

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

Saturday 8th May Blessed John Sullivan, priest

7.30pm Rath Vigil – Special Intention

Skibbereen -Jerome Hodnett, St Fachtna's Terrace

Sunday 9th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rath 10. 15am – Special Intention

Skibbereen - Rory O'Gara, Mayo,

Cornelius, Mary Ellen & Con Murphy, High Street

Monday 10th May - St Comgall, abbot

9.30am - Skibbereen - Patrick, John and Hannah

McCarthy, Market Street

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Tuesday 11th May - 6th Week of Easter

10.15am Rath – Stephen Buckley, Castletownshend

Wednesday 12th May - St Pancras, martyr

9.30am Skibbereen–Sr Mary Connolly, Convent of Mercy

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Thursday 13th May - Our Lady of Fatima

10.15am Rath - Michael, Mary, and Gary Quaine

Friday 14th May - St Matthias, apostle

9.30am Skibbereen - Denis and Hannah Corcoran

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Saturday 15th May - St Carthage, bishop

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 16th May - The Ascension of the Lord

9.00am Skibbereen - Special Intention

10. 15am Rath – Fr Owen Cashman

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

Feasts this week:

10th: St Comgall was born around 516 in Co. Antrim. His father was a soldier and wished his son to follow in his steps but Comgall wished to become a soldier of Christ. He studied under Finnian of Moville and deepened his life of prayer to counteract his temptations to boredom and homesickness. He was persuaded to become a priest and then established a monastery at Bangor around 555-8, which attracted people like Columbanus. He also founded a monastery at Tiree in Scotland. He died after a long illness at Pentecost 602 or 605.

12th: St Pancras as a boy of fourteen suffered at the same time and was martyred in Rome in 304.

13th: Our Lady of Fatima: Is 61:9-11. Ps 44:11-12, 14-17, R/ v 11. Lk 11:27-28. **Led 11:1431, 1426, 1448.**The apparitions to the three children of Fatima took place in the summer of 1917, beginning on 13 May when the 'Lady' asked them to pray for sinners and an end to the World War. In the final apparition on 13 October, the 'Lady' identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and called for prayer and conversion.

14th: St Matthias, like all the apostles, was chosen to become 'a witness with us of Christ's resurrection'. The story of his election as one of the apostles is given in the first reading. He seems to have spent a great deal of time working in Judea; then he travelled east to Cappadocia (now Turkey), where it is said that he was the vital instrument in bringing many pagans to the faith. He is said to have been martyred at Colchis on the Black Sea and his relics brought to Rome by St Helena.

15th: St Carthage (or Mochuta) hailed from a rich family in Kerry. As he loved the chanting of the psalms, the local king arranged for him to become a priest. Having spent a year possibly at Bangor he founded his own monastery at Rahan in 595. It grew rapidly. However, opposition made him move southwards around 637. Along with hundreds of monks and their patients from the leper colony, he finally arrived at Lismore, where he made a foundation. He died in 638.

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).

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

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.

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

Public Worship Recommencing:

Confessions:

Skibbereen - Saturday morning at 10.15am

Weekday Masses: recommence next week. Mass for Rath is available online. 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 15th & 16th.

Skibbereen - Saturday 6.30pm and Sunday 9.00am and 11.30am

Rath - Saturday 7.30pm and Sunday 10.15am

Sherkin Island - Saturday 4.45pm

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.

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

Rath & The Islands Parish Assembly met on Tuesday 4th May 2021 via Zoom.

Topics discussed were as follows:

1. Funeral Teams: Introduction Sessions to be run via Zoom on Wednesday 12th May and Tuesday 18th May, four people from Rath will attend.
2. Re-commencing Church Services: Public Worship will resume on Monday 10th May 2021. A maximum number of 50 people will be allowed to attend mass and guidelines similar to before i.e. 2m distance, wearing of masks, one designated entry and exit door and no congregating outside before or after mass. Extra stewards will be required, one per mass in Rath (5 weekday mornings, Sat vigil and Sunday Morning) anyone that is available is to email Maeve (mary.maeve.devlin@gmail.com) with suitable days and times
3. Long backlog of baptisms for Saturdays and Sundays and people can make contact with the parish office to organise suitable dates.
4. Correspondences from Bishop Fintan based on recent Government guidelines that it is not possible to make arrangements for First Communion or Confirmations at the moment and to avoid disappointment no dates should be given not even provisionally.'

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

A letter from the Pope!



Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

In the Gospel of this Fifth Sunday of Easter (*Jn 15:1-8*), the Lord presents himself as the true vine, and speaks of us as the branches that cannot live without being united to Him. And so He says: “I am the vine, you are the branches” (v. 5). There is no vine without branches, and vice versa. The branches are not self-sufficient, but depend totally on the vine, which is the source of their existence. Jesus insists on the verb “*to abide*”. He repeats it seven times in today’s Gospel reading. Before leaving this world and going to the Father, Jesus wants to reassure His disciples that they can continue to be united with Him. He says, “Abide in me, and I in you” (v. 4). This abiding is not a question of *abiding passively*, of “slumbering” in the Lord, letting oneself be lulled by life: no, no! It is

not this. The abiding in Him, the abiding in Jesus that He proposes to us is *abiding actively*, and also reciprocally. Why? Because the branches without the vine can do nothing, they need sap to grow and to bear fruit; but the vine, too, needs the branches, since fruit does not grow on the tree trunk. It is a reciprocal need, it is a question of a reciprocal abiding so as to bear fruit. We abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in us.

First of all, we need Him. The Lord wants to say to us that before the observance of His commandments, before the beatitudes, before works of mercy, it is necessary to be united to Him, to remain in him. We cannot be good Christians if we do not remain in Jesus. With Him, instead, we can do everything (cf. *Phil 4:13*). With Him we can do everything.

But even Jesus needs us, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this seems audacious to us, and so we ask ourselves: *in what sense does Jesus need us?* He needs our witness. Like the branches the fruit we must give is the witness to our lives as Christians. After Jesus ascended to the Father, the task of the disciples - it is our task - is to continue to proclaim the Gospel in words and in deeds. And the disciples - we, Jesus’ disciples - do so by bearing witness to His love: the fruit to be borne is love. Attached to Christ, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in this way we can do good to our neighbour, we can do good to society, to the Church. The tree is known by its fruit. A truly Christian life bears witness to Christ.

And how can we succeed in doing this? Jesus says to us: “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you” (v.7). This too is bold: the certainty that what we ask for will be given to us. The fruitfulness of our life depends on prayer. We can ask to think like Him, to act like Him, to see the world and things with the eyes of Jesus. And in this way, to love our brothers and sisters, starting from the poorest and those who suffer most, like He did, and to love them with His heart and to bring to the world fruits of goodness, fruits of charity, fruits of peace.

Let us entrust ourselves to the intercession of the Virgin Mary. She always remained completely united to Jesus and bore much fruit. May she help us abide in Christ, in his love, in his word, to bear witness to the Risen Lord in the world.

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco_regina-caeli_20210502.html