

# 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)

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May - 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

4.45pm Sherkin - Special Intention

6.30pm Skibbereen - Marianne Treparier, USA

7.30pm Rath – Con Kelleher, Mardyke St

John Kirby, Caheragh & Skibbereen – Months Mind

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May - The Ascension of the Lord

9.00am Skibbereen – Special Intention

10. 15am Rath– Fr Owen Cashman

11.30am - John O'Donovan, Mohonagh, Cork Rd

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May - 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

9.30am Skibbereen – Nuala O'Sullivan, High Street

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May – St John I, pope and martyr

10.15am Rath – Mary Hurley, Market Street

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May - 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

9.30am Skibbereen – May Wolfe, Ballydehob

10.15am Rath - SCS Graduation Mass Intention

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May - St Bernardine of Sienna

10.15am Rath - Josie Fagan, Dublin

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Ss Christopher Magallanes, priest and Companions, martyrs

9.30am Skibbereen - Janie Keohane, Cullinagh

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - St Rita of Cascia, religious

4.45pm Sherkin - Special Intention

6.30pm Skibbereen - Kit Fitzgerald, Glencurragh

7.30pm Rath – Paddy Cahalane, Ballymacrown

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - The Solemnity of Pentecost

9.00am Skibbereen - Maurice Murphy

10. 15am Rath – Special Intention

11.30am Skibbereen - Special Intention

### Confessions

Skibbereen - Saturday morning at 10.15am

### The month of May.

May is a special month. It's when we honour the Virgin Mary as our Queen. For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of Mary to honour Mary, the Mother of God. The custom spans centuries, going back as far as the ancient Greeks. Mary's journey as a mother, from a crib in Bethlehem to a cross in Jerusalem gives each of us an opportunity for reflection.

**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.

### Feasts this week:

**16th: The Ascension of Christ** means our own salvation as well; where the glorious Head has gone before, the body is called to follow in hope. Let us therefore exult, beloved, as is fitting, and let us rejoice in devout thanksgiving. For on this day not only have we been confirmed in our possession of paradise, but we have even entered heaven in the person of Christ; through his grace we have regained far more than we had lost through the devil's hatred' (St Leo the Great, Sermon 73:4).

The week of prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit recalls the waiting in prayer of the disciples with Mary.

**18th: St John 1** was the first Bishop of Rome to visit Constantinople. He was involved in Arian controversies and imprisoned at Ravenna, where he died in 526.

**20<sup>th</sup>: St Bernardine** was born in Siena in 1380. He became a Franciscan, travelled through Italy, preaching with great success. He promoted devotion to the Holy Name and to St Joseph. He died in 1444.

**21<sup>st</sup>: Ss Christopher Magallanes and Companions.** These twenty-five priests and laymen were executed in 1927 in Mexico.

**22<sup>nd</sup>: St Rita of Cascia**, 1386-1457, was married for eighteen years. Her husband, an ill-tempered and abusive man, was murdered. Later Rita entered the Augustinian convent in Cascia and spent forty years in prayer and charity, and working for peace in the region.

**First Friday Visits to People's Homes:** It is hoped to recommence these visits in June. There may be people who were previously coming to Mass and who are no longer able to attend. We would ask any household who would like us to visit with Communion to contact the parish office 028 - 22828.

**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

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

**Weekday Masses** recommenced this week. Mass for Rath is available online at [www.skibbereenandrath.ie](http://www.skibbereenandrath.ie). Unfortunately, despite our best-efforts cameras are not yet installed in the Cathedral. Therefore, weekday Mass times will be:  
**Skibbereen at 9.30am Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings only**  
**Rath 10.15am daily - Monday to Friday.**  
**Weekend Masses** will return as normal weekend of May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.  
**Skibbereen - Saturday 6.30pm and Sunday 9.00am and 11.30am**  
**Rath - Saturday 7.30pm and Sunday 10.15am**  
**Sherkin Island Saturday afternoon Mass at 4.45pm**  
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**Covid Stewards**  
 Reopening is possible if enough stewards are available. We invite you to volunteer to help out. Please give your name and contact number to the stewards on duty or to the parish office.

