

# 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 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022 - 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

9.00am Sherkin – Special Intention

6.30pm Cathedral - Kit Fitzgerald Glencurragh,  
Richard Fitzgerald, Glencurragh Months mind

7.30pm Rath - Special Intention

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May - The Ascension of the Lord

9.00am Cathedral – Special Intention

10.00am Cape Clear - Special Intention

10.15am Rath - Mary McDonagh, Dublin and  
Baltimore

11.30am Cathedral - Annie and Paddy Connolly,  
Deelish

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May - 7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

9.30am Cathedral - Special Intention

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

### Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.30am Skibbereen – Cornelius, Con & Paddy  
Connolly, Lissanuhig

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June - St Justin, martyr

9.30am Cathedral – Margaret O'Brien, Upper Bridget Street

10.15am Rath – Rita McSweeney, Dublin and  
Baltimore

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Ss Marcellinus and Peter

9.30am Cathedral - Breda Barnett, North Street

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - St Kevin, abbot

9.30am Cathedral - Patricia Long, Milleenahorna

10.15am Rath - Special Intention

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June - SS Charles Lwanga

4.45pm – Sherkin – Special Intention

6.30pm Cathedral - Special Intention

7.30pm Rath - Patricia O'Mahony, Coronea House

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Pentecost Sunday

9.00am Cathedral – Special Intention

10.00am Cape Clear - Special Intention

10.15am Rath - John Davis, Lackahane

11.30am Cathedral - Con O'Mahony, Coronea

### Vocation to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Cork and Ross

Please contact Fr Cian O'Sullivan on 021 4876171 for further Information regarding a Vocation to Priesthood in the Diocese. There are cards providing more details at all church doors. You are welcome to take one.

### Feasts This Week

**28/29<sup>th</sup>: The Ascension of Christ** means our own salvation as well; where the glorious Head has gone before, the body is called to follow in hope. Let us therefore exult, beloved, as is fitting, and let us rejoice in devout thanksgiving. For on this day not only have we been confirmed in our possession of paradise, but we have even entered heaven in the person of Christ; through his grace we have regained far more than we had lost through the devil's hatred' (St Leo the Great, Sermon 73:4).



**30<sup>th</sup>: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Today's liturgy recalls the 'Blessed Virgin Mary carrying her Son within her' and visiting Elizabeth to offer charitable assistance and to proclaim the mercy of God the Saviour (*Marialis Cultus*).

**1<sup>st</sup> June: St Justin** was born in the Holy Land and settled in Rome. He became a Christian and is remembered for his defence of Christian belief and practice. He was martyred c. 165.

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Marcellinus and Peter**, Roman clergy, martyred under Diocletian in 303.

**3<sup>rd</sup>: St Kevin** was a native of Leinster and grew up in Kilnamanagh, where he received his early religious formation. Wishing to be a hermit, he crossed the mountains to Glendalough and settled in Disert Caoimhghin at the foot of the upper lake. But disciples began to gather round him. Gradually the great monastic settlement grew and spread through the glen after his death in 618

**4<sup>th</sup>: Ss Charles Lwanga and Companions**, twenty-two Ugandan youths martyred

**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.**

## What is a Christian?

Jesus said 'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.' A Christian is someone who has chosen to receive life to the full by following Jesus. We accept his teaching and believe that he died and rose from the dead, and that he remains alive and active in the hearts of those who love him. We believe that the Holy Spirit helps us to live closely as friends of God, and to share the Good News with all people. We do this as members of the Catholic Church.

<http://corkandross.org/becoming-a-catholic/>

## The Story of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This is a fairly late feast, going back only to the 13th or 14th century. It was established widely throughout the Church to pray for unity. The present date of celebration was set in 1969, in order to follow the Annunciation of the Lord and precede the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.

Like most feasts of Mary, it is closely connected with Jesus and his saving work. The more visible actors in the visitation drama (see Luke 1:39-45) are Mary and Elizabeth. However, Jesus and John the Baptist steal the scene in a hidden way. Jesus makes John leap with joy—the joy of messianic salvation. Elizabeth, in turn, is filled with the Holy Spirit and addresses words of praise to Mary—words that echo down through the ages.

