

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 apply; public Masses are discontinued for the present. Live streaming of all Masses from Sacred Heart Church, Rath is available at www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Saturday 24th April -St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest and martyr

7.30pm Rath – Special Intention

Skibbereen - William (Billy) Hurley, Gortnaclohy

Sunday 25th April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.15am Rath – Paddy Connolly, Skibbereen & Kinsale

Skibbereen - Junior Berry, Thornhill, Skibbereen

Monday 26th April - 4th Week of Easter

10.15am Rath - Angela Sheehy, Creagh

Skibbereen- Colm Crowley, Inchinagatogh

Tuesday 27th April - St Asicus, bishop

10.15am Rath – Special Intention

Skibbereen - John and Mary Murphy, Bauravilla

Wednesday 28th April St Louis Marie Grignion de Monfort, priest

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Skibbereen– Murty Fitzgerald, Lissaclarig

Thursday 29th April - St Catherine of Sienna, virgin and doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Skibbereen- Joe and Sadie MacDonald, Skibbereen & the

deceased family members of the MacDonald and Collins Family

Friday 30th April - St Pius V, pope

7.30pm Rath- Skour Well Mass - Sheila Gallagher, Baltimore

Skibbereen - Special Intention

Saturday 1st May - St Joseph the Worker

7.30pm Rath Vigil – Special Intention

Skibbereen - The Sheehan Family, Coolnagarrane

Sunday 2nd April - Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.15am Rath – Annie, Frances & Joe Sheehan, Spain

Skibbereen - Donal O'Leary, Renaniree, Macroom,

Margaret & John McCarthy, Derrygool

Message from Fr. Michael and Fr. Evin

We would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed to the recent Spring and Easter collections for the priests of the parish. Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated by the both of us.

Feasts this week:

27th: St Asicus was St Patrick's expert craftsman in metal work and accompanied him on his journeys. He was left in charge of the church in Elphin which Patrick is said to have founded.

28th: St Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort, 1673-1 716, was a priest whose calling was to preach missions and to care for the sick and the poor. His writings concern Mary's role in the mystery of salvation. He strongly promoted the praying of the rosary.

29th:St Catherine of Siena, 1347-80, humble and dauntless Dominican tertiary, who brought peace to her native Siena, to Italy, and to fourteenth-century Europe, spent all her energies on the Church, being able to achieve the pope's return from Avignon to Rome. She is remembered also as a mystic and reformer of religious life. Proclaimed doctor of the Church in 1 970 and patron of Europe in 2000.

30th: St Pius V, 1504-72. Dominican, elected pope in 1565, he implemented there forms of the Council of Trent, including the Breviary, Missal and Catechism. He is noted for his defence of Christendom against the Ottoman empire
1st May: St Joseph the Worker: Gm 1:26-2:3 or CoS 3:14-15, 17, 23-24. Ps 89:2-4, 12-14, 16, R/v 17. Mt 13:54-58. Lefc 11:1013. The feast, instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1955, proposes the example and intercession of St Joseph as worker and patron of workers. On this date many countries celebrate the dignity of human labour.

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

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

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.

May is the month of Our Lady.

The Annual Skour Well Mass will this year be live streamed from Rath Church at 7.30pm on Friday 30th April on www.skibbereenandrath.ie. This is a special mass in which we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary the mother of God on May Eve.

There will be no 10.15am Mass on Friday morning.

The Church dedicates the entire month of May to Mary the mother of God and also the Mother of you and I. Mary from the beginning of time has played a crucial role in God's plan for the salvation of Mankind. Many of the saints tell us that she holds the highest place in Heaven amongst all the Angels and Saints. It is a belief amongst many of the Church's greatest saints that God refuses His mother nothing. Any request she makes of Him is granted to her because she more than any other creature fulfils His will most perfectly. God in return loves her with a love that is beyond all understanding. As we prepare to enter the month of May – the Month of Our Lady perhaps we could honour her in some way by preparing a traditional May altar in our homes. The greatest way to honour her of course is to recite her favourite prayer – the Rosary – this is the prayer that makes all of Hell tremble and this is the prayer in which Mary grants all those who pray it her greatest graces. For as she promises St Dominic “ You will obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary”.