**The following are announcements from the Bishop's Office regarding Baptisms, First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation**

**Baptisms**  
 "Arrangements can be made for the Sacrament of Baptism to be celebrated from 10th May with those immediate family members present to include parents, siblings of child for baptism, godparents and grandparents. We need to emphasise that caution is needed in relation to gatherings that might take place around baptisms as well".  
 These numbers are limited so that more than one baptism can take place.

**First Confession**  
 "Arrangements may be made for the Sacrament of First Confession to be celebrated in churches from 10th May in accordance with the requirements of public health measures".

**Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation**  
 "Unfortunately, it's not possible to make arrangements for the celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at this time and in order to avoid disappointment no dates should be proposed by parishes, not even provisionally".  
 For Skibbereen and Rath and the Island parishes we will let you know of further developments on these as it becomes available to us.

**A Diocesan Appointment:** Fr Chris O'Donovan has been appointed to a new Diocesan role from September 1st, 2021. Bishop Fintan Gavin circulated the following email on May 6th.  
 "I established the Office for Mission and Ministry in 2020 in response to the changing needs of the Diocese as it enters into a period of renewal. The Office will enable priests and people to become missionary disciples with co-responsibility for our parishes and to build faith communities into the future. Fr. Chris O'Donovan will take up the role of Episcopal Vicar for Mission and Ministry from September when he completes a sabbatical year during which he has undertaken a Masters in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Leuven.

When establishing the Office for Mission and Ministry in 2020 I said that it is now time to set out on a new journey for the Diocese and its parishes. As we emerge from the pandemic this has become even more critical. I ask you to pray for this new way of being church in Cork and Ross as we continue to discern how God is calling us to build His Kingdom at this time for this generation."  
 + Fintan Gavin"

**We all wish Fr Chris every success and happiness in this important new role: May God bless his work!**

**St Rita of Cascia** (Margherita Lotti) Patron Saint of the Impossible, abused wives and widows. She was married at age twelve to a nobleman named Paolo Mancini. Her parents arranged her marriage, a common practice at the time, despite her repeated requests to be allowed to enter a convent of religious sisters. Her husband, Paolo Mancini, was known to be a rich, quick-tempered, immoral man, who had many enemies in the region of Cascia. The marriage lasted for eighteen years, during which she is remembered for her Christian values as a model wife and mother who made efforts to convert her husband from his abusive behavior. Rita endured his insults, physical abuse, and infidelities for many years. According to popular tales, through humility, kindness, and patience, Rita was able to convert her husband into a better person, more specifically renouncing a family feud known at the time as *La Vendetta*.



Rita eventually bore two sons, Giangiacomo (Giovanni) Antonio, and Paulo Maria, and brought them up in the Christian faith. Rita gave a public pardon at Paolo's funeral to her husband's murderers. After the deaths of her husband and sons, Rita desired to enter the monastery of Saint Mary Magdalene in Cascia but was turned away. Although the convent acknowledged Rita's good character and piety, the nuns were afraid of being associated with her due to the scandal of her husband's violent death. However, she persisted in her cause and was given a condition before the convent could accept her: the task of reconciling her family with her husband's murderers. She implored her three patron saints (John the Baptist, Augustine of Hippo, and Nicholas of Tolentino) to assist her, and she set about the task of establishing peace between the hostile parties of Cascia. She was able to resolve the conflicts between the families and, at the age of thirty-six, was allowed to enter the monastery. Pious Catholic legends later recount that Rita was transported into the monastery of Saint Magdalene via levitation at night into the garden courtyard by her three patron saints. She remained at the monastery, living by the Augustinian Rule, until her death from tuberculosis on 22 May 1457.

*Rita of Cascia - Wikipedia*

**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](mailto: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](http://www.cura.ie)**

**South Doc: 1850 335 999**