



Bandon Parish Bulletin

Parish: www.bandonparish.ie

Diocese: www.corkandross.org

Tel: 023 8841666 - Mobile: 087 647 2406

Sunday 13th September 2026 No. 2830

Twenty Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Boundless Mercy

From the time of our Baptism, God has forgiven us, releasing us from an intractable debt: original sin. But that is the first time. Then, with boundless mercy, he forgives us all our faults as soon as we show even the least sign of repentance. This is how God is: merciful. When we are tempted to close our heart to those who have offended us and tell us they are sorry, let us remember our Heavenly Father's words to the wicked servant: 'I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' (vv. 32-33). Anyone who has experienced the joy, peace and inner freedom which come from being forgiven should open him or herself up to the possibility of forgiving in turn.

Jesus wished to introduce the teaching of this parable into the *Our Father*. He linked the forgiveness which we ask from God with the forgiveness that we should accord our brothers and sisters: 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors' (mt 6:12). God's forgiveness is the symbol of his 'overflowing' love for each of us. It is the love that leaves us free to distance ourselves, like the prodigal son, but which awaits our return every day. It is the resourceful love of the shepherd for the lost sheep. It is the tenderness which welcomes each sinner who knocks at his door. The Heavenly Father - our Father - is filled, is full of love and he wants to offer it to us, but he cannot do so if we close our heart to love towards others.

May the Virgin Mary help us to become ever more aware of the gratuitousness and the greatness of the forgiveness received from God, to become merciful like him, Good Father, slow to anger and great in love.

Sacrament of Holy Communion & Confirmation 2027

If you have a child who attends a non Catholic school and wants to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion or Confirmation please contact the parish office via email or ring 023 8841666. Leave a message with your name number and sacrament you wish your child to receive. Classes for these sacraments will begin shortly on Wednesdays in the parish centre. A member of the parish teaching team will contact you in the coming weeks.

Dates for Confirmation 2027 will issue in the coming weeks from the Diocesan Office.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

27:30-28:7

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 102:1-4,9-12.R.v.8

R. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals everyone of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

14:7-9

Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

18:21-35

I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. 'Give me time' he said 'and I will pay the whole sum.' And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. 'Pay what you owe me' he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, 'Give me time and I will pay you'. But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. 'You wicked servant,' he said 'I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?' And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

First Holy Communion Dates for Bandon Parish 2027.

May 1st Gael Scoil in St Patrick's Church

May 8th Laragh in Lady Chapel Gaggin

May 15th Bandon Primary School & Bandon Bridge in St Patrick's Church

May 22nd Crossmahon in Lady Chapel Gaggin.

All Masses are at 11am.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

The cut off for inclusion in the newsletter is 9am on Wednesday mornings.

Priority is given to Faith related content within the community.

Other community non profit making notices may be published if space permits.

Second Collection Weekend of September 19th/20th for the priesthood education.

Mass for the New School Year All those connected with our Catholic Primary Schools are invited to join Bishop Fintan Gavin in celebrating a Mass to pray for God's blessings for the new school year at: **St. Patrick's Cathedral, Skibbereen on Monday 14th September at 7:30pm**, followed by refreshments at St. Joseph's National School *or* **Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne, Cork on Tuesday 15th September at 7:30pm**, followed by refreshments at the Cathedral Visitor Centre.

Bandon Family of Parishes OCIA program (formerly RCIA)

The OCIA program is a series of Wednesday night sessions geared toward adults. Individuals learn about the Catholic faith in a relaxed setting, leading to the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

A group of trained parishioners journey with candidates in preparation for the Sacraments.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more please contact Esther on (087) 149 7094

Thinking about being a Priest in the Diocese of Cork & Ross?

If you are between the ages of 18 and 40 and feel there is a possibility that God may be calling you to be a diocesan priest, then our monthly Discernment Group Meetings may be a good way to help you to discern this call. It is a gentle non-committal first step in the process which takes the form of a monthly meeting with other men discerning their call. The monthly meetings offer an opportunity for prayer, conversation, fellowship and accompaniment. An experienced spiritual director will also be provided to help guide you along the path. The first meeting takes place on Saturday September 26th. To find more, have a chat, or to register your interest, please email Fr Marius at vocations@corkandross.org

Scoil Bhride Crossmahon Open Evening Thursday 17th September from 6:30pm - 8pm.

Laragh National School

Will hold an **Open Evening** for children starting Junior Infants in September 2027 between **5.00pm and 7.00pm on Thursday September 24th**. *Come and visit our school, meet the staff and see some of what our school has to offer.*

Cultural Tour Pilgrimage to San Giovanni, Puglia/Padre Pio Beckons

Group Leader: Mícheál De Barra / Spiritual Director: Fr John Newman

On this tour to Southern Italy, we will visit the home and monastery of Padre Pio in San Giovanni. Also the Castellena Caves, Bari, Lecce and much more. Dates 12-20th Oct '26 4* Hotels throughout. Contact Mícheál 086 833 7681. **Early Booking Essential.**

Abide Women's Conference, November 20th-22nd, the Great Northern Hotel Bundoran, Co. Donegal. Speakers include: Sarah Swafford, Fr Barry Braum, Fr Mark Wharton, Kimberlee WooLing, Danielle Noonan, Nashville Dominicans & more, Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Fintan Gavin, from Cork & Ross Diocese. We would love to welcome you this weekend. For more details please visit Abide in His Love at [eventbrite.ie](https://abideinhislove.eventbrite.com) Registration link: <https://abideinhislove.eventbrite.com>

PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN WITH YOU FROM THE CHURCH

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