

# 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; 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](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> January 2022: St Ita, virgin**

**4.45pm Sherkin Island:** Special Intention

**6.30pm Skibbereen:** Deceased members of the Spillane Family  
William Patrick O'Driscoll, Pound Hill - Months Mind

**7.30pm Rath:** Mary Holland, South Rath

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9.00 am Skibbereen:** Pat O'Donovan, Cork Road

**10.00am Cape Clear:** Special Intention

**10.15 am Rath:** Donal O'Donovan, Bunlick

**11.30 am Skibbereen:** Sean Connolly, Old Court  
Vera McCarthy, The Moorings - Months Mind

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January - St Anthony, abbot**

**9.30am Skibbereen** - Eileen Collins, Lake Marsh

**10.15am Rath** - William Egan, Birr and Sheffield - recently deceased

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January - 2<sup>nd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time**

**9.30am Skibbereen** - John O'Driscoll

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January - 2<sup>nd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time**

**9.30am Skibbereen** – Cait Walsh, Shreelane

**10.15am Rath** – Special Intention

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January - St Sebastian, pope and martyr**

**9.30am Skibbereen** - Seamus & Margaret Ryan, North Street

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January - St Agnes, virgin and martyr**

**9.30am Skibbereen** - Kathleen Connolly, Townshend Street

**10.15am Rath** - Special Intention

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January - St Vincent, deacon and martyr**

**4.45pm Sherkin Island:** Special Intention

**6.30pm Skibbereen:** The O'Sullivan Family Deceased

**7.30pm Rath:** Jerome & Margaret Minihane, Creagh

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9.00 am Skibbereen:** John O'Mahony, 98 Street

**10.00am Cape Clear:** Special Intention

**10.15 am Rath:** Agnes Davis, Lackahane

**11.30 am Cathedral:** William & Mary O'Regan, Schull & Dominic Hodnett, St Fachtna Tee

### Christmas Clergy collection

We would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed to our Christmas Clergy collection. Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated by both of us. May God bless you all. Fr Michael & Fr Evin.

**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

### Feasts this week

**17<sup>th</sup>: St Anthony**, died 356, 'Father of monasticism,' lived a life of solitude but also attracted many others to form communities of hermits.

**20<sup>th</sup>: St Sebastian** may have been a soldier and was martyred in the persecution of Diocletian. He sustained many others in their trials.

**21<sup>st</sup>: St Agnes**, wealthy and beautiful, was martyred for her virginity in the last persecutions in Rome, in the early fourth century. Patron of betrothed couples, gardeners and young girls.

**Agnes of Rome** (c. 291 – c. 304) is a virgin martyr, venerated as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church, and is one of several virgin martyrs commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass. She is, among other patronages, a patron saint of virgins, girls and chastity. Saint Agnes' feast day is 21 January.

Substantially the circumstances of her martyrdom are believed to be authentic, though the legend cannot be proven true, and many details of the fifth century *Acts of Saint Agnes* are open to criticism. A church was built over her tomb, and her relics venerated.

The Prefect Sempronius condemned Agnes to be dragged naked through the streets to a brothel. In one account, as she prayed, her hair grew and covered her body. It was also said that all of the men that attempted to rape her were immediately struck blind. The son of the prefect was struck dead but revived after she prayed for him, causing her release. There commenced a trial from which Sempronius recused himself, allowing another figure to preside and sentence St. Agnes to death. She was led out and bound to a stake, but the bundle of wood would not burn, or the flames parted away from her, whereupon the officer in charge of the troops drew his sword and beheaded her, or, in some other texts, stabbed her in the throat. It is also said that her blood poured to the stadium floor where other Christians soaked it up with cloths.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnes\\_of\\_Rome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnes_of_Rome)

**22<sup>nd</sup>: St Vincent**, deacon of the church of Saragossa, Spain, martyred in 304 in Valencia after prolonged torture.



