

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.

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) 0 28 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

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

Saturday 16th Jan - St Fursa, abbot and missionary

7.30pm - Rath, John & Hanna Sheehy, Creagh

Skibbereen - Francis Murray

Sunday 17th Jan - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.15am - Rath – Kathleen Conway, Months Mind,

Skibbereen – Eileen Collins, Lake Marsh

Sean Connolly, Oldcourt

Monday 18th Jan - 2nd Week in Ordinary Time

10.15am - Rath - Special Intention

Skibbereen -Kathleen Connolly, Townshend St

Tuesday 19th Jan - 2nd Week in Ordinary Time

10.15am - Rath – Special Intention

Skibbereen - Special Intention

Wednesday 20th Jan - St Sebastian, martyr

10.15am - Rath-Special Intention

Skibbereen - David & Ciss Power, Adrigole

Thursday 21st Jan - St Agnes, virgin and martyr

10.15am - Rath – Special Intention

Skibbereen - In Memory of the O'Neill Family,

Coolnagarrane

Friday 22nd Jan – St Vincent, deacon and martyr

10.15am - Rath –Special Intention

Skibbereen - Special Intention

Saturday 23rd Jan - 2nd Week in Ordinary Time

7.30pm - Rath–Eileen & Daniel Davis, Mary & George

Walsh, Lackahane

Skibbereen - Denis Crowley, The Moorings

Sunday 24th Jan - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.15am - Rath – Agnes Davis, Lackahane,

Skibbereen - Special Intention

Liam Calnan, Coolnagarrane

Mass Intentions: Mass Intentions that are booked in the Cathedral will be offered during the Daily Live Streamed Masses from Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

Jesus is with you even when you do not feel his presence; he is never so close to you as he is during your spiritual battles, St Padre Pio

Feasts this week

20th: St Sebastian may have been a soldier and was martyred in the persecution of Diocletian. He sustained many others in their trials.

21st: St. Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family.

Her hand in marriage was highly sought after, and she had many high-ranking men chasing after her. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death! Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse."

According to legend, the young men she turned away became so angry and insulted by her devotion to God and purity that they began to submit her name to authorities as a Christian follower. In one incident, Procop, the Governor's son, became very angry when she refused him. He tried to win her for his wife with rich gifts and promises, but the beautiful young girl kept saying, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!" In great anger, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her to his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes wonderful gifts if she would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her lovely face shone with joy. Next, he sent her to a place of sin, but an Angel protected her. At last, she was condemned to death. Even the pagans cried to see such a young and beautiful girl going to death. Yet, Agnes was as happy as a bride on her wedding day. She did not pay attention to those who begged her to save herself. "I would offend my Spouse," she said, "if I were to try to please you. He chose me first and He shall have me!" Then she prayed and bowed her head for the death-stroke of the sword.

22nd: St Vincent, deacon of the church of Saragossa, Spain, martyred in 304inValencia after prolonged torture.

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

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

Priest on Duty this week: Fr Evin
Emergency only
086-7852262.

Daily Live streaming of Masses from Sacred Heart Church, Rath available at www.skibbereenandrath.ie
 Sunday to Friday -10.15am each morning
 Saturday Vigil - 7.30pm

Recently Deceased

John C. White, Gortnaclohy
 Patrick John Burchill, 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

Baptismal numbers - Skibbereen parish
 2018 - 41
 2019- 46
 2020 - 15

Baptismal numbers - Rath and the islands parish
 2018- 12
 2019- 12
 2020 - 4

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: 18-25 JANUARY 2021

From 18-25 January, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held. The texts for the Masses for Christian Unity are given in the Missal, pp. 1 176-81. These can be used on days which allow a choice throughout the Week of Prayer. The Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs, form I (The Church on the Path of Unity), may be used each day. The theme for the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 'Abide in My Love... You Shall Bear Much Fruit'. It was discerned by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and finds its origins in the Gospel of John (cf. Jn 15:5-9):

Why does the priest wear different colour Vestments at Mass?

When you attend mass throughout the year you may notice that the Chasuble, which is the main Vestment a priest wears quite often differs in colour from one day to the next. The colour of the vestment that the priest wears has a lot of symbolism to it. In the early days of the Church the colour that was primarily used was white; as the 4th century began the priest began to wear different colour vestments other than white and it wasn't until the 12th century that the present-day colours were finally finalized. But what do the different colour Vestments symbolise.

White: White Vestments represent purity and Holiness. These vestments are worn during the season of Christmas and Easter. They are also worn on many of the feast days of Our Lord, Our Lady and the saints.

Red: Red is the colour of blood and is often used for the feast day of a Martyr. The Red Vestment is also used on Passion Sunday, Good Friday and on Pentecost Sunday.

Green. The Green Vestment is primarily used during ordinary time. It symbolises new life and hope which are found in Jesus Christ alone.

Violet – The Violet Vestment represents mourning, penance and sorrow for the sins we have committed. The Purple Vestment is used during Advent, Lent and during funerals.

Black – The Black Vestment symbolises death. It is used on All Souls day and can also be used for funerals.

Gold: Whilst Rare; Gold vestments can be used during Easter, Christmas and the celebration of any feast day as a substitute to the White Vestment.

Rose: the Rose Vestment represents Joy. It is worn by the priest on only two days of the Church's liturgical year. The Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Rose vestments signal the end of the penitential season and announce the upcoming celebration of Christmas or Easter.

The Power of Prayer.

If we only knew and mediated on the power of prayer we would never cease to pray. The saints knew the power of prayer; they knew it was the key to opening the heart of God. Jesus tells when we pray two things are necessary: we must have **Faith** – which means we must trust that God will answer our prayer in a way that is best for us – even if we do not always see it that way – And we must **Persevere in prayer** – Our Lord tells us again that persistence in prayer is an essential element to unlocking its power. For as the great Saint Padre Pio teaches us “Pray, Hope and do not worry. Prayer is the key that opens the heart of the Lord”.

Lectionary Year B- Year of Mark

Mark's main interest is the person of Jesus himself. He follows Jesus through his public ministry in Galilee, outside Galilee and finally in Jerusalem itself immediately before the Passion. The crisis is reached when the fundamental question is posed to the disciples: 'Who do you say I am?' Peter's confession of faith is, therefore, at the heart of Mark's Gospel. In the Year of Mark, the *Lectionary* observes faithfully the structure and message of the Gospel itself. One important peculiarity is that the *Lectionary* includes a major insert from the Gospel of John (Sundays, 1 7-21: John 6 - the sermon on the 'Bread of Life'). This fits into this part of Mark's Gospel, which is concerned with Jesus' revelation of himself, and is known as 'the Bread section.'

Unit I	The figure of Jesus the Messiah	Sundays	1 -2
Unit II	The mystery progressively revealed	Sundays	3-23
	Stage 1 Jesus with the Jewish crowds	Sundays	3-9
	Stage 2 Jesus with the disciples	Sundays	10-14
	Stage 3 Jesus manifests himself	Sundays	1 5-23
Unit III	The mystery of the Son of Man	Sundays	24-34
	Stage 1 The 'Way' of the Son of Man	Sundays	24-30
	Stage 2 Final revelation in Jerusalem	Sundays	31 -33
	Stage 3 The fulfillment of the mystery	Sunday	34

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 helpline opens 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