

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
24th August 2025
21st Sunday of the year

Urgent Calls 086 876 0608

www.OneFaith.ie

One body, one spirit, in Christ

CLONAKILTY CONVENT OF MERCY

As schools prepare to re-open, many will recall their days in Clonakilty Convent schools and tell their young relatives and friends about them. Today, the Convent of Mercy in Clonakilty is a community of 23 sisters. Sr Laurenza presents the history of the community from its foundation to the present day. Ed.

The Religious Order of the Sisters of Mercy was founded in Dublin by Catherine McAuley, who opened a house in Baggot Street in 1832 for the relief, protection and education of women and children marginalised by poverty.

The Mercy Congregation is an Apostolic Order of women, devoted to a life of prayer and Mission, following the life of Jesus and His love for all people. They have a simple lifestyle, in keeping with the times. The original 'habit' of a long black dress, a white collar and veil was replaced in the 1960s by a more simple style. Today the Sisters wear clothes in keeping with the seasons.

After 1832, the Order quickly expanded and houses were established all over the country and abroad. In 1856, four Sisters from Kinsale came to form a community in Clonakilty. They had basic accommodation, but coped with the work and management of a school for eight hundred pupils. Work began on the building of a Convent, School and Chapel, which was ready for occupation 1864.

Many young women joined the Sisters to dedicate their lives to God and to help the people of Clonakilty.

Initially, they spent a year with the Sisters, participating in the various ministries, deciding if this life was for them. Following this, they had two years in formation and three studying for the work they would undertake before they made final vows for a life of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. Sisters were very aware of the level of poverty that existed in Clonakilty after the Famine. They walked around the town and its surrounds to give food, comfort and financial support to those in need.

Sisters rose in the morning at 6.00a.m. and followed a Horarium (timetable) of Prayer, Eucharist, Meals, Work, Recreation and household chores. School began at 9.00a.m. and Sisters attended their classes. As time went on, Sisters qualified in all areas of education, supporting their initial training with night classes and summer courses. They had the same qualifications as their lay colleagues.

In 1876, a new wing was added to the original building to accommodate an Orphanage. In 1887 the Sisters began work in the County Home (built during the famine as an institution for the poor, the sick, and unmarried women with children) run by a Board of Guardians. Over the years, this building developed into what is today a modern well-run facility under the HSE.

From 1908, Secondary Education was provided and in 1941 Sacred Heart Secondary School was formally opened.

As society changed, the numbers in the Orphanage decreased and it closed in 1966. This made room for a Boarding School for children who, for many reasons, mainly distance, welcomed the chance for education. This thrived for many years until free education was introduced and public transport made available to all children.

Sisters were missioned to America, Africa and Peru and still maintain contact with the local Sisters and friends they made in these countries. Over the years, the work the Sisters did was done quietly and unobtrusively working for God alone.

In 2008, the Convent was closed and the Sisters moved to Árus Muire, where they now reside. Most of the Sisters are now elderly, but still maintain contact with the many people they know in the town and in other areas in which they worked.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Fr Pat Walsh Book Launch/Gaza Appeal

John M Loughnan wishes to acknowledge receipt of donations of €3,120 for the UNICEF Gaza Famine Relief Appeal. These funds were the proceeds of the voluntary donations made at the recent book launch of the writings of the late Fr Pat in lieu of a charge for the publication.

PARISHES' NEWS & EVENTS

Medjugorje Pilgrimage

Two places have become available due to illness for Medjugorje on September 6th for seven nights. €650 bed and breakfast. Departing from Cork airport. Please contact Gerald Madden on 086 3666514

Bealad Grotto

Thanks to all who came to Mass at Bealad Grotto on August 14th and to the hard working committee.

Clogagh Church cleaning

Many thanks to the volunteers who recently gave their time to clean and paint the outer road walls of Clogagh church

Clonakilty Parish Church cleaning

takes place on Saturday 30th August, immediately after 10am mass. If you would like to help, come along to the sacristy at 10.30am. All help most welcome and appreciated.

Clonakilty Church

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday after 10am mass.

Darrara Church

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament continues on Tuesday evenings 7-8pm.

Diocese of Cork & Ross Catechism of the Catholic Church

Group 1 commencing on Monday Septemeber 1st in Ballinlough Parish Pastoral Centre from 7.30pm-9.00pm with Spiritual director Mgr. Gearóid Dullea.

Group 2 commencing on Monday Septemeber 1st in Brú Columbanus, Wilton from 7.30pm-9.00pm with Spiritual director Fr Pádraig Brehany OFM. Pre booking is essential, please contact 087 7950325

Legion of Mary annual pilgrimage to Knock

takes place on Sunday 28th September. Bus departs from Clonakilty & Bandon. Please contact Kathleen Courtney on 086 4084688 to book your place.

Recently Baptised

Lucy Carol Nyhan, Ardfield & Daniel David Moloney, Shannonvale

Recently Deceased

Catherine Footman, Ozanam Court & Castlefreke

Recently Married

Shannon Kennedy & Kevin Murphy, UK & Clonakilty who were married in Clonakilty Church.

Offertory collections Feast of the Assumption

Barryroe	€485
Clonakilty	€1610
Timoleague	€331

Offertory collections 16th & 17th

August

Ardfield	€470
Barryroe	€1175
Clonakilty	€4760
Kilmeen	€395
Rosscarbery	€1530
Timoleague	€1129

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

Summertime Sunday Mass schedule (till the end of August)

Ardfield P85 DD40 @ 10.00am

Barryroe P72 T206 @ 10.00am

Clonakilty P85 NT22 @

7.00pm Saturday,

Sunday @ 8.30am and 11.00am

Courtmacsherry P72 W259 @ 9.00am

Rossmore P85 V832 @ 11.00am

Rosscarbery P85 Y270 @

7.00pm Saturday, 11.30am Sunday

Timoleague P72 TF89 @ 11.30am

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.