

# 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 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 - St Agatha, virgin and martyr**

**4.45pm Sherkin Island:** - Special Intention

**6.30pm Cathedral:** Dan Collins, Lake Marsh and Anna McCarthy, Coronea and late of Rooskey, Roscommon - Months Mind

**7.30pm Rath:** Eileen Hallihane, Baltimore

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9.00 am Cathedral:** Denis Dempsey, Shepperton

**10.00am Cape Clear:** Micheal C O'Driscoll Comerlean

**10.15 am Rath:** Kathleen O'Driscoll, Ballymacrown and Gerald Grace - Months mind

**11.30 am Cathedral:** Denis O'Shea, Drishanemore

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February - St Mel, bishop**

**9.30am Skibbereen** - Special Intention

**10.15am Rath** - Teddy & Maggie Collins, Reengaroga

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February - St Jerome Emilliani**

**9.30am Skibbereen** - Special Intention

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb - 5<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time**

**9.30am Skibbereen** – William Hayes, Cullenagh

**10.15am Rath** – Special Intention

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February - St Scolastica, virgin**

**9.30am Skibbereen** - Ted Harnedy

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February – St Gobnait, virgin**

**9.30am Skibbereen** – Paddy O'Regan, Coronea

**10.15am Rath** – Special Intention

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 5<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time**

**4.45pm Sherkin Island:** Special Intention

**6.30pm Cathedral:** Dan Griffin, Cork Road

**7.30pm Rath:** Susanne O'Neill, Oldcourt

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9.00 am Cathedral:** Cornelius Connolly, Bridge Street

**10.00am Cape Clear:** -Special Intention

**10.15am Rath:** - William and Nancy Kelly, Bandon

**11.30 m Cathedral:** - Pat Connolly, Deelish

**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

**Feasts this week**

**8th: St Jerome Emiliani**, d. 1537, after a military career he founded the Clerks Regular of Somaschi for the care of orphans and the poor. Patron saint of orphans.

**10<sup>th</sup>: St Scholastica**, died c. 543, sister of St Benedict. She spent her life as a consecrated virgin. Patron of convulsive children.

**11th: St Gobnait** is one of the best loved saints in west Cork but only traditions concerning her life survive. The main part of her life was spent in Ballyvourney, Co. Cork, where there has always been a deep devotion to her, and which is a place of pilgrimage on this day and on Pentecost. Her gifts of caring for and curing the sick have been a significant part of her cult through the centuries.

Happily her memorial coincides with the World Day for the Sick.

Gobnait was born in County Clare in the fifth or sixth Century, and is said to have been the sister of Saint Abban. She fled a family feud, taking refuge in Inisheer in the Aran Islands. Here an angel appeared and told her that this was "not the place of her resurrection" and that she should look for a place where she would find nine white deer grazing. She found the deer at the place now known as St. Gobnet's Wood. Saint Abban is said to have worked with her on the foundation of the convent and to have placed Saint Gobnait over it as abbess.

Celtic lore held bees in high esteem, believing the soul left the body as a bee or a butterfly. Gobnait is said to have added beekeeping to her life's work, developing a lifelong affinity with them. She started a religious order and dedicated her days to helping the sick. It has been speculated that she used honey as a healing aid. She is credited with saving the people at Ballyvourney from the plague.

**Legends:** One story tells of how she drove off a brigand by sending a swarm of bees after him and making him restore the cattle he had stolen.

**Well:** St Gobnait's well (also known as St Debora's, Deriola's or Abigail's well) is situated to the North of Ballyagran in a high field to the left of the road to Castletown. Rounds were made and a pattern was held on 11 February until around 1870. The well has now dried up but the site is still known. It is said that a white stag could sometimes be seen at the well. There is also a well in Dún Chaoin County Kerry and is visited on 11 February every year by locals.

