

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.

Laetare Sunday
15th March 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Urgent Calls 086 876 0608

A single website for our family: www.OneFaith.ie

One body, one spirit, in Christ

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! On a Sunday close to the Solemnity of the Annunciation (25th March) when Our Lady became the Mother of God, Mother's Day in Ireland and Britain has been on this fourth Sunday of Lent for a long time.

THE COLOURS OF LENT

It is the rare person at Mass during Lent who doesn't notice the predominance of the colour violet (or purple) in the clergy's vestments and perhaps in some decoration in the church. Violet - more blueish than purple - is indicated in our Roman tradition as the liturgical colour for times of penance and times of sadness. It is the ordinary colour for Advent, Lent and prayer for the dead. Why? It is suggested its similarity to purple is the basis, where purple dye was originally a very costly thing and worn only by kings. Christ was recognised as King on Good Friday while being mocked, so the colour can be considered an invitation to acknowledge Our Lord's sovereignty which was mocked before his crucifixion and invites us to do penance for any offence we may have given him.

Rose is an optional colour for this fourth Sunday of Lent. There was a custom for the Pope to bless roses, later golden roses, on this day which were then given as rare gifts to churches, royalty, etc. The Marian Shrine in Knock has received one from Pope St John Paul II. Rose-coloured vestments arose from this tradition but was always optional. Some of our parishes possess rose vestments, but not all.

Veiling crosses in church (not stations of the cross) and images of the saints (typically statues and framed images, not mosaic or stained glass) was practiced for many centuries during the final two weeks of Lent, commonly called Passiontide. The origin of the practice is unclear, but may have begun in wishing

to veil the 'crux gemmata' - crosses covered with precious stones - in order to bring some sobriety to the church's sanctuary for the season. Veiling is not a complete removal of the images in question, but even emphasises their presence, heightening our expectation for their unveiling on Good Friday in the case of the cross or before the Easter Vigil in the case of images of the saints. The liturgy - Mass and Liturgy of the Hours - in its final two weeks of Lent, even after Vatican II, has a distinctly different tone to the earlier part, preparing for the Lord's suffering and death. Veiling images of his suffering adds to this change in atmosphere. On Palm Sunday and for the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, red and white respectively were used to veil the altar and processional crosses. Red recalling the Lord's shedding of his blood, white as the colour of the Blessed Sacrament.

Another veiling practice is the sanctuary veil which covered the entire sanctuary for the duration of Lent, permitting the congregation to only hear the Mass and not see the movement in the sanctuary. The veil typically had images of the Lord's passion - cross, spear, sponge, whip, crown of thorns, etc. It is rarely found today in our Roman tradition and would in any case contradict the church's expectation that the altar, indeed the whole sanctuary, be clearly visible to the congregation during all celebrations.

Ashen grey is the ancient choice of colour for Lent in England, paler than our violet Passion veils and even more sober. You can still find it in England in some Catholic and Anglican churches, as well as in churches around the world with Church of England backgrounds, including Catholic Ordinariate churches.

I mentioned earlier that white was the colour of the Blessed Sacrament. So why do we have red lamps burning before the Blessed Sacrament in our churches? Answer will be printed presently.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

The Friendly Fuchsia Café in St Fachtna's Community Centre, Clonakilty

every Friday from 2.00pm-4.00pm. This is a dementia friendly café where people can chat and connect in a supportive, confidential environment.

Coffee Day in Courtmacsherry Community Hall

on Sunday 22nd March from 10.15am to 1.00pm in aid of West

Cork Rapid Response. Any queries, please contact Dolores 086 8041679 and everyone is very welcome.

Timoleague Daffodil Day Coffee Morning & Cake Sale

on Sunday 22nd March starting at 11.00am in Timoleague Community Hall.

Timoleague Charity Bingo

in aid of Cancer Connect on Sunday 22nd March at 3.00pm in Timoleague Community Hall.

Epilepsy Awareness Day

In Ireland today, over 45,000 people live with epilepsy. Visit www.epilepsy.ie. Purple Day (or Epilepsy Awareness Day) will take place on Thursday 26th March.

PARISHES' NEWS & EVENTS

Come to Lourdes as a Young Adult Helper this September

Are you aged 18-30 and interested in serving others while deepening your faith? The Diocese of Cork and Ross invites young adults to consider travelling to Lourdes as a Young Adult Helper from 18th–23rd September. An Information Evening will take place in Mardyke House, Cork (T12 W8RP) on Thursday, 19th March at 7.30pm. This meeting will provide details about the pilgrimage and the role of Young Adult Helpers, who assist pilgrims in need while sharing in the unique spirituality of Lourdes. For more information email: youthministry@corkandross.org.

Legion 'Call to Arms', March 21st, AD 2026.

The Legion of Mary invites all of our friends to our annual 'Call to Arms' on Saturday 21st of March which, this year, AD 2026, will be at SMA Hall, Wilton, Cork beginning with 10.00am Mass in Saint Joseph's Church and continuing until mid-afternoon. Hospitality and inspiring contributors assured.

Fatima Pilgrimage

from Cork airport on Thursday 2nd July to 9th. Spiritual Director Rev (Archdeacon) Neilus O'Donnell. Contact Patsy Foley 087 6798810.

Christian Meditation

is the prayer of silence where we go beyond words, thoughts or images into the presence of God within. A powerful form of prayer, easily learnt. A group gathers each week on Thursdays after 10.00am Mass in the Parish Church, Clonakilty. For more information 086 3071709.

Conversation with the Bible

Thursdays in the parish centre, 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Contact John 086 8178248.

Recently Deceased

Maria Danks (née Ryan) Clonakilty, formerly Mallow & Birmingham.

Offertory March 7th & 8th

Ardfield	€415
Barryroe	€715
Clonakilty	€4,015
Kilmeen	€349
Rosscarbery	€1,895
Timoleague	€1,285

Irish Bishops' Commissions

Ardfield	€250
Barryroe	€590
Clonakilty	€1,855
Kilmeen	€232
Rosscarbery	€804
Timoleague	€365

Beagáinín Gaeilge

Go raibh an Tiarna libh – Agus le do spiorad.

Aifrinn ar Lá Fhéile Pádraig – 17^ú Márta – Masses on St Patrick's Day

Dé Luain, 16^ú *Anticipatory Masses*

Rosscarbery at 6pm; Clonakilty at 7pm

Dé Máirt, 17^ú

Clonakilty at 8.30am and 11am

Ardfield and Barryroe both at 10am

Rossmore and Clonakilty both at 11am

Rosscarbery and Timoleague both at 11.30am

Family of Parishes' Office. Open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

Eircode P85 P793. (023) 883 5654 office@onefaith.ie

Urgent calls throughout the family of parishes: 086 876 0608

Baptisms and Weddings – Book through www.OneFaith.ie

Funerals – arranged through Undertakers. Volunteer lay funeral ministers assist families prepare the funeral Mass and they preside at liturgical prayer on the evening before the Mass.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Darrara Tuesdays, 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will not take place in Clonakilty Church on Fridays at the moment due to ongoing building work.

Liturgical schedule for Winter-Spring 2025-2026

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

Remaining Monthly Masses 2026

Saturday at 7pm

14th March at 7pm in **Rathbarry**

Sunday at 9.30am

15th March in **Courtmacsherry**

Special arrangements for the Easter Triduum (first weekend of April).

Revised details published last

Sunday, 8th March.