

Newsletter

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

Parishes' Office (023) 883 5654.

Last Sunday before Lent

15th February 2026

6th Sunday of the year

Urgent Calls 086 876 0608

www.OneFaith.ie

One body, one spirit, in Christ

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR SIXMASS?

This question appeared while I doom scrolled in advance of the Six Nations Rugby. Six nations gave rise to a period of time called Sixmass.

The season we are about to begin could well be called Sixmass, given there are six Sundays within it, and apart from the extra few days of Ash Wednesday, Lent is largely now a six-week event.

The more common name for Lent, however, we could say is Forty mass. In Latin 'Quadragesima', giving rise to Irish 'Carghas', French 'Carême', Italian 'Quaresima'. Other languages focus on the fasting aspect (Polish has 'Great Fast' - Wielkipost) while English simply calls it springtime, or the lengthening (Lent-) of daytime. Forty mass comes from the Lord's for days in the desert and the Hebrews' forty years in another desert. The Lord's was a time of preparation, as should our Lent be.

Sixmass comes from the Sundays of Lent which had stages of preparation for baptism - the first sacramental participation in the Lord's paschal mystery. The first two Sundays of Lent employ the Lord's temptation in the desert and the Transfiguration. This year, 2026, uses cycle A of our readings at Sunday Mass, which means Sundays 3, 4 and 5 have readings particularly suitable for baptismal preparation. The Samaritan woman at the well seeking the water of life is followed by the curing of blindness which in turn is followed by the raising of Lazarus. Baptism offers the Lord satisfying our eternal thirst, illuminates our minds with the faith and offers eternal life.

Ash Wednesday is for Roman Catholics a day of both fasting for 18-59 year olds (one meal, two snacks) and abstinence from meat for over 14 year olds. Catholics of other traditions – e.g. Syro Malabar, Syro Malankar, Coptic, and Ukrainians, etc. who begin Lent on Monday – do not observe Ash Wednesday and are not obliged to our practices. Ukrainians gave up meat for Lent a week ago, and eat dairy products for the last time this Sunday until Easter.

What is the purpose of the forty days or six Sundays? Lent was originally a preparation for adults being baptised at Easter, and only over maybe three weeks. Today's longer Lent is for baptised person, to prepare to commemorate our baptism, our sharing the Lord's paschal (or Easter) mystery for the first time.

The early form of the forty days offered forty days of fasting (Monday to Saturday) and a vegan diet for both the 40 weekdays and the Sundays. We are all more conscious of intermittent fasting and removing certain food types from our diet in our to achieve certain effects on our minds and bodies. A vegan diet - which we call abstinence from meat - was chosen as it encouraged less sexual desire, an aspect of our lives which can have significant lifelong effects. One meal per day taken in the evening - much more challenging than Ramandan's eat all you like at night - was the first intermittent fasting of Christians. In time, we all know, Western Lent was attenuated with the possibility of two additional snacks during the day; and finally in the 1960s the frequency of intermittent fasting was reduced for Roman Catholics from every weekday of Lent (40 days) to only two days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Now our Lenten vegan diet and 40 days of severe intermittent fasting have disappeared among Roman Catholics because our lifestyles - operating machinery, practicing medicine, etc. - required the change. But it is the fast of Ramadan, much easier than the original Christian Lenten fast, which fascinates our society.

Our forty days, or six Sundays, with their diets for training mind and body, are to lead us to commemorate our sharing the Lord's Easter mystery in baptism, to discipline ourselves to be more like him. Lent is for discipline, not giving up sin temporarily, but discipline to become more like Christ and share his life.

What are you doing for Sixmass or Fortymass this year?

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Timoleague Playschool Open Day

on Thursday 19th February 2.15pm - 4.15pm. For more information telephone 086-8788267.

Family Carer Information Session

on Tuesday 17th February in the Clonakilty Park Hotel from 10.30am-2.00pm.

