

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.

Sunday
14th December 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent

Urgent Calls 086 876 0608

www.OneFaith.ie

One body, one spirit, in Christ

CUES TO STAND FOR COMMON PRAYER

End of Offertory: **'Pray, brothers and sisters'**, stand till end of *Holy, holy*

After Holy Communion: **'Let us pray'**, stand till end of Mass

HOW DO WE PRAY THE 'A THIARNA, DÉAN TRÓCAIRE?'

Our six parishes have begun singing '*A Thiarra, déan trócaire*' with our wonderful choirs leading us. Naturally enough some congregations are louder than others in the singing, and some forget to respond, but over the next few weeks and months we'll build up our singing practice.

Now that we are also standing for the 'Lord, have mercy', how should we pray it internally? ...in our hearts and minds, with our eyes?

It's good to start by asking what the 'Kyrie, eleison' or 'Lord, have mercy' is all about. It's not actually part of the Penitential Act, not usually anyway. It comes after that part of Mass, and may seem to be similar in theme, but it's quite distinct.

The Penitential Act has us express our sorrow for having sinned. The 'Lord, have mercy' focuses on the Lord himself, and is a short, sung litany asking for mercy. The original words come to us from the ancient custom of emperors visiting a city far from the centre of their empire. The visit was perhaps once in the emperor's lifetime. People greeted him, sometimes with joy, sometimes with trembling, but requesting he be kind and merciful. They weren't thinking necessarily that they had offended him, but he certainly would have some influence on their lives during the visit. This imperial 'visit' or 'coming' – in Latin '*Adventus*' and Greek '*Parousia*' – was taken up by the Church when thinking about the Lord's return in glory to judge the living and the dead.

Singing at the beginning of Mass as if the Lord were about to return is quite an ancient practice, recalling that we celebrate Mass in anticipation of his return: ‘When we eat this bread....we proclaim your death until you come again’. Starting Mass while recalling that every celebration is oriented towards his return is important. But how do we pray it? First of all, have that in mind, that we are thinking of the Lord’s coming as we celebrate Mass as he requested until he returns. Secondly, the *Kyrie* was traditionally sung during the veneration of the altar and its cross. Why not look on the crucifix as a help in praying to the Lord himself whose return we await?

One version of the penitential act includes the *Kyrie*. But notice it is not focussed at all on our having sinned, but rather on the Lord’s characteristics and mission: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart; you are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us; you are mighty God and prince of peace. It’s really a development of the *Kyrie*, and entirely in keeping with the meaning of the chant.

So when you join in singing the *A Thiarna, déan trócaire* on Sundays in one of our six parishes, do recall it is addressed to the Lord Jesus, looking forward to his return in glory, and maybe looking to the crucifix while you join in singing it – a practise now quite common in France – can help keep our minds focussed on the prayer.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Anam Cara Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm in Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty.

Canto Community Choir

invite you to an evening of interactive seasonal songs of Peace and Hope at Butlerstown Community Centre on Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm.

Useful contacts

Samaritans: 116 123;
jo@samaritans.ie (several days may pass before you receive an email in reply). **Society of St Vincent de Paul**, Clonakilty: 086 029 5142.

PARISHES’ NEWS & EVENTS

Remembrance Tree

A tree of Remembrance is being put in place at the Pike Bar in Lisavaird. You are asked to pin the names of your deceased loved ones and to give a small donation. After Christmas a mass will be arranged in Lisavaird Church for all those named on the tree. All money raised will go towards Lisavaird First Responders.

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 Missionary.

Clonakilty Parish Church cleaning

takes place on Saturday 20th December immediately after 10am mass. All help most welcome and appreciated.

New Year's Day walk from Kilshinihan Mass Rock

departing at 10.00am, to Clogagh Church for Mass at 11.00am.

Department of Education and Youth Survey about School Choice closes 16th December

The current Department of Education and Youth survey on the future of patronage in the primary sector is important in that it will shape the discussion on primary school divesting for the years to come throughout the Republic of Ireland.

While it is important that those who wish for a change in patronage would have their voice heard, it is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic Education for their children and for those who would wish for sacramental preparation within the school would have their voice heard also. For those reasons and to ensure that an accurate picture emerges, please participate in this survey if you are a parent or prospective parent of a primary school student. The survey can be accessed at www.gov.ie/primaryschoolsurvey.

Recently baptised

Sadie Grace Callanan, Dunowen East. Hailey Helenna Nistor, Convent Way. Elio Samuel Haida-Kolinowski, Carhue. Amelia Grace O'Brien, Lackenaloocha.

Offertory 6th & 7th December

Ardfield	€360
& Heating Collection	€300
Barryroe	€840
Clonakilty	€4,465
Kilmeen	€865
Rosscarbery	€1,550
Timoleague	€800

Offertory collection on the feast of the Immaculate Conception 8th December

Ardfield	€150
Barryroe	€380
Clonakilty	€1,640
Kilmeen	€175

Carol Services

Sunday 14th at 7.00pm in Timoleague.

Wednesday 17th St Michael Secondary School, Rosscarbery, at 11.30am parish church.

Wednesday 17th, Lisavaird National School, at 12.00 noon in Lisavaird church.

Wednesday 17th, Reenascreena National School at 7.00pm in Celtic Ross Hotel.

Wednesday 17th, Rosscarbery Community Carol Service in St Fachtna's Cathedral.

Friday 19th at 7.00pm in Clonakilty

Sunday 21st at 7.30pm in Barryroe.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2025

Christmas Eve Masses

5.00pm Clonakilty
6.00pm Timoleague & Carrigfada
7.00pm Rossmore
8.00pm Barryroe & Clogagh
9.00pm Rathbarry
& Rosscarbery & Clonakilty

Christmas Day Masses

8.30am Clonakilty
9.00am Ardfield
9.30am Darrara
& Lisavaird & Courtmacsherry
11.00am Bealad
& Barryroe & Clonakilty
11.30am Timoleague & Rosscarbery

Carol Services

See page three, inside.

Confessions

Saturday 20th at 10.00am Barryroe
Saturday 20th at 12.00noon Clonakilty
Elsewhere as announced locally
Service: Monday 22nd at 7.00pm
Clonakilty

Happy Christmas & Thank you!

The priests of our six parishes wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We also wish to thank you for your generosity to us during the year. Our income comes entirely and directly from parishioners. Two collections at Mass per year are for the priests: Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve/Day, and we thank you in advance for your generosity. All other offertory collections throughout the year are for the parish alone.

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

Monthly Masses during December

Saturdays at 7.00pm

6th December in **Bealad**

13th December in **Clogagh**

20th December in **Rathbarry**

Sundays at 9.30am

7th December in **Darrara**

14th December in **Lisavaird**

21st December in **Courtmacsherry**

First Friday, 5th December at 7.30pm in
Carrigfadda