

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.

Ninth Sunday
31st May 2026
Solemnity of the Blessed
Trinity

Urgent Calls 086 876 0608

www.OneFaith.ie

One body, one spirit, in Christ

WHY HYMNS AT MASS?

Hymns are the first thing many people think about when the question of singing at Mass arises. But hymn singing at Mass is quite a recent phenomenon while singing at Mass is as old as the Mass itself. In Matthew's Gospel we read that at the Last Supper 'When they had sung the psalms, they went out to the Mount of Olives'. The psalms in question were without doubt the group of psalms sung for the feast of Passover which also mention the Exodus, and are called the 'Egyptian Hallel' (psalms 112-117/113-118). We sing some of those very psalms at Mass on Holy Thursday evening and at the Easter Vigil before the Gospel.

But why hymns at Mass? Hymns at Mass replace the ancient antiphons and psalms set to music for specific Masses during the year and which you will find in your missalettes and missals. The antiphon for the entrance this Sunday is 'Blessed be the Holy Trinity' and it is paired with verses from psalm 8. The entrance antiphon for Mass on Holy Thursday is 'We should glory in the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ', words from Galatians, paired with verses from psalm 66(67). The offertory antiphon for Pentecost Sunday is taken from psalm 67(68): Confirm, O God, what you have worked in us; from your temple which is in Jerusalem, kings shall offer presents to you. Communion antiphons are often verses of the Gospel reading of the Mass paired as a refrain with verses from a suitable psalm.

Notice I've not mentioned hymns yet?! These antiphons and psalm verses, like responsorial psalms, are the words (and melodies) our tradition has used to accompany actions of the congregation and the minister: approaching and

venerating the altar and its cross; preparing the altar and presenting the bread and wine; coming to and receiving Holy Communion. The words set the scene of the particular celebration, and accompany the three activities. The antiphons and psalms are not there to be sung and listened to as stand-alone chants, they follow the moments of the celebration and so are part of the celebration. They should end when the action has ended: the priest reaches the chair where he presides; the priest has washed his hands; the distribution of holy communion has concluded.

Why hymns? Why indeed. The repertoire of antiphons is a repertoire of rather subtle biblical references. The antiphons do not say as much as some of our hymns say. And since parishioners usually only celebrate one liturgy per week – the church herself has Mass every day and the Liturgy of the Hours several times a day and hymn singing is important during the Liturgy of the Hours – hymn singing to accompany the entrance, offertory and communion of the congregation gives opportunities to have more immediately understandable and expressive hymns, hymns which tease out the significance of what is being celebrated in just a few minutes of time. A hymn that speaks of the resurrection of the Lord and its significance is quite helpful and arguably more so than the antiphons used during the season of Easter whose references to the risen Lord can be rather subtle.

Strictly speaking, hymns don't actually belong during Mass. They replace the antiphons and psalm verses when they are sung during Mass and they can be more helpful to us in celebrating the particular Mass well. That is the case when they are well chosen for the liturgical season, the feast day, or other special occasion, chosen to accompany the veneration of the altar, the offering of bread and wine, the reception of holy communion, not to fill silent gaps, but to accompany what we are doing together in obedience to the Lord's command: do this in memory of me.

Why hymns at Mass? Good question. And the answer as you see is subtle.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Butlerstown Community Centre

Fundraiser Walk

5-mile family walk, fun day & BBQ on Monday 1st June. Commencing at 2.30pm from Butlerstown hall. All welcome.

Clonakilty Show

takes place on Sunday 7th June in the showgrounds.

Darrara Community Centre

is delighted to welcome the acclaimed one-man show *The Man in the Woman's Shoes* by Mikel Murfi on Saturday, 29th August 2026 at 8pm. Tickets (€25) go on sale on Sunday, 7 June, after Darrara Mass from 10.30am–12 noon at Darrara Community Centre. Complimentary bus from Clonakilty (booking essential).

