

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 19th June - Bl Dermot O'Hurley, bishop and Companions, martyrs

4.30pm Sherkin - Special Intention

6.30pm Skibbereen - Corinna O'Donovan & Nora McCormack, Gortnaclohy

7.30pm Rath Vigil – Special Intention

Sunday 20th June - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Skibbereen - Paddy O'Donoghue, Chapel Lane

10.15am Rath – Paddy Burke, Ballyoughtera

11.30am Skibbereen - Donal and Bridget Hurley, Inchindreen

Monday 21st June - St Aloysius Gonzaga, religious

9.30am Skibbereen – Bishop John McCarthy, Castlehaven and Africa

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Tuesday 22nd Ss John Fisher, bishop and Thomas More, martyrs

10.15am Rath – Special Intention

Wednesday 23rd June - 12th Week in Ordinary Time

9.30am Skibbereen – Special Intention

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Thursday 24th June - The Nativity of St John the Baptist

10.15am Rath - Nan Baldwin, Townshend Street

Friday 25th June - 12th Week in Ordinary Time

9.30am Skibbereen - Patricia Long, Wales and late of Milleenahorna

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Saturday 26th June - 12th Week in Ordinary Time

4.45pm Sherkin - Special Intention

6.30pm Skibbereen - Pat Felihy, Rosscarbery

7.30pm Rath – John & Hannah Sheehy and Angela Sheehy, Creagh

Sunday 27th June - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.00am Skibbereen - Special Intention

10.15am Rath – Nealie Bohane, Dromadoon

11.30am Skibbereen - Marie Keane, Coomnageehy

Confessions

Skibbereen - Saturday morning at 10.15am

Weekday Mass Times:

Skibbereen 9.30am Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings only

Rath 10.15am daily – Monday to Friday

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:

21st: St Aloysius Gonzaga joined the Jesuits and as a model novice he worked in the plague hospital and caught the fever, dying in 1591 at the age of twenty- three. Patron of youth.

22nd: St John Fisher, 1469 -1535, as Vice-chancellor, built Christ's and St John's Colleges, Cambridge. Bishop of Rochester. His love of truth brought about his death. **St Thomas More**, 1478-1535, the first commoner to be Lord Chancellor of England, suffered martyrdom also under Henry VIII. Patron of lawyers and those in public life.



24th: We rejoice at the coming of **St John the Baptist**, a man of self-denial, integrity of life and purpose, and an uncompromising prophetic voice. John means 'The Lord has shown favour.' This feast relates to the summer solstice, when the days begin to grow shorter, recalling John's words, 'He must increase, but I must decrease.'

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

We ask our Parishioners to be aware of the changes to the traffic system on North Street. **A One-Way System will be in place From Monday June 21st to Monday Sept 6th.**

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

Bishop Fintan Gavin – Visit to Rath and the Islands Parish

Bishop Fintan will be visiting the parish of Rath and the Islands this weekend June 18th, 19th and 20th. It is planned that he will visit **Oiléan Cléire on Friday the 18th**. On **Saturday afternoon** he will visit **Sherkin Island** and will celebrate the evening Mass in **St Mona's Church at 4.30 pm** (note change of time) and later on **Saturday evening** he will celebrate Mass in **Sacred Heart Rath Church at 7.30 pm**. On **Sunday morning** he will celebrate the Mass in **Sacred Heart Church, Rath Church at 10.15 am**.

Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion 2021

Confirmation Class of 2020

Unfortunately, the Government Restrictions continue until July 5th 2021. Skibbereen and Rath and the Island Parishes, following discussion with Skibbereen Community School, plan to have the Confirmation Ceremony in early September for those who have now completed their first year.

Around early to mid-September we plan to have the Confirmation Ceremony for the class completing primary school this year.

First Holy Communion and First Penance

The Parishes of Rath and the Island and Skibbereen, following discussion with the five primary schools involved, propose to have the First Holy Communion Ceremonies towards the end of September/early October. We will finalise dates in early September. Obviously, all this is subject to any Covid restrictions that may prevail at the time.

In recent weeks we celebrated the Sacrament of First Penance with the 65 young people who are preparing to receive their First Communion in the Autumn. Many thanks to everyone involved, in their families, in their school community and in our parishes for what were very prayerful and meaningful occasions.

