

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; Dolores Ruane; Secretary – Brigid O'Driscoll.

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 4th Dec 2021 St John Damoscene, priest and doctor of the Church

4.45pm Sherkin - Special Intention

6.30pm Skibbereen – Declan Price, Market Street & Baltimore

7.30pm Rath - Richard & Mary Connolly, Lissanuhig

Sun 5th December - Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am Skibbereen - Nora Leonard, 5 Assumption Place

10. 15am Rath – Connie & Agnus O'Driscoll, Lackahane

11.30am Skibbereen - Gerry McCarthy, Skibbereen and Schull

Monday 6th Dec - 2nd Week of Advent St Nicholas, bishop

9.30am Skibbereen - Finbarr Tanner, Inchigeelagh

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

Tuesday 7th St Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church

9.30am Skibbereen - Timothy P O'Donovan, Lassanaroo

6.30pm Skibbereen - Vigil: Brian O'Donovan, 74 North Street & Clohane

Wednesday 8th December - THE IMMACULATE

CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9.30am Skibbereen – Eileen O'Sullivan, Shountellig

7.30pm Rath - Mary Burke, Ballyoughtra, Loughine

Thursday 9th December - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

9.30am Skibbereen - Vera Buckley, Farranconnor

Friday 10th December - Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto

9.30am Skibbereen - Brian & Maire Foley, Bridge Street & Rostellan

10.15am Rath – Special Intention

Saturday 11th December - St Damascus 8, pope

4.45pm Sherkin - Special Intention

6.30pm Skibbereen – Michael John and Josephine Carey, Derrylugga

7.30pm Rath - Peter & Mary Leonard, Reengaroga & Dingle

Sun 12th December - Third Sunday of Advent

9.00am Skibbereen - Pat O'Donovan, Cork Road

10.00am Cape Clear – Special Intention

10. 15am Rath – Paddy Dick & Nora Leonard, Eileen Bohane and the deceased members of the Leonard & O'Driscoll families, Reengaroga

11.30am Skibbereen - Thomas & Lillian O'Sullivan, Cork Rd

Feasts this week

6th: St Nicholas was a fourth-century Bishop of Myra in modern-day Turkey of whom little is known. He is patron of Russia, of sailors, of pawnbrokers and of children.

7th: St Ambrose, 340-397, became governor of the Roman province whose seat was in Milan. In 374, the laity insisted on his becoming bishop though he was still not baptised. He defended orthodoxy in brilliant preaching and through his writing. Patron of Milan, beekeepers, and domestic animals.

8th: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We celebrate Mary who, from the first instant of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, was 'by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin'.

9th: St Juan Diego Cuauht Satoatzin, 1474-1548, saw the vision of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December 1531

10th: Our Lady of Loreto. This celebration helps all people, especially families, youth and religious to imitate the virtues of that perfect disciple of the Gospel, the Virgin Mother, who, in conceiving the Head of the Church also accepted us as her own.

11th: St Damasus I, born around 304 and died on this day in 384, elected pope in 366. He insisted on the apostolic foundations of the Roman See and was active in opposing fourth-century heresies. He commissioned St Jerome to prepare the Vulgate version of the Bible.

Attending Mass over the winter months.

Our churches need to have adequate ventilation at all Masses. The heating will remain on, but some doors will have to be left open. Therefore, you may find our churches a little cooler than normal. We ask you to dress warmly. This is in line with Covid guidelines and by doing so we ensure the safety of all in attendance.

Vocations - Fr. Cian O'Sullivan

Fr. Cian O'Sullivan, who has been asked by Bishop Gavin to support and promote vocations in the diocese, will say the 6.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 11th

9 Day Rosary Novena for Ireland: We are inviting you to join in a **9 Day Rosary Novena** beginning Tuesday 30th November and ending on Wednesday 8th December. On the final evening at 9pm on Radio Maria the Primate of All Ireland Archbishop Eamon Martin will lead the final Rosary live.

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: Please contact the parish office (028 22828) to arrange your Child's baptism.

Rosary: each Tuesday evening at 8.00pm at the Grotto, Cork Rd

Confessions - Skibbereen - Saturday morning at 10.15am

Eucharistic Adoration - In the Cathedral - every Saturday morning from 10am to 11am

Priest on Duty
this week:

Fr Michael

Emergency only

086-7852262.

Christmas Masses in Skibbereen

There will be six Masses available over the Christmas weekend in the Cathedral. The Mass times are:
Christmas Eve - Friday December 24th 6.30pm & 9.00pm
Christmas Day - Saturday December 25th 9.00am & 11.30am
St Stephen's Day - Sunday December 26th 9.00am & 11.30am

To ensure the safety of all parishioners, your place at one of these Masses will need to be booked. It will be on a first come first served basis.

To book your place please contact the Parish Office either by Phone: 028 22828;

Email: skibbereenparish@gmail.com or drop into the office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 10am - 12 noon with the following details:

1. **Your name**
2. **Contact details**
3. **Numbers (How many places you wish to book - including yourself)**
4. **Time of the Mass you wish to attend. Please state your first and second preference**

To book your place, please do so from Tuesday December 7th to Wednesday December 15th. While we will do our best to facilitate your preference, we cannot guarantee this.



Saint Nicholas of Myra (traditionally 15 March 270 – 6 December 343), also known as **Nicholas of Bari**, was an early Christian bishop of Greek descent from the maritime city of Myra in Asia Minor (Greek: Μύρα; modern-day Demre, Turkey) during the time of the Roman Empire. Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as **Nicholas the Wonderworker**. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, prostitutes, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students in various cities and countries around Europe. His reputation evolved among the pious, as was common for early Christian saints, and his legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus ("Saint Nick") through Sinterklaas.



Pope Francis has approved adding the Dec. 10 feast of Our Lady of Loreto to all calendars and liturgical books for the celebration of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Putting the celebration of the feast day on the universal calendar "will help all people, especially families, youth and religious to imitate the virtues of the perfect disciple of the Gospel, the Virgin Mother, who, in conceiving the head of the Church also accepted us as her own," the decree said.

The decree dated Oct. 7, 2019, on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, was published Oct. 31 by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. According to tradition, the Holy House of Loreto was carried by angels from Nazareth to the Italian hillside town of Loreto the night of Dec. 9-10 in 1294 after making a three-year stop in Croatia.

Tradition holds that the small house, made of three stone walls, is the place where Mary was born, where she was visited by an angel and conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and where the Holy Family later lived.

The decree said the shrine in Loreto "recalls the mystery of the Incarnation" and helps visitors "meditate both on the words of the angel announcing the Good News and on the words of the Virgin in response to the divine call." And it has been able to "illustrate powerfully the evangelical virtues of the Holy Family," it added.

Millions of pilgrim's flock to Loreto each year to venerate the tiny cottage. It is Italy's most important and popular Marian shrine city and it was one of the shrines St. John Paul II visited the most.

<https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2019/10/pope-adds-feast-of-our-lady-of-loreto-to-universal-calendar>

Geriatric Society - Skibbereen Geriatric Society are holding their annual Christmas draw on Friday December 17th at 12.30pm. All support would be greatly appreciated. Please return all tickets before Thursday 16th December to Cara House, Market Street.

St Vincent De Paul - Annual Christmas Collection
On Friday December 10th and Saturday December 11th, members of the Society will be available in the St Vincent De Paul rooms in Market Street from 10am - 2pm to receive your donation. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

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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