

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.

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 13th February - 5th Week in Ordinary Time
7.30pm Rath –Special Intention

Skibbereen – Paddy, Sheila, Tomas & Michael Herlihy,
Coolnagarrane

Sunday 14th February - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.15am Rath – William & Nancy Kelly, Connolly St, Bandon

Skibbereen - Dan Collins, Lake Marsh, Paddy O'Shea, Market St

Monday 15th February - 6th Week in Ordinary Time

12.00 noon Rath – Requiem Mass for Kieran O'Regan

Tuesday 16th February - 6th Week in Ordinary Time
(Shrove Tuesday)

10.15am Rath - Flo Devlin

Skibbereen - William Hayes, Cullinagh;

Mary and Michael O'Sullivan, Skibbereen

Wednesday 17th February - ASH WEDNESDAY

10.15am - Rath - Special Intention

Skibbereen - Redmond & Elizabeth Condon, Cork

Thursday 18th February - After Ash Wednesday

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Skibbereen – John Streeton, Lisalohorig

Friday 19th February - After Ash Wednesday

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Skibbereen - Dan Keohane, Caheragh

Saturday 20th February - After Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Rath – Margaret & Jerome Minihane, Creagh

Skibbereen - Detta Carey, Derrylugga

Sunday 21st February - First Sunday of Lent

10.15am - Rath - Clare Connolly, Lough Hyne

Skibbereen – John & Eily O'Sullivan, Lisalohorig,
Frank McCarthy, Coronea

Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2021 - The first day of Lent

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words:

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass.

Ash Wednesday - Easter / Lent - Catholic Online



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

Ashes will be blessed on Ash Wednesday during the 10.15am online mass in Rath. These Ashes will then be available in special envelopes for people to take with them from Sacred Heart Church Rath and St Patrick's Cathedral Skibbereen from about 12 noon onwards.

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.

Why do we place ashes on our heads on Ash Wednesday?

Perhaps this is a question we never really reflected upon before. But the tradition of placing ashes on our foreheads on As Wednesday is an age-old practice. The use of ashes was adapted to mark the beginning of Lent, the 40-day preparation period (not including Sundays) for Easter. In our liturgy for Ash Wednesday, we use ashes made from the burned palm branches distributed on the Palm Sunday of the previous year. The priest blesses the ashes and imposes them on the foreheads of the faithful, making the sign of the cross and saying, "Remember, man you are dust and to dust you shall return," or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." When we begin the holy season of Lent in preparation for Easter, we must remember the significance of the ashes we have received: We mourn and do penance for our sins. We again convert our hearts to the Lord, who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation. We renew the promises made at our baptism, when we died to an old life and rose to a new life with Christ. Finally, mindful that the kingdom of this world passes away, we strive to live the kingdom of God now and look forward to its fulfillment in heaven.

Fasting during Lent was more prominent in ancient times than today. In many places, the observant abstained from food for a whole day until the evening, and at sunset, Western Christians traditionally broke the Lenten fast, which was often known as the Black Fast. As with all ecclesiastical laws, particular difficulties, such as strenuous work or illness, excused one from observance, and a dispensation from the law could be granted by a bishop or parish priest. A rule of thumb is that the two collations should not add up to the equivalent of another full meal. Rather portions were to be: "sufficient to sustain strength, but not sufficient to satisfy hunger". This was made part of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, which made obligatory fasting for those aged between 18 and 59, and abstinence for those aged 14 and upward. The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference decided to allow other forms of Friday penance to replace that of abstinence from meat, whether in Lent or outside Lent, suggesting alternatives such as abstaining from some other food, or from alcohol or smoking; making a special effort at participating in family prayer or in Mass; making the Stations of the Cross; or helping the poor, sick, old, or lonely.

Lent - Wikipedia

Mass from Rath Church will be streamed live from Sunday to Friday at 10.15am, and Saturday at 7.30pm from www.skibbereenandrath.ie

FORMS OF FRIDAY PENANCE

The following are suggested as ways of fulfilling Friday penance:

- Abstaining from meat or some other food;
- Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking;
- Making a special effort at involvement in family prayer;
- Making a special effort to participate in Mass on Fridays;
- Visiting the Blessed Sacrament;
- Making the Stations of the Cross;
- Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy;
- Helping the poor, sick, old or lonely.

From the statement on Friday Penance issued by the Bishops' Conference

Catholic Online School: <https://www.catholiconline.school/>

This website offers free lessons for all ages on many subjects of interest to Catholics. Give it a try?

Padre Pio's Sacred Heart Novena Prayer

O my Jesus, You have said: "Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of (here name your request). Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O my Jesus, You have said: "Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in My name, He will give it to you." Behold, in Your name, I ask the Father for the grace of (here name your request). Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O my Jesus, you have said: "Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but My words will not pass away." Encouraged by Your infallible words I now ask for the grace of (here name your request). Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ... Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of You, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Your tender Mother and ours. Say the Hail, Holy Queen and add: "St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us."

Recently Deceased

Kathleen O'Driscoll, Ballymacrown, Baltimore

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 word *Lent* is a shortened form of the Old English word *lencten*, meaning "spring season."

Origin: Despite the existence of many fasting traditions before spring festivals, such as Easter, the origin of Lent is not certain. There are three prevailing theories: One, that it was created at the Council of Nicea in 325 and there is no earlier incarnation. Two, that it is based on an Egyptian post-theophany fast. Three, a combination of origins syncretized around the Council of Nicea.

Wikipedia

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 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

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

South Doc: 1850 335 999