Recently Baptised

Charlie Oliver O'Brien and Alfie Gerard O'Brien, Twins Poundlick, Anthony Seamus Connolly, Pookeen
God our Father, You always work to save us, and now we rejoice in the great love you give to your chosen people. Protect all who have become your children and continue to bless those who are already baptised.

St Aloysius Gonzaga was born the eldest of seven children, at his family's castle in Castiglione delle Stiviere, between Brescia and Mantua in northern Italy in what was then part of the Duchy of Mantua, into the illustrious House of Gonzaga. "Aloysius" is the Latin form of Aloysius de Gonzaga's given name in Italian, Luigi. He was the son of Ferrante de Gonzaga (1544–1586), Marquis of Castiglione, and Marta Tana di Santena, daughter of a baron of the Piedmontese Della Rovere family. His mother was a lady-in-waiting to Isabel, the wife of Philip II of Spain. As the first-born son, he was in line to inherit his father's title and status of Marquis. His father assumed that Aloysius would become a soldier, as that was the norm for sons of the aristocracy and the family was often involved in the minor wars of the period. His military training started at an early age, but he also received an education in languages and the arts. As early as age four, Luigi was given a set of miniature guns and accompanied his father on training expeditions so that the boy might learn "the art of arms".^[4] At age five, Aloysius was sent to a military camp to get started on his training. His father was pleased to see his son marching around camp at the head of a platoon of soldiers. His mother and his tutor were less pleased with the vocabulary he picked up there. He grew up amid the violence and brutality of Renaissance Italy and witnessed the murder of two of his brothers. In 1576, at age 8, he was sent to Florence along with his younger brother, Rodolfo, to serve at the court of the Grand Duke Francesco I de' Medici and to receive further education. While there, he fell ill with a disease of the kidneys, which troubled him throughout his life. While he was ill, he took the opportunity to read about the saints and to spend much of his time in prayer. He is said to have taken a private vow of chastity at age 9. In November 1579, the brothers were sent to the Duke of Mantua. Aloysius was shocked by the violent and frivolous lifestyle he encountered there. Aloysius returned to Castiglione where he met Cardinal Charles Borromeo, and from him received First Communion on 22 July 1580. After reading a book about Jesuit missionaries in India, Aloysius felt strongly that he wanted to become a missionary. He started practicing by teaching catechism classes to young boys in Castiglione in the summers. He also repeatedly visited the houses of the Capuchin friars and the Barnabites located in Casale Monferrato, the capital of the Gonzaga-ruled Duchy of Montferrat where the family spent the winter. He also adopted an ascetic lifestyle. The family was called to Spain in 1581 to assist the Holy Roman Empress Maria of Austria. They arrived in Madrid in March 1582, where Aloysius and Rodolfo became pages for the young Infante Diego. Aloysius started thinking in earnest about joining a religious order. He had considered joining the Capuchins, but he had a Jesuit confessor in Madrid and decided instead to join that order. His mother agreed to his request, but his father was furious and prevented him from doing so. In July 1584, a year and a half after the Infante's death, the family returned to Italy. Aloysius still wanted to become a priest, but several members of his family worked hard to persuade him to change his mind. When they realized there was no way to make him give up his plan, they tried to persuade him to become a secular priest and offered to arrange for a bishopric for him. If he were to become a Jesuit he would renounce any right to his inheritance or status in society. His family's attempts to dissuade him failed; Aloysius was not interested in higher office and still wanted to become a missionary.



Aloysius Gonzaga - 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

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

The feast of Saints John Fisher (1469-1535) and Thomas More (1478-1535) serves as an inspiration to both clergy and laity in the Church and modern world. As a priest and bishop, John Fisher was martyred on June 22, 1535, for his opposition to the marriage of King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn and his refusal to acknowledge Henry as supreme head of the Church of England. Two weeks later, on July 6, Thomas More, a husband and father, was martyred in the tower of London for the same reasons.

Both were canonized saints on May 19, 1935, by Pope Pius XI. For all the baptized, both citizens and politicians, the stories of John Fisher and Thomas More are yet another reminder that faith cannot remain a private concern but must also animate our public lives of integrity. Saints John Fisher and Thomas More teach us that this can only come about through Christians with a courageous conscience, being faithful to truth and having a proper understanding of the relationship between church and state.