Reenascreena NS Cheltenham Preview Night

Monday 16th February in the Celtic Ross Hotel at 8.00pm. The panel on the night will include Richie Forristal, Jane Mangan and Johnny Dineen among others. Raffle and auction on the night. Tickets are €20 and are available from 086 8550859.

Online Bereavement Information Evening for bereaved parents

regardless of the age of the child, circumstances of their death, or time since bereavement. This event will take place online on Tuesday 17th February at 7.00pm. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Bríd Carroll. For more information please email info@anamcara.ie

Clonakilty Bereavement Group

Are you grieving? 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. The Sessions are held in Clonakilty and will commence on Tuesday 24th February at 8.00pm. For more information please contact 023-8835654 (9.30am-1.00pm.).

Daffodil Day Fundraiser

in Darrara Community Centre Flowers & Food, an evening of floristry, nutrition & wellness on Wednesday 4th March at 8.00pm. Tickets €15. Call 086 3903597. All proceeds in aid of Daffodil day Clonakilty.

Epilepsy Awareness Day

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

PARISHES' NEWS & EVENTS

Church choirs-musicians

Workshop on Sunday 15th February at 3.00pm in Clonakilty parish centre reviewing recent changes in our six parishes, and learning new music for the season of Easter.

Ash Wednesday

Clonakilty Masses at 10.00am & 7.00pm.

Courtmacsherry Mass at 6.30pm. Ashes will be available in Bealad, Rossmore, Ardfield and Kilmeen churches from midday.

Maranatha

is a full-day faith-based, high energy music event for young people from parishes across the diocese attending post-primary schools. Students from over half of our post-primary schools have been preparing for Maranatha 2026. This culminates in a concert in Cork City Hall on

Thursday 26th February with over 500 young people singing together. Please support our young people by coming to this event. Tickets are €15 (plus booking fee) and are available to book on [eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie), search Maranatha.

Radio Maria

Radio Maria (Ireland) is a Catholic radio station which has been up and running in Ireland for nearly ten years now. It is a 24-hour, 7-day week station which is situated in Ballymount, Dublin. It is available on Saorview channel 210 on Television. It has Holy Mass, Rosary, a few times daily, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Hour and many more entertaining and interesting programmes. Two Cork Priests – the late Fr Michael Ross, RIP and Fr Eamonn McCarthy were very influential in establishing the station. It needs our prayers and financial support to keep running. Prayer requests and petitions are greatly appreciated.

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Pilgrimage to Fatima

from 22nd to 26th September 2026 ex Cork and Dublin. Spiritual Director Fr Joe McGee, MSC. Karen in Barters Travel: 021-4851700 or email: kcallaghan@travelnet.ie

Catholic Faith Camp for teenagers

in Knockadoon from June 7th -13th. For more information contact Fr Roche on 086 9972539.

Recently deceased

James Hurley late of Rossmore & Ardfert.

Recently baptised

Sonny Séamus Crowley, Lackenduff; Paudie James O' Connor, Knockea, Lyre; Nancy Desmond, Ard Álainn, Clonakilty; Tadhg Pat Riordan, Derrybawn, Reenascreena.

Offertory 7th & 8th February

Ardfield	€385
Barryroe	€730
Clonakilty	€4,200

Kilmeen	€412
Rosscarbery	€1,859
Timoleague	€1,150

Lourdes Fund Collection

Ardfield	€295
Barryroe	€605
Clonakilty	€1,945
Kilmeen	€265
Rosscarbery	€984
Timoleague	€

Spring Dues

for the parish clergy's income are scheduled for next Sunday.

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 again in Clonakilty Church on Fridays until March due to ongoing building works

Mass 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

Monthly Masses February 2026

Saturdays at 7.00pm

28th February in **Bealad**

7th February in **Clogagh**

14th February in **Rathbarry**

Sundays at 9.30am

1st February in **Darrara**

8th February in **Lisavaird**

15th February in **Courtmacsherry**

First Friday, 6th February at 7.30pm in
Carrigfadda