<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=st+gobnait>



**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.**

### Penance: What Is It?

The Sacrament of Penance is also known as the 'Sacrament of Reconciliation' or traditionally called 'Confession'. It is the rite by which sins are confessed and forgiven. Sin is failure to recognise and love God in the way we think or act. Sin is also not just a failure to love God directly but also a failure to love one another. This is referred to as "the community sense of sin".

### Absolution

In this sacrament people are forgiven their sins by the words and actions of the priest. We call this 'Absolution'. The priest represents God and the community who is affected by sin and the priest ministers forgiveness on behalf of God and the community.

### Forms Of Celebration

The sacrament can be celebrated in a one-to-one encounter with a priest: this is known as 'individual confession'. Many parishes also organise 'Penitential Services' at special times; e.g. Advent, Lent and Parish Missions. In this form of celebration, which is communal, people prepare as a community and many priests hear the confessions individually and people receive absolution individually.

### Penance

Penance is a sign of sorrow and a commitment to try to make amends. It is also a sign of our sincerity to change our lives. This is what is meant by conversion. When the Sacrament is a communal celebration, the penance is said as a community, once all have had the opportunity to confess. When celebrated in the traditional one-to-one form, a penance is given and the person takes on that penance privately.

<http://corkandross.org/penance-overview/>

### Irish Synodal Pathway

On 10 March 2021, the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference announced a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland leading to the holding of a National Synodal Assembly or Assemblies within the next five years. This process will focus on the question:

*What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?*

We hope this website will become an important stopping point on that journey, resourcing each one of us as we continue our Synodal journey  
[Home - Irish Synodal Pathway](#)



### Recently Baptised

Lara Madeira Tavares, The Bridge, Skibbereen  
Darragh Ryan, The Mills, Skibbereen

*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

Michael Hegarty, St Fachtna's Terrace, Skibbereen  
Mary O'Driscoll, 2 Gortnaclohy Drive, Skibbereen  
Eileen Burchill, Cork Road, Skibbereen and formerly of Freemount, Co. Cork  
*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*

### Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, we praise you and we thank you for all that you have done for us. We thank you especially for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to visit and save us. Give courage to those whom you invite to become priests and religious, and grant them the generosity of mind and heart to follow your call. May they bring good news to our world today. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen*

**Pope Francis** speaks a lot about discernment, and it is clear that he regards it as a key feature of synodality. It is what distinguishes the way of proceeding of the Church from that of a parliament or even a citizens' assembly- it is like these (Francis called the Amazon Synod's deliberations on married priests and female deacons a 'rich and even necessary parliament'), but something more is required for discernment. What is this more, then,



**Franciscus**  
Jorge Mario Bergoglio  
13.III.2013

and what is communal discernment in particular? Let me tell you of an experience I had back in 1995 in Rome. Together with over 220 other Jesuits we met for almost 3 months for our thirty fourth General Congregation. We shared our faith, discussed, argued, gossiped, forged alliances and compromises, entered into political intrigue, tried to read the signs of the times, had our 'up' and 'down' moments as individuals and as a group, and all the time attempted to rise above the intrigue to discern the movements of the Spirit. At times it didn't feel that we were very successful: there were dark moments, a lot of mumbling and grumbling, of deep disagreements. This was no purist discernment bubble; this was 'noisy discernment'! And yet by the end there was a deep sense of peace and satisfaction, as over 20 decrees were approved, virtually unanimously.  
*Communal Discernment in a Synodal Church - Irish Synodal Pathway*

**The Vanbrugh and Friends** will perform in Myross Wood House on Sunday 6th February at 3.00 p.m. This will be a delightful concert in a special setting. Tickets: €15. and are available from <http://www.barrahanemusic.ie> or 086 2264797.

**St Patrick's Boys National School enrolment** for new Junior Infants 2022. Enrolment from Feb 1st- 22nd. Applications available on [www.stpatricksskibb.ie](http://www.stpatricksskibb.ie), over the phone 028-21948 or email [stpatrickboysnsskibbereen@gmail.com](mailto:stpatrickboysnsskibbereen@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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](http://www.cura.ie)

**South Doc: 1850 335 999**