

PARISHES NEWSLETTER

Skibbereen and Rath & the Islands

Parishes website – www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Priests: Skibbereen and Rath and the Islands Parishes: Fr Michael Kelleher, Adm. 028 22878, Fr Evin O'Brien 028 22877

Office: 028 22828, E-mail: skibbereenparish@gmail.com - Office Hours: Tues. Wed, from 10am to 12.00

Please contact Margaret in advance by leaving a message - on 028 22828 or email skibbereenparish@gmail.com and she will respond to your request during office hours.

Notifications of anniversaries: Please place these in the Sacristy letter box.

Child Safeguarding: Contact Telephone: (00353) 028 22828 (Parish Office)

Skibbereen - Jacinta Crowley, Theresa Hickey, Eileen Ryan; **Rath** - Maura Collins, Dee Griffiths, Siobhan O'Brien.

Parish Pastoral Assemblies: Contact Telephone: 028 22828 (Parish Office)

Skibbereen: - Chair; Anita Henderson; Vice Chairperson: Dolores Ruane; Secretary – Clare Gallagher.

Rath and the Islands: - Chair – Maeve Devlin; Secretary – Annette Cadogan.

Parish Newsletter and website notices - Please note newsletter editorial email skibrathisnews@gmail.com Notices for insertion should be concise (about 30 words) and may contain information about non-commercial matters. Written notices may be sent to the Parish Office not later than Wednesday evening for inclusion in the following week's newsletter. Please see the Parishes website for full guidelines: www.skibbereenandrath.ie

New Covid 19 restrictions apply from this weekend and public Masses are discontinued for the present. Live streaming of Masses from Sacred Heart Church, Rath available at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Saturday 26th St Stephen's Day

7.30pm Rath Online at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Sunday, 27th December

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

10.15am Rath Online at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Monday 28th The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

10.15am Rath – Online at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Tuesday 29th St Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr

10.15am Rath – Special Intention

Wednesday 30th 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

10.15am Rath – Online at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Thursday 31st St Sylvester, pope

10.15am Rath - Online at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Friday 1st January 2021 Mary the mother of God

10.15am Rath – Online at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Saturday 2nd Ss Basil and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church

7.30pm Rath – Online at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Sunday 3rd Second Sunday of Christmas

10.15am Rath – Online at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

The priests will continue to say Mass privately - Mass intentions for Joseph O'Brien, Newbridge, Maura Hayes, Cork Road, Jerry and Eileen Forde, Douglas, Christine & Denis Browne, Baltimore, The Murphy Family, Timoleague, Catherine O'Driscoll, Kilkilleen & Heir Is, Tim Joe McCarthy, Townshend Street, Michael & Julia Forde, Currahene & Creagh, Bebe & Denis O'Mahony, Newcestown, Mary Holland, South Rath, Denis Dempsey, Shepperton

An Act of Spiritual Communion - My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Marriages: At least 3 months' notice; Please contact one of the priests or the office for further information.

Baptisms by appointment: each Saturday at 4.00pm (Cathedral) or on Sunday in Rath following 10.15am Mass;

Forms available in Office (Skibbereen) & Sacristy. (Rath) Office: 028 22828, or download from parish website www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Confessions: No Confessions possible just now due to Covid 19 restrictions

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Cathedral Exposition Chapel – Open every day

Rosary: each Tuesday evening at 8.00pm at the Grotto, Cork Rd.

Christmas Message:

From all involved in the Parishes of Skibbereen and Rath and the Islands. We wish you a happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year. Special thanks to all who put in time to organise tickets for the Christmas Masses and everybody involved with our website.

Feasts This Week

27th: The Holy Family is seen as the model for the human family, the religious community, and the Church itself. The celebration of the Incarnation has brought us to see God's closeness. In the Holy Family we see the ordinariness of the life of Jesus, the simple acceptance by Mary and Joseph of the marvels of God. In the daily life of family and community we can touch the divine, we can come close to God. But we have to learn to live centred on God, with respect and love for each other.

28th: 'The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the **Holy Innocents** make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light: "He came to his own home, and his own people received him not." Christ's whole life was lived under the sign of persecution. His own share it with him. Jesus' departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents him as the definitive liberator of God's people.'

29th: St Thomas Becket 1118-1170, os Archbishop of Canterbury, came in conflict with King Henry II over Church rights. He was killed in his cathedral on this date.

31st: St Sylvester died in 335 after being pope for twenty-one years. Being elected in the year after the Edict of Milan he was free to build many churches in Rome.

1st: Mary, Mother of God. At the message of the angel, the Virgin Mary received the Word of God in her heart and in her body, and gave Life to the world. Hence she is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer (*Lumen gentium*, 52).

2nd: St Basil, 330-79, Bishop of Caesarea, lived an ascetic life establishing norms for monastic life. He was a theologian of distinction. **St Gregory**, 329-89, a friend of Basil, was Bishop of Sasima and later of Constantinople. He retired to live a monastic life.

Priest on Duty
this week:

Fr Michael
Emergency only
086-7852262.