First, the importance of conscience. In the movie *A Man for all Seasons*, which recalls the life of St. Thomas More, there are several wonderful lines placed on the lips of Thomas that reveal the integrity of his conscience that remained intact throughout his life, trial, and condemnation. This integrity is in sharp contrast to the ugly superficiality and political expediency of those around him, including bishops and cardinals. In a conversation with Cardinal Wolsey, the cardinal complains to Thomas: "If you could only see facts flat on without that horrible moral squint." To which Thomas replies: "When Statesmen forsake their own private conscience for the sake of public duties, they lead their country by a short route to chaos." Here Thomas points to the truth that human beings are inescapably moral creatures. It is not a question of who has a moral squint and who doesn't. The real question is how that moral squint is aligned to what it is true and good or alternatively how is skewed or distorted toward evil. Another lesson from the witness of John and Thomas is how being faithful to one's conscience often goes against the majority and is therefore costly. Being faithful to one's conscience is a matter of eternal significance, for it determines whether we end up in heaven or hell. When moral pressure was applied to Thomas to sign the oath of supremacy recognizing King Henry as head of the Church of England, one of his colleagues urged him to sign the oath as he and others had done for the reason of "fellowship." To this pressure, Thomas replied: "And when we die and you are sent to heaven for being faithful to your conscience and I am sent to hell for not being faithful to mine, will you join me in hell, for fellowship?" The moral integrity of a Catholic Christian must be deeper than doing what is expedient or going with majority opinion, which can be a fickle thing. Being faithful to the truth in conscience might lose us friends, but it matures our integrity and moral fiber, setting us on course for eternal and blessed union with God. This is the *summum bonum* that we can't risk losing, for if we do, we lose ourselves along the way. Obeying our conscience means claiming its rights that are based on its duties and being faithful to truth that must be recognized rather than created.

Regarding fidelity to truth, John and Thomas are outstanding examples of people whose consciences sought the truth rather than invent it. They clung steadfastly to the legitimacy of Henry's first marriage of Catherine of Aragon and the spiritual authority the pope. This was the authority that surpassed any state law that deviated from the natural laws decreed by God. This authority safeguarded the truth of revelation and the objective value of truth that cannot be manipulated by people inconvenienced by its demands.

For John Fisher and Thomas More, the marriage of Henry to Catherine was true, as was the supreme authority of the pope in the Church. They held to these truths both in private and in public.

To claim something is true in private but to work against that truth in public can only be done by violating the principle of noncontradiction, whereby something cannot be true and untrue at the same time. For, as Aristotle pointed out centuries ago, if contradictory claims are just as valid as noncontradictory claims, then all words and all arguments are meaningless (*Metaphysics*, bk. 4, chap. 3). As John and Thomas rightly intuited, when this happens, both truth and civilization are fatally undermined. This is why they stood fast in the face of death. It wasn't just their lives that were under threat. So too was the foundation of justice and civilization.

The final lesson from the witness of John Fisher and Thomas More is the relationship between church and state. Both men were faithful citizens who loved their country and king. Before his execution, Thomas More famously declared himself to be "the king's good servant but God's first." Neither man tried to impose his beliefs on others, and that's not why they were killed. Rather, the nefarious intent of the king pursued them and gave them an ultimatum to take the oath and conform to his corruption. Their refusal led to their deaths.

This unwillingness to compromise with state laws that are unjust, particularly if they are rooted in dishonesty, is one of the greatest challenges facing Catholics today who live in areas of the world where religious freedom is suppressed. In the fourth century, St. Augustine insisted that "a law that is not just, seems to be no law at all" (*On Free Choice of the Will*, 1, 5)—something repeated by St. Thomas Aquinas (*Summa Theologica*, 1-2.96.4) and Martin Luther King who wrote from prison in Birmingham that "one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws." Earlier, Thomas Jefferson had written, "If a law is unjust, a man is not only right to disobey it, he is obliged to do so."

Here is the spirit of honor exemplified by John Fisher and Thomas More. It is this spirit of faithful and critical citizenship that we need today to be "our country's good servants but God's first."

John Fisher and Thomas More would become like shining stars for thousands of English Catholics who prayed for the courage to face imprisonment and death rather than betray the faith. Let us not shrink from the same challenge in our day to courageously stand fast for the freedom of conscience, truth, and moral integrity so badly needed for our time.

By God's grace, may Catholic Christians—both clergy and laity—follow the examples of John Fisher and Thomas More, and be a leaven for the healing and renewal of our societies and politics. *Saints John Fisher and Thomas More, pray for us!*

<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/saints-john-fisher-and-thomas-more-men-for-all-seasons/27744/>