



Church of Ireland  
United Dioceses of  
Cork, Cloyne & Ross  
Abbeystrewry Union

Abbeystrewry Union of Parishes

# December Newsletter



**PRESENTATION TO LONG SERVING CHURCHWARDEN.** On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November as part of the Sunday service in St. Mary's Caheragh, a presentation was made to Richie Ross in recognition of the long service he has given to the Church as Churchwarden – at least 45 years! The presentation tied in with a certain significant birthday, and also was the day the Diocese choose to honour lay ministry in a service in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral. Pictured above is his birthday cake, and those who attended a reception in St. Mary's Hall. Thank you Richie for your faithful ministry!

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We remember before God for the life of Jackie Roycroft whose funeral was on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December. Jackie served the Church in so many different ways: Churchwarden, Glebe warden, Diocesan Synod representative, Parish nominator. We pray for his family and friends in their loss, and we give thanks for all they ways he cared for the Church he loved. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

If any children would like to help in the Church services by becoming a crucifer, (being demonstrated by a former crucifer on the right) please do contact the rector!



**Confirmation** ~ If you are interested in being confirmed next year (2024), please let the rector know. Attendance at the Diocesan confirmation morning in Douglas is compulsory, as are attendance at confirmation classes. Last month it was mentioned that there would be confirmation in 2025, however due to unexpected demand there will be confirmation both in 2024 and 2025.



**Table tennis** will be held on occasional Sunday afternoons. For December it will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December (only) from 3pm to 4.30pm in Abbeystrewry Hall. Tea and Coffee will be served!

**House Communion** ~ Please contact the rector if you, or someone you know wish to receive house Communion. Similarly, if you have been in hospital or are coming out of hospital, please also let the Rector know, don't assume that someone has told him!!



**Baltimore Film Club** in St. Matthew's Church on the First Friday of every month. To book your place, and for more information please visit: [www.liveatstmatthews.com](http://www.liveatstmatthews.com)

**Stewardship:** Many thanks to all of you for your very generous support of the parish over the last year. If you do not already do so, please consider the envelope system, as it allows the Church to claim tax back from the Revenue (if you pay tax) which means your contributions go further **AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU!** If you would like to sign up to the envelope scheme, please contact Alan Coombes on 087 8584483. There is also a direct debit option if you prefer.





## Music in December:

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in Union Hall Church of Ireland Church: The Ficino Quartet will be performing works by Brahms, Shostakovich and others. For more information, or to book please visit <https://barrahanemusic.ie/events/the-ficino-quartet/>
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December you can hear James Yorkston and Nina Persson (The Cardigans) in St. Mathew's. Tickets and information at: <https://liveatstmatthews.com/>
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December the traditional Nine Lesson and Carol Service will be in Abbeystrewry Church at 4 pm. This year we will be joined by singers from West Cork Choral Singers as well as children from Abbeystrewry National School.
- Our other carol services in the parish are: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> in St. Barrahan's (being joined by children from Castlehaven national school), Friday 15<sup>th</sup> in St. Matthew's and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> in St. Mary's.

## Bishop's Appeal Advent Appeal...The Bishop's Appeal is a charity

which represents the Church of Ireland in responding quickly to emergencies which unfortunately occur around the world. This year there is a special appeal for supporting those who are in great need in the Middle East.

The Advent and Christmas Appeal this year asks that if you can, you give something to help those most affected. Those fleeing Gaza as refugees, those needing emergency medical care, temporary accommodation, practical help, food, medicines, support, care.

Our focus on the desperate needs in the Middle East enables us to partner with the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough who are running the 'Shine A Light for the Diocese of Jerusalem' campaign, and also to help with the overwhelming needs of displaced people who are now living in Lebanon as well.

Our intention is to channel the funds raised through our trusted partners on the ground – the Diocese of Jerusalem and also to Tearfund partners working in Lebanon and in some of the areas and countries bordering Gaza and Israel where already things are precarious and extremely tense. Where there is the danger of further tension, violence and devastation erupting at any time.

There should be envelopes around the churches, or you could mark an envelope 'Bishop's appeal' and add it to the regular collection. For more information on the work of the Bishop's Appeal, visit: [www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org)



# Services in December



## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December ~ The Second Sunday of Advent

- 8.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen
- 10.00 Eucharist in St. Matthew's, Baltimore
- 11.30 Morning Prayer in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen

## Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

- 19.00 Carol Service in St. Barrahanes, Castletownshend.

## Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

- 19.00 Carol Service in St. Matthew's, Baltimore

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December ~ The Third Sunday of Advent

- 8.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen
- 10.00 Morning Prayer in St. Mary's, Caheragh
- 16.00 Carol Service in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen  
with West Cork Choral Singers and Children from Abbeystrewry National School.



## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

- 19.00 Carol Service in St. Mary's, Caheragh

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve.

- 8.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen
- 16.00 Family Crib Service in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen
- 23.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen.

## Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December ~ Christmas Day

- 9.00 Eucharist in St. Barrahanes, Castletownshend
- 10.00 Eucharist in St. Matthew's, Baltimore
- 10.15 Eucharist in St. Mary's, Caheragh
- 11.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen

## December 31 December ~ The First Sunday of Christmas

- 8.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen
- 11.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church Skibbereen (Group service).



## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January ~ The Baptism of our Lord

- 8.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen
- 10.00 Eucharist in St. Barrahanes, Castletownshend
- 10.00 Eucharist in St. Mary's, Caheragh
- 11.30 Eucharist in Abbeystrewry Church, Skibbereen

The Eucharist will also be celebrated in the Creagh Chapel (Abbeystrewry Church) at 10.30 am on the following days in December: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> (St. Stephen's Day), Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> (Saint John the Evangelist).

*If you would like to receive the parish newsletter in the future by email please email the Rector at [abbeystrewryunion@gmail.com](mailto:abbeystrewryunion@gmail.com)*