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

## Recently Deceased

Josephine O'Driscoll (née Burke), Carhona, Cape Clear  
*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*

## Number of Baptisms in Skibbereen and Rath and the Islands in 2021.

At the time of the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord we look at the number of Baptisms that took place in the parishes over the last year. In 2021 there were 39 Baptisms in Skibbereen and there were 5 Baptisms in Rath and the Islands.

## Synodal process:

"Listening without prejudice; speaking out with courage and parrhesia; dialoguing with the Church, with society, and with the other Christian confessions. The General Secretariat for the Synod has published the Preparatory Document, along with a Vademecum (or handbook) to indicate the guiding principles that will direct the path of the Synod on Synodality. The solemn opening of the Synod will take place in Rome on October 9-10, and in the particular Churches on October 17; and will conclude in the Vatican in 2023 with the assembly of bishops from around the world.

The Preparatory Document, released on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 is intended above all to be an instrument facilitating the first phase of listening and consultation of the People of God in the particular Churches, which will take place from October 2021 to April 2022....."

Extracted from

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-09/the-synod-listening-to-the-faithful-preparatory-document.html>



## Extracts from the New Year's message from Archbishop Eamon Martin, the Archbishop of Armagh, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Dromore and Primate of All Ireland.

"The beginning of a New Year is always a good time for both looking back and for expressing hopes and dreams for the future.

The Word of God today invites us to seek a blessing for the New Year. The psalmist asks: 'O God, be gracious and bless us'. The Old Testament reading invokes the ancient priestly blessing:

"May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace (Numbers 6:23)."

In his message for today and the new year, the 55th World Day of Peace, Pope Francis observes that, sadly, in many places around the world, the "noise of war and conflict is intensifying, diseases of pandemic proportions are spreading, the effects of climate change and environmental degradation are worsening, (and) the tragedy of hunger and thirst is increasing."

Pope Francis urges us to show solidarity with those in our human family who are suffering and to "work together to build a more peaceful world, starting from the hearts of individuals and relationships in the family, then within society and with the environment, and all the way up to relationships between peoples and nations." He suggests that one of the ways to build peace is by promoting dialogue between the generations, "between the keepers of memory – the elderly – and those who move history forward – the young". The Holy Father explains:

"Young people need the wisdom and experience of the elderly, while those who are older need the support, affection, creativity and dynamism of the young."

The importance of intergenerational partnership and dialogue on the island of Ireland came home to me last October when I joined with the other Church leaders to hold a Service of Reflection and Hope to mark the centenary of 1921. During the service I expressed a personal sense of sadness and loss at the partition of Ireland and, with my fellow religious leaders, I acknowledged that perhaps we in the Churches could have done more to deepen our understanding of each other and to bring healing and peace to our divided and wounded communities.

We were blessed that so many young people took part in that Service in Armagh and they made such a refreshing and positive contribution – their presence and their youthful voices and singing were full of confidence and hope that they can be the ones to help to build the bridges necessary to overcome the mistrust and divisions of our past.

As we begin a New Year, conversations are already taking place about what constitutional change and greater sharing on this island might look like. Intergenerational dialogue has much to offer these conversations – balancing reflection on the past with hope for the future. Clearly, the issues of legacy and the reality of trauma experienced by many families here must be included and handled sensitively in these conversations. Victims have spoken about the importance of continued access to justice, together with meaningful opportunities for truth and information recovery. No line can easily be drawn on our past and there is clearly much work to be done in exploring and building a unity of hearts and minds towards a shared vision for our future in this island.

Recalling words that he spoke a few years ago to the young people of the world, Pope Francis offers the following thoughts on this World Day of Peace:

"If, amid difficulties, we can practise this kind of intergenerational dialogue, 'we can be firmly rooted in the present, and from here, revisit the past and look to the future. To revisit the past in order to learn from history and heal old wounds that at times still trouble us. To look to the future in order to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and enable hope to blossom. Together, we can learn from one another (Christ is Alive 199)'. For without roots, how can trees grow and bear fruit?"

The full text is available at <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2021/12/31/archbishop-eamon-martins-message-for-new-year-2022/>

**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**