promise through the Word'. Places are limited so booking is essential by phoning 021-7355517.

Advent Lectio Divina

The Office for Mission and Ministry will be offering three online *Lectio Divina* sessions for Advent on Wednesday, 3rd, 10th and 17th December from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. These will be opportunities to pause, pray with Scripture, and prepare for the coming of Christ. These online sessions are open to everyone. With limited places available, registration is essential. Contact us via <https://tinyurl.com/mission-ministry> or by ringing 021-7355517.

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards

A selection of Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available to purchase at the Parish Office in Clonakilty— Handmade cards by the Nuns at St Mary's Abbey in Glencairn, along with some Mass Bouquet cards from Divine Word Missionaries.

Recently baptised

Rían Michael O'Driscoll,
Glenageary, Co. Dublin.

Recently deceased

Martin Madden, Ballycullinane,
Courtmacsherry.

Offertory 15th & 16th November

Ardfield	€735
Barryroe	€1,385
Clonakilty	€4,200
Kilmeen	€438.45
Rosscarbery	€1,205
Timoleague	€1,085

CHANGE IN POSTURES

Our diocese is adopting the international standard for our postures at Mass next Saturday evening, 29th November. There are just three changes:

- Remain standing from the start of Mass until the readings;
- Stand when the priest says 'Pray, brothers and sisters' until we have concluded singing or reciting the 'Holy, holy';
- Stand at the 'Let us pray' after Holy Communion until the end of Mass.

Kneeling or genuflecting during Mass was first introduced in the sixteenth century as reminders of the incarnation: during the Creed and at the moment of the consecration which is itself based on the incarnation. Kneeling was also popular when parishioners would attend a quasi-private celebration of Mass without singing or ministers and say their own prayers quietly. The church has chosen to limit kneeling at the present way of celebrating Mass, since the 1960s, so it is associated with the incarnation and the consecration of the bread and wine, hence these changes.

Priests' Contacts

Fr Tom Hayes, Co-PP and Moderator, VG. (023) 883 3165.

tom.hayes@corkandross.org

Canon John Kingston, AP. (023) 883 9114

Canon Martin O'Driscoll, Co-PP. (023) 884 8168

Fr Fergus Tuohy, SMA, CC. fergus257@gmail.com

Fr Fergus Ryan, OP, CC. (023) 884 0188 & 087 204 0576. priest@barryroe.ie

Clonakilty priest on duty: 087 682 8076

Sunday Mass schedule for Winter-Spring 2025

Parish Churches every Sunday

Ardfield at 10.00am

Barryroe at 10.00am

Clonakilty at 7.00pm Saturday,
Sunday at 8.30am and 11.00am

Rosscarbery at 6.00pm Saturday,
Sunday at 11.30am

Rossmore at 11.00am

Timoleague at 11.30am

Chapels-of-ease monthly Masses

Saturday 6th December 7.00pm in

Bealad; Saturday 13th December

7.00pm in **Clogagh**; Saturday 20th

December 7.00pm in **Rathbarry**

Sunday, 7th December 9.30am in

Darrara; Sunday, 14th December

9.30am in **Lisavaird**; Sunday, 21st

December 9.30am in **Courtmacsherry**.

Friday, 5th December 7.30pm in

Carrigfadda.