

# 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  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Urgent Calls 086 876 0608**

**[www.OneFaith.ie](http://www.OneFaith.ie)**

One body, one spirit, in Christ

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SEASON

May has come to be for us in Ireland First Holy Communion Season. We're not out of kilter with other countries that much. In Poland, it is on a Sunday that children are admitted to Holy Communion for the first time. We've settled on Saturdays in Ireland for many decades; it wasn't so long ago that Ascension Thursday was a popular day. Why? A young girl who ardently desired to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist received after Mass on Ascension Thursday did so miraculously and promptly died: Blessed Imelda Lambertini. When the age of receiving communion was reduced from 14 to 7 by Pope Pius X, he was influenced by the example of Blessed Imelda. People liked to recall that by having First Communion Masses on the feast day. The season of Easter is the preferred time for receiving the sacrament as it is one of the sacraments initiating us into the Lord's death and resurrection and membership of the Church.

Another change made by Pope Pius X was not at all one he intended to happen. Until his pontificate, you'll recall the minimum age for Holy Communion was 14 (recall also St Bernadette Soubirous and her age when she first received) while Confirmation was given from the age of reason (7 years). Reducing the minimum age for communion to the age of reason, the same minimum age for confirmation, meant the sacraments were swapped in most parts of the world. The saintly pope's change could simply have meant giving holy communion to children that had just been confirmed: in the same celebration, but that didn't happen.

It's still an oddity that we would give communion to somebody that has not been confirmed yet, all the more so one hundred years ago. Children would be confirmed by the bishop towards the end of primary school in Ireland, and then

the parish priest would admit the children to Holy Communion over the following few weeks at Sunday Mass. Some dioceses around the world have returned to confirming children before admitting them to Holy Communion. It's a question of both the order in which the sacraments are received (the preferred order is still Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) and the age for each one (should confirmation or eucharist be delayed for a long period of time after the age of reason?).

Everyone reading this newsletter probably has questions about how First Holy Communion is celebrated today, from clothing to tin whistles, from the day it is celebrated (Saturday or Sunday?) to whether the children sit with their families or not, from preparation in school hours to having liturgical ministries at the Mass. And these questions are good ones when it involves integrating or initiating our young people into the Church.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### **Seven Heads Walks over the May Bank Holiday weekend**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Barreragh Walk, 11.30am start from Courtmacsherry Community Centre.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Fuchsia Walk, 3pm start from Courtmacsherry Rowing Club.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, Inchybridge Loop, 11am start from Timoleague Abbey.

### **Reenascreena National School 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Fr Martin will celebrate Mass in Carrigfada Church on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. This will be followed by refreshments in the school. All current and past pupils, families and members of the school community are welcome to attend. If anyone has old photos or memorabilia from the school that they would like to share for display on the night that would be greatly appreciated. Materials can be

dropped to the office or emailed to [office@reenascreenans.ie](mailto:office@reenascreenans.ie)

### **Kilmeen And Kilbree GAA**

invite you to join them on Saturday morning 9<sup>th</sup> May at 4.15am and walk in support of Darkness Into Light. For more information contact any member of the GAA. Please support this great cause.

### **National Epilepsy Week 2026**

takes place on 18<sup>th</sup> May - 25<sup>th</sup> May. For further information, please Visit [www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie)

## PARISHES' NEWS & EVENTS

### **Rosary – Barryroe Grotto**

the Rosary will be prayed at the Grotto in Barryroe every evening for the month of May at 8pm.

### **Rosary – Timoleague - Our Lady's Well**

Nightly for the month of May at 8.00pm.

## **Rosary – Clonakilty**

Wednesday night for the month of May at 8p.m. at the Convent Hill Grotto, Clonakilty. with the theme of 'Peace in the World'.

## **Recently baptised**

Esther Oluwadarasimi Ojo,  
Kanyinsola Diamond Ojo,  
Temiloluwa Christiana Ojo,  
Siobhan Oluwafire Adeyemo from  
Clonakilty Lodge, Lottie Rosalie  
Holland, Richfordstown.

## **Taizé Ecumenical Evening**

### **Prayer**

will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May in the Church of Ireland Cathedral at 8pm. All are most welcome to join.

## **Mission and Ministry Special Collection – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May**

The Mission and Ministry Special Collection will take place on the weekend of May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This office plays a vital role in supporting our priests, parishes and *Families of Parishes* as we work together to help people grow in faith and live as missionary disciples. It provides formation and support for Parish Pastoral Councils, Baptism and Funeral Ministry Teams, Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, Choirs and other ministries, as well as offering resources for prayer, evangelisation and adult sacramental preparation. Thanks to your generosity, this work continues to grow and reach more people across our diocese. Thank you for your continued

support and encouragement of this important work.

## **Timoleague Parish Stations**

Timoleague - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm

Clogagh - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.

## **Cork & Ross Diocesan**

### **Pilgrimage to Lourdes | September 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Cork and Ross Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> this year. Flights are from Cork Airport direct to Lourdes Airport. You can travel as a pilgrim with a full daily pilgrimage program, or if you require assistance to travel then you can come as one of our Assisted Pilgrims and stay in special assisted accommodation. We need in the region of 130 volunteers to come, so maybe you might be someone who can come as a helper, and have a very rewarding and fulfilling experience? Choice of hotels are available from €939. Call Joe Walsh Tours on 01 2410 800 to book a place. For any general enquiries email or call Mary on [lourdes@corkandross.org](mailto:lourdes@corkandross.org) or 085 2525 040.

## **Vocations Society of St Joseph**

The monthly meeting of the Society will take place on next Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Parishioners from the Family of Parishes are always welcome to join us.

## Padre Pio Birthday Mass

Mass to mark the birthday of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina at Enniskeane Parish Church will be celebrated on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30pm. Blessings with a relic of the saint will take place from 6pm to 7pm and again after Mass. A collection will be taken up at Mass and shared between the Capuchin Day Centre and Enniskeane Parish Building Fund.

**Family of Parishes' Office.** Open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 1.30pm. Eircode P85 P793. (023) 883 5654 [office@onefaith.ie](mailto:office@onefaith.ie)

**Urgent calls** throughout the family of parishes: 086 876 0608

**Baptisms and Weddings** – Book through [www.OneFaith.ie](http://www.OneFaith.ie)

**Funerals** – arranged through Undertakers.

### Priests' Contacts

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

[tom.hayes@corkandross.org](mailto: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](mailto:fergus257@gmail.com)

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

Clonakilty priest on duty: 087 682 8076

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Darrara Tuesdays, 7pm to 8pm.

Clonakilty Thursdays after 10am Mass until 2pm.

### Eucharistic schedule Spring 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

## Offertory 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April

Ardfield €470

Barryroe €740

Clonakilty €4,225

Kilmeen €275

Rosscarbery €1,165

Timoleague €659.50

## Next Second Collection

On 10<sup>th</sup> May, although this Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, in Timoleague parish – for diocesan expenses under Mission and Ministry.

#### Monthly Masses May 2026

##### Saturdays at 7.00pm

- 2<sup>nd</sup> May in Bealad
- 9<sup>th</sup> May in Clogagh
- 16<sup>th</sup> May in Rathbarry

##### Sundays at 9.30am

- 3<sup>rd</sup> May in Darrara
- 10<sup>th</sup> May in Lisavaired
- 17<sup>th</sup> May in Courtmacsherry

#### First Friday of May at 7.30pm

1<sup>st</sup> May in Carrigfada, with anointing.