PARISHES' NEWS & EVENTS

Trinity holy well gathering - Castleventry

will be held on Trinity Sunday 31st May at 8pm. Choirs and musicians will perform and prayers will be said for sick members of the community, for those who have passed away, for students doing exams and for a fine summer. All are welcome and please if you so wish bring flowers to leave at the holy well in accordance with a very old tradition. Enquires to 087 2030762

Vocations Society of St Joseph - Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Society will take place on Tuesday June 2nd in the Parish centre at 7.30pm. Our meeting includes the Rosary and light refreshments. New members are always welcome to join us.

Taizé Evening Prayer

on Wednesday 3rd June in the Sacristy of St Fachtna's Parish Church, Rosscarbery at 8pm. All are welcome.

Cork City Eucharistic Procession

Sunday 7th June beginning at 3pm from the north cathedral and ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the National Monument at the southern end of Grand Parade. 2026 is the centenary of the first Eucharistic procession in the city since the suppression of Catholicism. Further details about the procession and other related

events:

www.corkandross.org/ep100

Corpus Christi in Clonakilty

On Sunday 14th June to mark the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, the Blessed Sacrament is taken in procession through the streets after the 11a.m. Mass. The Church car park will only be available for parking for people with mobility difficulties. The route for the Procession is leaving via the main gate on Western Road, Tawnies Lower, Tawnies Crescent, St. Paul's Close, Tawnies Grove, Western Road and returning via the main gate on Western Road. The congregation will follow the leading crucifix and candles, followed by families with children who received First Holy Communion, then the choir which precedes the canopy and the Blessed Sacrament accompanied by altar servers. When the Procession returns to the Church, Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament will be imparted. All Welcome.

Timoleague Corpus Christi Procession

after 11.30am Mass on Sunday 7th June.

Annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage in Knock

Celebrating world day for Grandparents & the elderly on Sunday 26th July in Knock Shrine

Recently Deceased

John Martin Lawton, Barryroe;
Donie O'Callaghan, Mill Street,
Timoleague; Julie Lee, Ballinroher,
Timoleague; Dan O'Keefe,
Courleigh South, Clonakilty.

Offertory 23rd & 24th May

Ardfield	€325
Barryroe	€730
Clonakilty	€4,485
Kilmeen	€471
Rosscarbery	€1,135
Timoleague	€670

Upcoming Second Collection

28th June: Peter's Pence (for papal charities) – on 21st in Timoleague

Recently Baptised

Holly Jane Desmond, Clogheen &
Michael Jeremiah Patrick O'Regan,
Inchydoney.

Recently Married:

Irene Delaney and Rhys McCarthy
who were married in
Courtmacsherry. Felicity Harragan &
Shane Kelleher from Manchester,
who were married in Clonakilty
Church.

Eucharistic schedule 2026

Parish Churches every Sunday

Ardfield at 10am

Barryroe at 10am

Clonakilty at 7pm Saturday,
Sunday at 8.30am and 11am

Rosscarbery at 6pm Saturday,
Sunday at 11.30am

Rossmore at 11am

Timoleague at 11.30am

*During July & August an additional Mass
will be celebrated in Courtmacsherry on
Saturday evenings at 7.30pm.*

Monthly Masses June 2026

Saturdays at 7pm

6th June in **Bealad**

13th June in **Clogagh**

20th June in **Rathbarry**

Sundays at 9.30am

7th June in **Darrara**

14th June in **Lisavaired**

21st June in **Courtmacsherry** – *this is
the final Sunday morning Mass in
Courtmacsherry.*

First Friday of June at 7.30pm

5th June in **Carrigfada**, with anointing.

Weekday Masses are guaranteed only in Clonakilty parish church, Monday to Saturday at 10am. Mass intentions at those Masses are arranged between parishioners and the parish and are guaranteed. Weekday Masses outside Clonakilty are subject to change at short notice, including to cover Clonakilty 10am Mass. Mass intentions outside Clonakilty are a private arrangement with the priest and some degree of flexibility is necessary in these matters.