

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> March - 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent**

**7.30pm Rath** –Christine Costello

Skibbereen – May O'Mahony, Drummig

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)**

**10.15am - Rath** – Donie O'Regan, Reengaroga

Skibbereen - Neily Keohane, Caheragh,  
Teresa O'Donovan, Derrylugga

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March - 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent**

**10.15am - Rath** – Alice Hegarty

Skibbereen - Tony Gallagher, Navan, Co Meath

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent**

**10.15am Rath**- Sheila Lynch

Skibbereen - Patrick and Kitty Hodnett, Goleen

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH - ST PATRICK, BISHOP,**

**PRINCIPAL PATRON OF IRELAND**

**10.15am Rath**- Deceased members of Connolly Family, Harbour View, Baltimore and the O'Brien & O'Hannrachain families, Howth & Skibbereen

Skibbereen– Kevin Barry, Durrus

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor of the Church**

**10.15am Rath** - Liam Walsh, Hillcrest, Skibbereen

Skibbereen - John Joe O'Regan, Boulibawn

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**10.15am – Rath** - Denis F O'Sullivan, Schull Rd, Skibbereen

Skibbereen, - Henry Peglar, Riverdale

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March - 4<sup>th</sup>Week of Lent**

**7.30pm Rath** –Frank Doran, Convent Hill & Residential Care Ctre, MM

Skibbereen – Larry Butler, Galleyhead, Lighthouse

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March - Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**10.15am -Rath** - Fiona Scully, Creagh & London

Skibbereen – Jim McCullagh, Mill Rd

Eileen & Cornelius Harrington, Gortnaclohy

**Online Mass Intentions:** Mass Intentions booked in Skibbereen

will be offered during the Rath Daily Mass

### Feasts this week

**17<sup>th</sup>: St Patrick.** The legend

that St Patrick's expelled snakes from Ireland only appeared in a book by a Cistercian monk, Jocelin of Furness, in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and St Patrick's association with the shamrock came much later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Professor of Ecclesiastical History at St Patrick's College

Maynooth said many of the

stories circulated about

Patrick come from oral

tradition, but "something

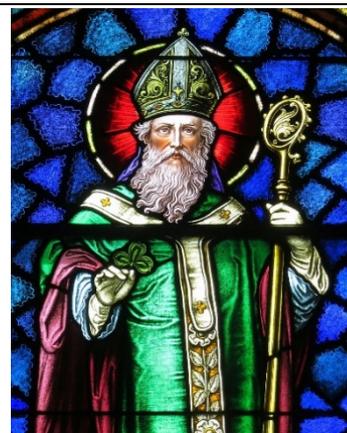
would not circulate without it being depicted in iconography," so the appearance of St Patrick holding a shamrock so late in history is "quite unusual".

What we know from St Patrick's own writings,

his *Confessions* and the *Letter to Coriticus*, is that he was the son of a deacon, grandson of a priest and was enslaved aged 16. He was brought to Ireland and tended herds, praying a hundred times by day, and a hundred times by night.

**18<sup>th</sup>: St Cyril of Jerusalem, 315-86, Bishop of Jerusalem.** He excelled as a catechist and administrator, and suffered exile in his fight against Arianism

**19<sup>th</sup>:** The virtues of **St Joseph** have been the object of ecclesial reflection down through the centuries, especially the more recent centuries. Among those virtues the following stand out: faith, with which he fully accepted God's salvific plan; prompt and silent obedience to the will of God; love for and fulfilment of the law, true piety, fortitude in time of trial; chaste love for the Blessed Virgin Mary, a dutiful exercise of his paternal authority, and fruitful reticence



Stained glass from Saint Patrick  
Catholic Church (Junction City, Ohio)

**Mass will be broadcasted live from Rath Church at 10.15am on St Patrick's day.**

**There will be no vigil mass on Tuesday evening.**

**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. Michael  
Emergency only  
086-7852262.

### Two Important Feasts

This coming week we celebrate two big feast days. On March 17<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast of Principle Patron saint of Ireland St Patrick and two days later March 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast of St Joseph the Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster Father of Jesus. Although four centuries separated these great saints both men shared something in common – they were both willing to give their all for God – even giving up their very lives if God required it of them. They saw that they were only pilgrims on this planet – simply passing through and it was what they did in this life would determine where they would spend eternity in the next life. Let us always having recourse to the saints asking them to pray for us that we may love Jesus Christ to the same extent they did – willing to obey anything God asks of us.

### Why do we wear Shamrock on St Patricks day ?

It might surprise people to learn that St. Patrick, our national saint, was not born in Ireland. Some claim he was born in Wales. Others say Scotland or Brittany. But we do know that he was an immigrant to Ireland, who, it is believed, came here as a slave. St Patrick felt a call from God to spread the message of Christianity throughout this island. To help people understand better the mystery of the Triune God (Three persons in one God) he used a piece of shamrock with three leaves. One leaf representing the Father, the other leaf representing the son and the third leaf representing the Holy ghost. This is why we wear shamrock today as a sign of our belief in the most Holy Trinity who alone is worthy of all our praise and thanksgiving.

### Mass from Rath Church will be streamed live from Sunday to Friday at 10.15am, and Saturday at 7.30pm from [www.skibbereenandrath.ie](http://www.skibbereenandrath.ie)

### Rath and The Islands Parish Assembly met via Zoom on Tuesday 2nd March 2021.

#### The following topics were discussed:

**Funeral Teams:** A discussion was held about the role of Funeral Teams. Volunteers required (would need to be comfortable and empathetic in a bereavement situation). Recently bereaved families have expressed how the pandemic has taken the pressure off the families and enabled them spend quality time with the deceased. The funeral team is seen as a natural evolution. Training can be carried out mainly on line with one face to face session.