Mass from Rath Church is available on the parishes facebook pages:
<https://www.facebook.com/Rath-And-The-Islands-Parish-107099597589866/>

Hear Mass via the Radio, TV and Internet

Radio Maria: Mass is broadcast daily at 10.00 am and on Sunday at 10.00 am and 11.00 am. Listen on Saorview ch 210, or on the “Radio Maria Ireland” App, or on Internet <https://www.radiomaria.ie/> and on Facebook “Listen Live Radio”

RTE News Now TV broadcasts Mass every weekday at 10.30am. (Try Sky channel 521)

Church Services website guides you to a multitude of available Masses both here and in Europe: www.churchservices.tv/timetable

Recently Baptised

Aaron Galvin, 28 The Moorings,
Zoey Grace Ryan, 39 The Mills
God our Father, You always work to save us, and now we rejoice in the great love you give to your chosen people. Protect all who have become your children, and continue to bless those who are already baptised.

Recently Deceased

Rosaleen Dwyer, COPE Cork Road
God of loving kindness, listen favourably to our prayer: strengthen our belief that your Son has risen from the dead and our hope that your servant will also rise again

Sherkin Island St Vincent de Paul Carol Service went online this year and they want to thank everybody for the tremendous response. €1900 was raised this year, nearly double that of most previous years. Well done and thanks to all involved.

Bishop Fintan’s Christmas message – an extract:

the full version is available on the Diocesan website: www.corkandroass.org

This year more than ever we need to celebrate the feast of ‘God with us’ — Emmanuel. He chose to come among us and to bring to us and the world a message of hope. He came that we may have life “and have it to the full” (Jn 10:10). Christ is our hope!

A Different Christmas. We had many reminders that this year’s Christmas was going to be different. We will be marking it in a new world, a changed society, a fragile community and in homes that are not the same. Since the pandemic began people have made extraordinary sacrifices to support and help one another. Many people’s plans have had to go back to the drawing board. Some people’s lives have been irreversibly altered by the loss of a loved one and by the circumstances of their death and funeral. We have also found ourselves reflecting more and refocussing our priorities. We are more aware of our vulnerability. These months have challenged us to focus on what is really important.

A Message of Hope: I would like to suggest three foundation stones which we could focus on. They can also be our steppingstones into a hope-filled new year. These steppingstones are family, friends, and faith.

Family. The part that family plays in our lives has been re-awakened. The pandemic has pulled some families apart due to travel and visitor restrictions. Physical contact between children and grandparents is missed. Other families are spending more time together than ever before. Our sense of who we belong to lies deep within us and never goes away. At Christmas time it takes on special meaning because when everything else stops, being family does not. Christmas, especially this Christmas, is about our real family and not how we might like our family to be.

Friendships. Our friendships, too, have been affected by the Covid19 restrictions. Students have found themselves more isolated from one another. While we cannot easily gather physically, we can find new and creative ways of keeping in touch in the lead up to Christmas and beyond, from Christmas card greetings to virtual messages to the traditional phone call. I know that many young people have extended the hand of friendship to those living in care homes with letters and cards. I invite you to reach out to others. The fabric of our society needs faithful friendships that endure whatever comes.

Faith. The pandemic has forced us to ask questions about what our faith is and how it is expressed in pandemic times. Given that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life, not being able to gather for Mass for long periods or with severely restricted numbers has not been easy. As we experience this Eucharistic fast, I encourage you to look at other ways we can meet Christ. Can we mark Sunday — the Lord’s Day — in a special way? Can we gather the household together and dress and prepare as if we were travelling to church? This will help us to be attentive and to welcome Jesus in spiritual communion. The Covid-19 pandemic has helped many people to slow down and appreciate more the beauty and fragility of all that God has created for us. Christ, our hope, is always with us! “Always be thankful” (Col 3:15)

I thank all those in our diocesan community, priests, religious and people of the diocese, who have lived these months of the pandemic with faith, commitment, and deep care for others. I thank especially health care personnel and others who work in essential roles for their generous and heroic service to the community. My prayer for each of us this Christmas is one of hope and solidarity — that we might meet Christ as we reach out to others with His love, compassion, joy, and peace.

May your Christmas be a blessed time this year. Beannachtaí na Nollag.

✠ Fintan Gavin, Bishop of Cork and Ross

St VINCENT DE PAUL. CONTACT NUMBER; 087 9182698

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — DAILY MEETINGS IN SKIBBEREEN. FOR INFORMATION TEL; 087 6114946

Prevention Helpline 1800 742 745: a free phone help-line open daily from 6.00pm — 10.00pm for people who are feeling suicidal or equally for a family member or friend who is concerned about someone.

Living Links –supporting the relatives and other survivors of suicide: Tom Corcoran 085 2445575, tomcorcoran@westcorklivinglinks.ie

West Cork Women against Violence Helpline: 1800203136

Bingo in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Abbeystrewry Church Hall every Monday at 8.30pm.

West Cork Carers Support Group: The Round Tower, Main Street, Bantry, Tel; 02753848. Are you looking after a dependant family member, neighbour or friend? Check for support, courses and advice.

Crisis or Unplanned Pregnancy Support and Counselling; CURA – 1850622626; www.cura.ie

Legion of Mary Meetings: Monday evenings at 7.00pm in St Vincent de Paul Rooms, Market Street.

South Doc: 1850 335 999