Remembered by One Who Was Healed by Our Lady

When Josemaria Escriva was two years old, his mother took him to Torreciudad to pray to a venerated statue of the Blessed Mary. Doctors expected him to die, but he lived. Escriva went on to initiate the Opus Dei, known as “the Work.” As a priest, Escriva ended his sermons with a prayer to Mary. Every room in all the offices of the Opus Dei were outfitted with a picture of the Virgin. He used to say:

“So your strength is failing you? Why don't you tell your mother about it? . . .Mother! Call her with a loud voice. She is listening to you; she sees you in danger, perhaps, and she—your holy mother Mary—offers you, along with the grace of her son, the refuge of her arms, the tenderness of her embrace . . . and you will find yourself with added strength for the new battle.

THE LIVING WORD

Meeting Jesus in the Scriptures leads us to the Eucharist, where the written word attains its greatest efficacy, for there the living Word is truly present. In the Eucharist, the one true God receives the greatest worship the world can give him, for it is Christ himself who is offered. When we receive him in Holy Communion, we renew our covenant with him and allow him to carry out ever more fully his work of transforming our lives.

Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate, 157

Prayer for vocations to the priesthood

God our Father, Who wills that all men be saved, And come to the knowledge of Your Truth: We beg you to send Laborers into Your harvest, And grant them grace to speak Your Word With all boldness; so that Your Word May spread and be glorified, And all nations may know You, The only God, and Him whom You have sent, Jesus Christ your Son, Our Lord. Amen.

We invite you to return your **Trocaire Donations** to the Parish Office, North Street, or the Sacristy in Skibbereen or Rath.

St VINCENT DE PAUL. CONTACT NUMBER; 087 9182698

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS —TEL; 087 6114946

Suicide 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

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

South Doc: 1850 335 999

Catherine of Siena (25 March 1347 – 29 April 1380), a lay member of the Dominican Order, was a mystic, activist, and author who had a great influence on Italian literature and the Catholic Church. Canonized in 1461, she is also a Doctor of the Church.

She was born and raised in Siena, and at an early age wanted to devote herself to God, against the will of her parents. She joined the "mantellate," a group of pious women, primarily widows, informally devoted to Dominican spirituality. Her influence with Pope Gregory XI played a role in his decision to leave Avignon for Rome. She was then sent by him to negotiate peace with Florence. After Gregory XI's death and peace concluded, she returned to Siena. She dictated to secretaries her set of spiritual treatises *The Dialogue of Divine Providence*. The Great Schism of the West led Catherine of Siena to go to Rome with the pope. She sent numerous letters to princes and cardinals to promote obedience to Pope Urban VI and defend what she calls the "vessel of the Church." She died on 29 April 1380, exhausted by her rigorous fasting. Urban VI celebrated her funeral and burial in the Basilica of Santa Maria sopra Minerva in Rome.

The devotion around Catherine of Siena developed rapidly after her death. She was canonized in 1461, declared patron saint of Rome in 1866, and of Italy (together with Francis of Assisi) in 1939. She was the first woman (along with Teresa of Ávila) to be declared a "doctor of the Church," on 4 October 1970 by Pope Paul VI. She was also proclaimed patron saint of Europe in 1999 by Pope John Paul II. Catherine of Siena is one of the outstanding figures of medieval Catholicism, by the strong influence she has had in the history of the papacy and her extensive authorship. She was behind the return of the Pope from Avignon to Rome, and then carried out many missions entrusted by the pope, something quite rare for a woman in the Middle Ages. Her *Dialogue*, hundreds of letters, and dozens of prayers, also give her a prominent place in the history of Italian literature.

Catherine of Siena - Wikipedia

BAPTISM

Let the grace of your baptism bear fruit in a path of holiness. Let everything be open to God; turn to him in every situation. Do not be dismayed, for the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to do this, and holiness, in the end, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life (cf. *Cal* 5:22-23). When you feel the temptation to dwell on your own weakness, raise your eyes to Christ crucified and say: 'Lord, I am a poor sinner, but you can work the miracle of making me a little bit better'. In the Church, holy yet made up of sinners, you will find everything you need to grow towards holiness. The Lord has bestowed on the Church the gifts of scripture, the sacraments, holy places, living communities, the witness of the saints and a multifaceted beauty that proceeds from God's love, 'like a bride bedecked with jewels' (/s 61:10).

Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate 15



St. Catherine of Siena,
by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo