

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 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

Monday 25th Jan - The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Skibbereen - John Kirby, Midleton

Tuesday 26th Jan - Ss Timothy and Titus, bishops

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Skibbereen - Special Intention

Wednesday 27th Jan - St Angela Merici, virgin and religious

10.15am Rath - Helen O'Brien, St Fachtna's Terrace Months Mind

Skibbereen - John and Mary Murphy, Bauravilla

Thursday 28th Jan - St Thomas Aquinas, priest & doctor of the Church

10.15am Rath - - Special Intention

Skibbereen- Special Intention

Friday 29th Jan - 3rd Week in Ordinary Time

10.15am Rath –Special Intention

Skibbereen - Special Intention- our parish volunteers for their time and dedication.

Saturday 30th Jan - St Aidan, bishop

7.30pm Rath – Mary Whelan, Ballincollig

Skibbereen – John Collins, Chapel Lane

Sunday 31st Jan - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.15am Rath – Liam Devlin, Reengaroga,

Skibbereen - David O'Neill, Toreensillane

Dominic Hodnett, Callon, Louth & Skibbereen

William and Mary O'Regan, Schull

Online Mass Intentions: Mass Intentions booked in Skibbereen will be offered during the Rath Daily Mass

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

25th: St Paul preached the power of God at work in the lives of each one of us. His own conversion shows that power in his life. Out of a persecutor God made a preacher and teacher of the peoples. Paul never ceased to express thanks and wonder for this grace. But he still prayed for perseverance.

26th: Ss Timothy and Titus were close to St Paul as followers and later in their work with him. Tradition makes Timothy the first bishop of Ephesus. And from Paul's advice to him to take some wine for his stomach's sake, he has been invoked as a patron incases of stomach complaint. Titus was sent to organise the Church in Crete.

27th: St Angela Merici, 1474-1540, founder of the Ursulines, devoted herself to Christian education based on love, kindness with firmness, and concern for the individual.

28th: StThomas Aquinas was born in Italy in 1224. He died in 1274. Thomas taught that Christian revelation and human knowledge are aspects of a single truth and cannot be in conflict with one another. One of the greatest theologians, he is patron of schools, universities, students and booksellers.

30th: St Aidan, Monastic founder, bishop, and miracle worker known for his kindness to animals. Known as Edan, Modoc, and Maedoc in some records, Aidan was born in Connaught, Ireland. Tradition states that his birth was heralded by signs and omens, and he showed evidence of piety as a small child. Educated at Leinster, Aidan went to St. David monastery in Wales. He remained there for several years, studying Scriptures, and his presence saved St. David from disaster. Saxon war parties attacked the monastery during Aidan's stay, and he supposedly repelled them miraculously. In time, Aidan returned to Ireland, founding a monastery in Ferns, in Wexford. He became the bishop of the region as well. His miracles brought many to the Church. Aidan is represented in religious art with a stag. He is reported to have made a beautiful stag invisible to save it from hounds.

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

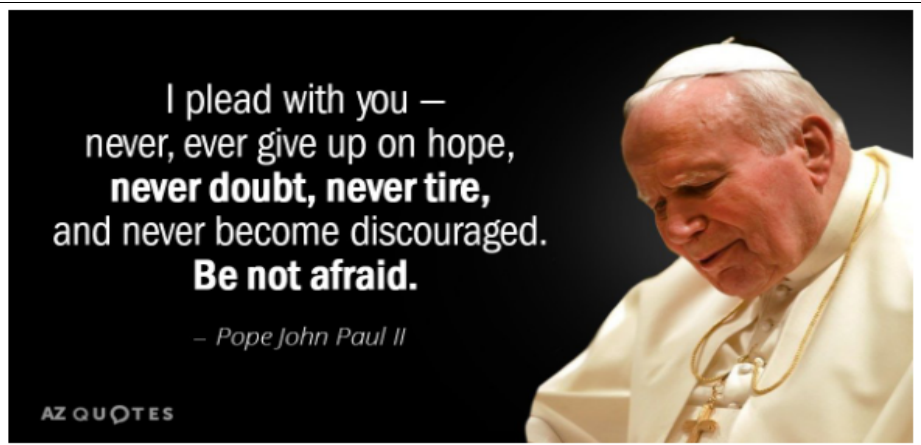
Rosary: each Tuesday evening at 8.00pm at the Grotto, Cork Rd.

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

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”.

Sanctuary Lamp? Have you ever wondered when you entered a church what the Red Candle which is almost always lightning and is usually placed in the sanctuary area represents? This Candle is called the sanctuary lamp and is a symbol of the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Tabernacle. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal tells us “*in accordance with traditional custom, near the tabernacle a special lamp, fueled by oil or wax, should be kept alight to indicate and honor the presence of Christ.*” The sanctuary lamp is extinguished on Good Friday when the body of Christ is removed from the main church and relit at Easter.



The infinite Power of God - It is only when we stop and contemplate who God actually is that we will come to appreciate His love for us more deeply. Our faith teaches us that God always existed – there was never a time when He did not exist nor will there ever come a time when He will cease to exist. He is simple Eternal – Meaning He always was, and He always will be. Science teaches us that there are Billions and Billions of planets all throughout the universe – one bigger than the other and our faith teaches us that all of this was created by the same God that created you and I. His power is immense – it has no limit – as the Catechism of the Council Trent teaches us “God can do all things and not only that He can do far more than we can even imagine”. Yet this God of infinite power and majesty; whose glory surpasses all understanding came down from Heaven to die on the cross for you and I – so that if we turn to Him with hearts of repentance we can spend eternity in His presence. It is something all of us should be eternally grateful for. Remember this truth the next time you look upon the cross – if you were the only person who ever sinned in the world – Jesus – God in the flesh would still have come down from Heaven and died for you alone. Let us always contemplate the son of God hanging on the cross out of love for you and I.



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

Did you know? On February 22nd 1931, Jesus appeared to a Polish nun, Sister Faustina, who was later canonized by a fellow Pole, John Paul II in the year 2000? Our Lord said many beautiful things to her, which are recorded in her diary and can be purchased in any Catholic bookshop. The book is called “The Diary of Sister Faustina.” One of the promises made by Jesus was that anyone who recites the Divine Mercy Chaplet, which He taught her, would receive extraordinary graces and great mercy at the hour of death. When this chaplet is recited, at the bedside of a dying person, He promised that, “I will stand between my Father and the dying person, not as a just judge, but as a merciful saviour.” How to recite this prayer can be found online. <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>

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