

# PARISHES NEWSLETTER

## Skibbereen and Rath & the Islands

Parishes website – [www.skibbereenandrath.ie](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.skibbereenandrath.ie)

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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, Co Louth and Skibbereen &

William and Mary O'Regan, Schull

**Monday 1st February - St Brigid**

**10.15am Rath** - Special Intention

Skibbereen - Liam O'Regan, The Abbey

**Tuesday 2nd February - The Presentation of the Lord**

**10.15am Rath** - Special Intention

Skibbereen - Richard Osbourne, 21 Chapel Lane, Skibbereen

**Wednesday 3rd February - St Blaise, bishop and martyr**

**10.15am - Rath** - Margaret Caverly, Munig

Skibbereen - Special Intention

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February – 4th Week in Ordinary Time**

**10.15am Rath** - Special Intention

Skibbereen- Special Intention

**Friday 5th February - St Agatha, virgin and martyr**

**10.15am - Rath** –Denis P O'Driscoll, Kilkilleen & Cape Clear

Skibbereen - Michael McCarthy, Riverdale

**Saturday 6th Feb - Ss Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs**

**7.30pm Rath** –Special Intention

Skibbereen - Dan Griffin, Cork Rd

**Sunday 7th February - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**10.15am - Rath**– Teddy Collins, Reengaroga

Skibbereen - Special Intention

Pat Connolly, Deelish

**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

**1st: St Brigid** is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick. She was born c. 454. When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her but she insisted in consecrating her virginity to God. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524 and her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in several European lands. The St Brigid's Cross, in legend used by Brigid to explain the Christian faith, remains a popular sign of God's protection.

**2<sup>nd</sup>: The Presentation of the Lord.** This feast is a remembrance of the Lord and Mary, mother of the Lord. With candles in their hands, the people go out to meet the Lord and to acclaim him like Simeon, who recognised Christ as 'a light to reveal God to the nations'.

**3<sup>rd</sup>: St Blaise**, died 315. Bishop of Sebaste, martyred in Armenia. Tradition states that he was a physician before becoming a bishop. Since the eighth century he has been venerated as patron of those who suffer from disease of the throat. The blessing of St Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick. Using two crossed and unlighted candles, blessed on the memorial of St Blaise or on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the minister touches the throat of each person, saying, 'Through the intercession of St Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other evil [or from every disease of the throat and from every other illness]. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'

**5<sup>th</sup>: St Agatha** died a martyr for the faith at Catania in Sicily in the third century. Patron of bell-founders

**6th:Ss Paul Miki & Companions** martyred at Nagasaki, Japan, in 1597. The six Franciscans, seventeen Franciscan Tertiaries, and three Jesuits died suspended on crosses.

**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.

**St Brigid:** According to tradition, Brigid was born in the year 451 AD in Faughart, just north of Dundalk in County Louth, Ireland. Because of the legendary quality of the earliest accounts of her life, there is debate among many secular scholars and Christians as to the authenticity of her biographies. Three biographies agree that her mother was Brocca, a Christian Pict slave who had been baptized by Saint Patrick. They name her father as Dubthach, a chieftain of Leinster. The *vitae* say that Dubthach's wife forced him to sell Brigid's mother to a druid when she became pregnant. Brigid herself was born into slavery. Legends of her early holiness include her vomiting when the druid tried to feed her, due to his impurity; a white cow with red ears appeared to sustain her instead. As she grew older, Brigid was said to have performed miracles, including healing and feeding the poor. According to one tale, as a child, she once gave away her mother's entire store of butter. The butter was then replenished in answer to Brigid's prayers. Around the age of ten, she was returned as a household servant to her father, where her habit of charity led her to donate his belongings to anyone who asked. In both of the earliest biographies, Dubthach is portrayed as having been so annoyed with Brigid that he took her in a chariot to the King of Leinster to sell her. While Dubthach was talking to the king, Brigid gave away his bejeweled sword to a beggar to barter it for food to feed his family. The king recognized her holiness and convinced Dubthach to grant his daughter freedom.

*Brigid of Kildare - Wikipedia*

### Recently Deceased

Donal O` Donavan Bunlick

*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*

### The Power of Holy Water

Did you know that Holy Water has the power to bring down God's blessing upon the place where it is sprinkled? Many saints tell us and indeed the Church Herself teaches us that Holy water has the power to protect us from every Evil both spiritually and physically. It is a remedy God gives us to protect ourselves against the attacks of the Devil and a remedy to protect ourselves against all pestilences. When the priest blesses, Holy water using the proper formula that the Church outlines for him one part of the several prayers which he prays says "O God, Who for the salvation of mankind has built Thy greatest mysteries on this substance, water, in Thy kindness hear our prayers and pour down the power of Thy blessing + into this element, made ready for many kinds of purifications. May this, Thy creature, become an agent of divine grace in the service of Thy mysteries, to drive away evil spirits and dispel sickness, so that every-thing in the homes and other buildings of the faithful that is sprinkled with this water may be rid of all uncleanness and freed from every harm. Let no breath of infection, no disease-bearing air, remain in these places. May the wiles of the lurking Enemy prove of no avail. Let whatever might menace the safety and peace of those who live here be put to flight by the sprinkling of this water, so that the healthfulness, obtained by calling upon Thy holy name, may be made secure against all attack! Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Holy water when blessed by a priest using the proper formula is a powerful tool given to us by God" We should never underestimate its power and we should sprinkle it often around our homes and property to invoke God's protective blessing. Holy water is available in St Patrick's Church Skibbereen in a container on the left as you approach the sacristy door from the outside. It is available at the back of the Church in Rath in the porch. Please bring your own bottle if you wish to take some Holy Water.

### Reflection of the Gospel

During this Sunday's Gospel we see our Lord exercising His authority over an unclean spirit. The Gospel of Mark recounts an incident for us in which a Devil says to the Lord "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God." But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him.

In this weekend's Gospel we see the awesome power of God in action in which the Devil is forced to submit to His command immediately. However, the gospel also reminds us of the reality of the Devil and the fallen angels. Pope Francis is very strong on this truth. One of the most commonly recurring spiritual themes that Pope Francis brings up during his homilies and apostolic letters is the reality of spiritual warfare and the need to be vigilant against the deceptions of the devil. He firmly believes that Satan is not a figment of our imagination but a real creature who can do serious damage to our souls and to the Church. Most recently he has asked the Church to pray the St. Michael Prayer to conquer the influence of Satan, who always seeks to divide the Christian faithful.

Daily Live streaming of Masses from Sacred Heart Church, Rath available at [www.skibbereenandrath.ie](http://www.skibbereenandrath.ie) Sunday to Friday -10.15am. Saturday Vigil - 7.30pm

Did you know that Pope John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> had a great devotion to the true presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Father would spend hours each day in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament sustained him throughout his entire life. Every time we enter a Church Jesus waits for us in the Tabernacle to unload all our worries onto Him. "Come to me all you who are weary, and I will give you rest". (Matthew 11:28) The saints became saints because they prayed. We too are called to become saints and the key to this must begin with daily prayer.

**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](mailto:tomcorcoran@westcorklivinglinks.ie)

**West Cork Women against Violence Helpline:** 1800203136

**Bingo in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul Society** in the Abbeystewry 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](http://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**