**Finance Committee:** Accounts are being finalised and the finance committee need to sign off on the accounts. Skibbereen Parish and Rath and the Islands Parish are two separate entities in their accounts and finances.

**Web Site/WebCam:** Thanks was expressed to all involved in the setting up of the Church Web Cam which is used daily for mass and was much admired and appreciated by a recently bereaved family. Sunday and Daily Mass is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> month. Feedback has been positive with regards to sound and picture quality. Many thanks to Geraldine McCarthy and Susan Murphy Wickens for their work on the website and to Pat Leonard for the Webcam.

### St Patricks Breastplate

St. Patrick's Breastplate is a popular prayer attributed to one of Ireland's most beloved patron saints. According to tradition, St. Patrick wrote it in 433 A.D. for divine protection before successfully converting the Irish King Leoghaire and his subjects from paganism to Christianity. (The term breastplate refers to a piece of Armor worn in battle.)

I arise today

Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,  
Through belief in the Threeness,  
Through confession of the Oneness  
of the Creator of creation.

I arise today

Through the strength of Christ's birth with His baptism,  
Through the strength of His crucifixion with His burial,  
Through the strength of His resurrection with His ascension,  
Through the strength of His descent for the judgment of doom.

I arise today

Through the strength of the love of cherubim,  
In the obedience of angels,  
In the service of archangels,  
In the hope of resurrection to meet with reward,  
In the prayers of patriarchs,  
In the predictions of prophets,  
In the preaching of apostles,  
In the faith of confessors,  
In the innocence of holy virgins,  
In the deeds of righteous men.

I arise today, through

The strength of heaven,

The light of the sun,

The radiance of the moon,

The splendor of fire,

The speed of lightning,

The swiftness of wind,

The depth of the sea,

The stability of the earth,

The firmness of rock.

I arise today, through

God's strength to pilot me,

God's might to uphold me,

God's wisdom to guide me,

God's eye to look before me,

God's ear to hear me,

God's word to speak for me,

God's hand to guard me,

God's shield to protect me,

God's host to save me

### Recently Deceased

Terry Culbert, Swords Co Dubin, Carrigfadda and Gortnaclohy  
*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*

**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.

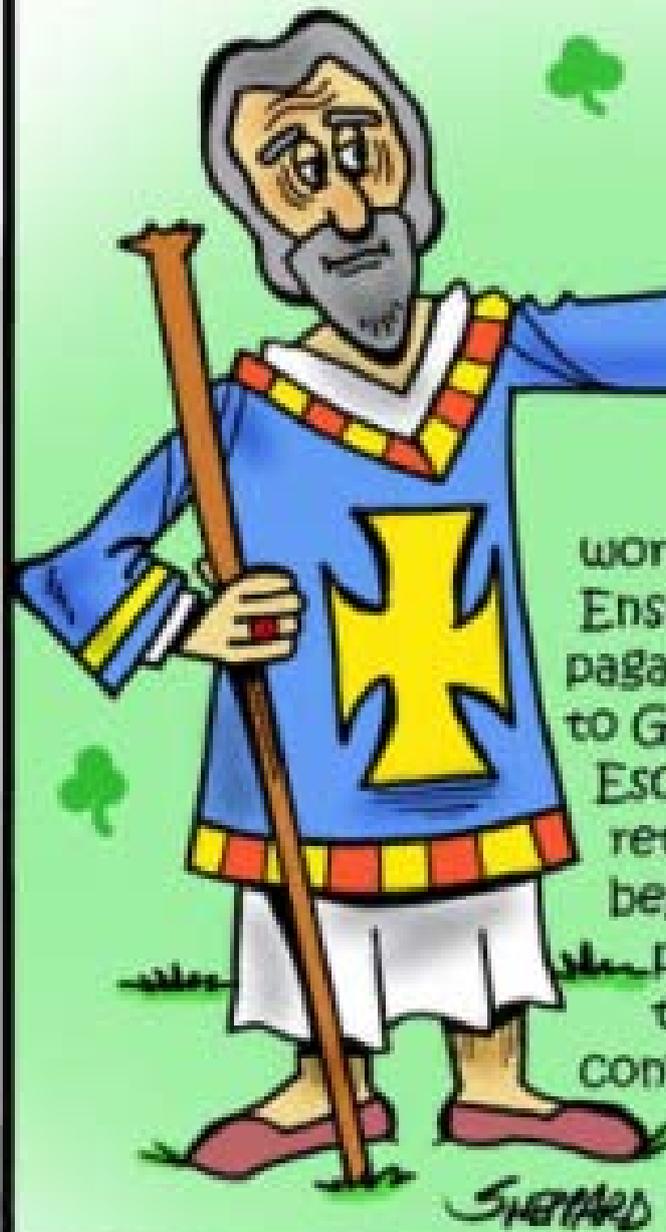
**Crisis or Unplanned Pregnancy Support and Counselling;** CURA – 1850622626; [www.cura.ie](http://www.cura.ie)

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

**South Doc: 1850 335 999**

# SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard



One of the world's most popular saints. Enslaved as a young teen by pagans and Druids, he turned to God while in captivity. Escaping at age 20, he returned to his family and began studying for the priesthood. He preached throughout Ireland converting many for 40 years. He died at Saul, site of the first church he built.

*St. Patrick*

[St. Patrick - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](http://www.catholic.com)