

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



Sun 26th Dec 2021 The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

9.00am Skibbereen -Joe O'Brien, Newbridge, Coronea

10.00am Cape Clear: - Special Intention

10.15am Rath– Christine & Denis Browne

11.30am Skibbereen – Florence McCarthy, The Abbey & Nell Burchill, Gortbrack

Monday 27th December - St John, apostle and evangelist

9.30am Skibbereen- Bebe & Denis O'Mahony, Newcestown

10.15am Rath- Denis O'Regan, Baltimore

Tuesday 28th December - Holy Innocents, martyrs

9.30am Skibbereen - Special Intention

Wednesday 29th December - St Thomas Becket

9.30am Skibbereen – Maura Hayes, North Street

10.15am Rath- Jules Rominger, Philadelphia & Toe Head

Thursday 30th December –6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

9.30am Skibbereen - Mary & Eugie O'Donovan, Market Street

Friday 31st December - St Sylvester, pope

9.30am Skibbereen - Pat O'Donovan, Cork Road

10.15am Rath - Davis and Hurley families

SATURDAY 1ST JANUARY 2022 MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

4.45pm Sherkin Island - Special Intention

6.30pm Cathedral - Helen O'Brien, St Fachtna's Terrace

7.30pm Rath - John, Hannah, & Angela Sheehy, Creagh

Sunday 2nd January – Second Sunday of Christmas

9.00 am Cathedral - Pat O'Donovan, Cork Road

10.00am Cape Clear - Special Intention

10.15 am Rath - Pat Joe O'Driscoll, Inane, Reengaroga

11.30 am Cathedral - John White, Gortnaclohy

Feasts this week

26th: The Holy Family is seen as the model for the human family, the religious community, and the Church itself. The celebration of the Incarnation has brought us to see God's closeness. In the Holy Family we see the ordinariness of the life of Jesus, the simple acceptance by Mary and Joseph of the marvels of God. In the daily life of family and community we can touch the divine, we can come close to God. But we have to learn to live centred on God, with respect and love for each other
27th: St John, brother of James, son of Zebedee, the disciple whom Jesus loved, is traditionally said to have died in Ephesus. He is considered to be the author of the Fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation and three Letters. The Letters especially teach us the law of love; John is said in his old age to have preached only one message: love one another.

28th: The flight into Egypt and the massacre of the **Holy Innocents** make manifest the opposition of darkness to the light: "He came to his own home, and his own people received him not." Christ's whole life was lived under the sign of persecution. His own share it with him. Jesus' departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents him as the definitive liberator of God's people.'

29th: St Thomas Becket, 1118-1170, as Archbishop of Canterbury, came in conflict with King Henry II over Church rights. He was killed in his cathedral on this date.
31st: St Sylvester died in 335 after being pope for twenty-one years. Being elected in the year after the Edict of Milan he was free to build many churches in Rome'

Christmas Message from the Priests of the Parish

Fr Michael & Fr Evin wish everybody a blessed and happy Christmas. The birth of the Christ child brings the hope of new beginnings. In this hope we celebrate this special time of the year.

May God bless and protect you, your families and friends.

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 Evin

Emergency only

086-7852262.

Blessing the Family Crib at Home - Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning

Last year many families joined us online for this simple Blessing Ceremony. This year with numbers attending still somewhat restricted you may wish to do the same. You're welcome join us for Christmas eve for the vigil mass in Sacred Heart Church, Rath at 7.30pm on skibbereenandrath.ie with Christmas carols from 7pm and on Christmas morning at 10.30 am with carols from 10.00 am.

You will need: 1. **A Christmas Crib and a Christmas candle:** A member (perhaps a young member) of the household can place the baby Jesus in the crib.

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.

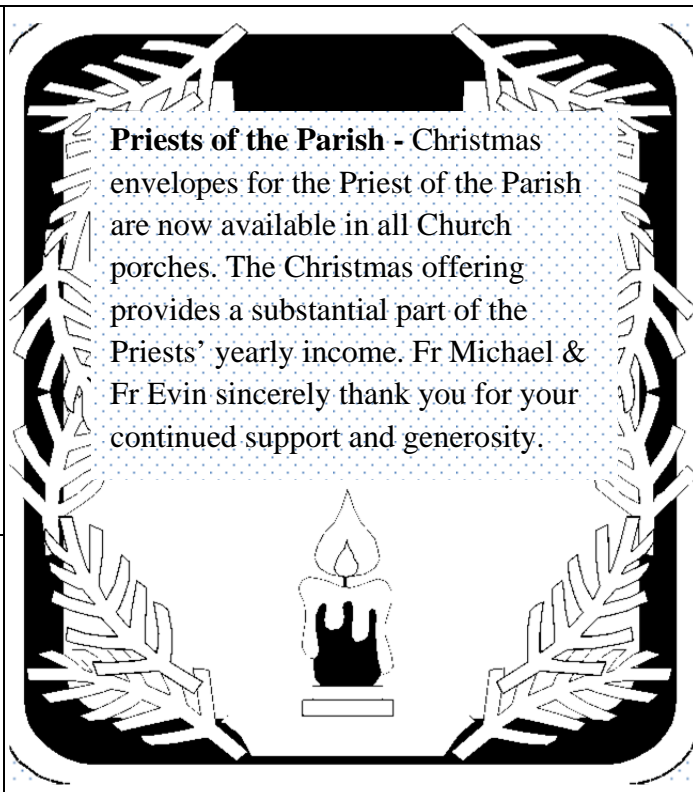
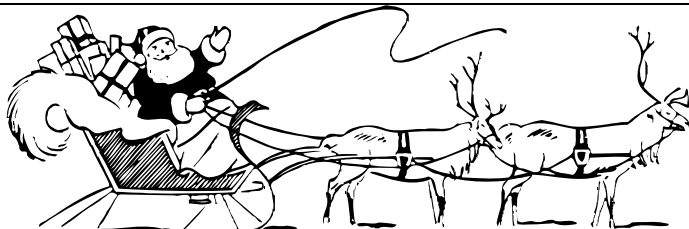
Parishes Funeral Team

From January 1st 2022 the Parish Funeral Team will be available to lead the prayers at the funeral home or family home on the evening before a funeral.

The local undertakers will make contact with the parish in the usual way to make funeral arrangements and know about the role of the funeral team.

We would like to thank those who recently did the training for this role for the parishes of Rath and the Islands and Skibbereen.

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



Priests of the Parish - Christmas envelopes for the Priest of the Parish are now available in all Church porches. The Christmas offering provides a substantial part of the Priests' yearly income. Fr Michael & Fr Evin sincerely thank you for your continued support and generosity.

All Masses in St Patricks Cathedral, Skibbereen and Sacred Heart Church, Rath are livestreamed and can be viewed on the webcams on www.skibbereenandrath.ie

Recently Baptised

Dara Edith Keohane, Riverdale, Skibbereen
Jack Jimmy Casey, Lackahane, Baltimore
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.

Recently Deceased

William O'Driscoll, Pound Hill, Skibbereen
Gerald Grace, Ballymacrown, Baltimore
God of loving kindness, listen favourably to our prayer: strengthen our belief that your Son has risen from the dead and our hope that your servant will also rise again

Skibbereen Rowing Club will be holding their annual charity swim at Tragumna Beach at 12 noon on Christmas Day. All swimmers and supporters welcome -fancy dress optional!

The Parish office is now closed and will reopen on Tuesday January 4th, 2022 at 10am

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