It is helpful to recall that we do not have a journalist's account of this meeting. Rather Luke, speaking for the Church, gives a prayerful poet's rendition of the scene. Elizabeth's praise of Mary as "the mother of my Lord" can be viewed as the earliest Church's devotion to Mary. As with all authentic devotion to Mary, Elizabeth's (the Church's) words first praise God for what God has done to Mary. Only secondly does she praise Mary for trusting God's words.

Then comes the *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55). Here, Mary herself—like the Church—traces all her greatness to God.

**“Cross Roads / Pattern Dancing:** Skibbereen & District Historical Society wish to gather and record information, locations, stories, and photos of this old custom in the area. Please contact [secretary@skibbereenhistorical.ie](mailto:secretary@skibbereenhistorical.ie) or 086-8234109 and we will come and talk to you.”

**St Kevin:** Glendalough, or the Glen of two Lakes, is one of the most important sites of monastic ruins in Ireland. Before the arrival of St. Kevin this glen would have been desolate and remote and would have been ideal for a secluded retreat.

### St. Kevin's bed

Kevin was ordained by Bishop Lugidus and, following his ordination, he moved on to Glendalough in order to avoid the company of his followers. He lived as a hermit in a partially man made cave (sometimes incorrectly described as a Bronze age tomb) now known as St. Kevin's Bed, to which he was led, in the account of the *Vita*, by an angel.

St. Kevin's Bed can best be described as a man-made cave cut in the rock face very close to the edge of the mountain. It overlooks the upper lake from a height of about 30 feet (10 metres). The approach to the cave is very difficult, with access to it through a rectangular space and a short passageway 3 feet (1 metre) high and 2½ ft wide. The inner or main part of the cave is just 4 feet (1.5 metres) wide and less than 3 feet (1 metre) high. It is reasonable to assume that the cave could only have been used as a sleeping place, and would have been impossible for an adult to stand upright in, so it is quite likely that St Kevin only used it as his bed, or a place for pious prayer or meditation.

There is a legend which claims that St Laurence O'Toole used the "bed" as he frequently made penitential visits to Glendalough, especially during the season of Lent. Michael Dwyer, the famous Wicklow rebel, is reputed to have taken shelter in the "bed" while he was on the run from British soldiers. The story goes that he escaped capture one morning by diving into the lake and swimming to the opposite side. Today, it is highly dangerous to try to approach the "bed" from the side of Lugduff mountain. Visitors, in the interests of their own safety, should be content with a distant view of it.

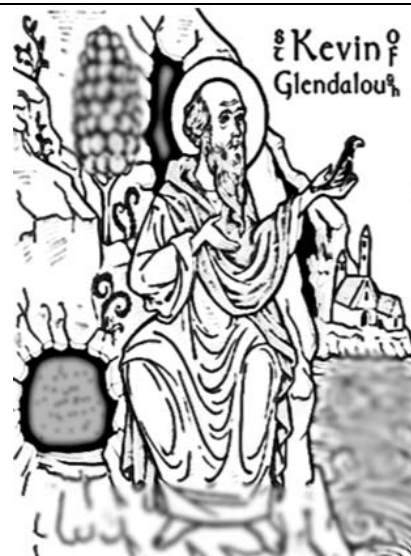
The chapel of St Kevin at Glendalough. Kevin lived the life of a hermit there with an extraordinary closeness to nature. His companions were the animals and birds all around him. He lived as a hermit for seven years wearing only animal skins, sleeping on stones and eating very sparingly.

He went barefoot and spent his time in prayer. Disciples were soon attracted to Kevin and a further settlement enclosed by a wall, called Kevin's Cell, was established nearer the lakeshore. By 540 Saint Kevin's fame as a teacher and holy man had spread far and wide. Many people came to seek his help and guidance. In time Glendalough grew into a renowned seminary of saints and scholars and the parent of several other monasteries.

In 544, Kevin went to the Hill of Uisneach in County Westmeath to visit the holy abbots, Sts. Columba, Comgall and Cannich. He then proceeded to Clonmacnoise, where St. Cieran had died three days before. Having firmly established his community, he retired into solitude for four years, and only returned to Glendalough at the earnest entreaty of his monks.<sup>[3]</sup> Until his death around 618, Kevin presided over his monastery in Glendalough, living his life by fasting, praying and teaching. St Kevin is one of the patron saints of the diocese of Dublin.

He belonged to the second order of Irish saints.<sup>[3]</sup> Eventually, Glendalough, with its seven churches, became one of the chief pilgrimage destinations in Ireland.

*St. Kevin - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online*



**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**