

**BANTRY PARISH NEWSLETTER
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER

VOL. 11. NO. 50

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To contact Priest on duty: Telephone 087-7999886

Parish Office times: Weekdays: Mon. Weds. Thurs. & Fri. 9.30am – 11.30am. Fridays only 1.30pm-3.30pm

Parish website: www.bantryparish.ie

Fr. Sean Crowley C.C.

Tel. 027 50193

Parish office: Tel: 56398 email: office@bantryparish.com

Calendar: Mass Times and Intentions :-
Mon. 14th December: 3rd week of Advent: St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor of the Church:
Bantry: 10am Olive O'Neill – Millbrook Lawn – 1st anniversary

Tues. 15th December: 3rd week of Advent:
Bantry: 10am James & Kathleen Cronin – Coomanore

Wed. 16th December: 3rd Week of Advent:
Bantry: 10am: Tommy Keegan & Family
Hospital Chapel:
5.30pm: Maureen O'Sullivan – Rock Villas

Thurs. 17th December: 3rd Week of Advent:
Bantry: 10am Annie Downey - Dromduve

Friday 18th December: 3rd Week of Advent:
Bantry: 10am
Mary Coppinger – Blackrock Road
Kealkil: 7.30pm – Madge O'Sullivan – Droumsullivan

Sat. 19th December: 3rd week of Advent:
Hospital: 10am:
Dermot O'Connell – Chapel Street
Bantry: 6.15pm:
Kitty McCarthy – Scartbawn - 1st anniversary

Sun. 20th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent:
Bantry: 9am:
John P. McCarthy - Scartbawn
Coomhola: 10am:
Patrick Hurley – Derryarkane, Kealkil
Kealkil: 11am:
Rita O'Sullivan – 'Hillview', Breenybeg, Kealkil
Bantry: 12 noon: People of the Parish

**Confessions for Christmas
in Bantry Parish**

**Penitential Service in Bantry Church
Monday 21st December at 7.30 pm
A number of priests will be available for
Confessions.**

Coomhola School - Christmas celebrations, Nativity Play and Mass on Wed. December 16th commencing at 10.00 a.m. Parents, past pupils, neighbours & friends are very welcome.

Died Recently: We extend our prayers & sympathy to the families, relatives & friends of;

**Laurence O'Daly
Glengarriff Road, Bantry**

**Mary Ellen Cronin
The Cove, Ahakista,**

May they rest in peace.

Thanks to all who hosted the Station Mass in their homes and to all who supported the Priests by giving their station offering and Parish Dues. We appreciate all your support and generosity. Fr. Martin Fr. Seán

Mass Times for Christmas 2015

Christmas Eve:

Bantry 10.00 am

Bantry 6.15 pm Family Mass

Kealkil: 8.00 pm

Bantry 10.00 pm Carol Singing at 9.40pm

Coomhola: 12.00 am Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

Hospital: 8.00 am

Bantry: 9.00 am

Coomhola: 10.00 am

Kealkil: 11.00 am

Bantry: 12.00 noon

Confessions in Bantry Church

Saturday 19th December – 12 noon

Thursday 24th December – 12 noon

DROMCLOUGH N.S.

Our Annual Christmas Mass will be held in the school on Friday 18th of December at 11.30 am.

Fr. Sean Crowley will be at the school from 11 am to hear confessions.

2015 Rotas (January-June) for Ministers of the Word and the Eucharist are now available. We would be grateful if all Ministers would call to the Sacristy or the Parish Office to collect them. Thank you.

The annual **Ecumenical Community Service** of Lessons and Carols is once again being held in St. Brendan's Church of Ireland on Sunday 20 December at 8pm. Singers from St Finbarr's, Bantry; Sacred Heart Church, Glengarriff; and St Brendan's, Bantry will be taking part and congregational carols will be aplenty. Many people consider this beautiful service to be the start of their Christmas. Come and join us and make it a part of yours!"

Bantry Lifeboat Carol Concert in Bantry House on Sunday December 13th at 8pm. All welcome. Tickets €10. Children & Senior Citizens €5

It is the beginning of Advent and Trócaire has launched its Christmas gift range that will directly benefit families in some of the world's poorest countries. From olive trees for farmers in Palestine (€5/£4) to business support for women in Ethiopia (€250/£200), when you buy a Trócaire gift you're not just giving, you're joining the fight for justice. Further info at www.trocaire.org/gifts

500 Bingo will be held at Mealagh Valley Hall on Thursday December 17th. at 8.00P.M.. Usual Bus Service will run. As this will be our last Bingo Session of 2015 we wish to thank all who have supported us so well. Gods Blessing on each of you this Christmas and through out 2016. Please God you will support us again during the coming New Year.

World Day of Peace 2016

January 1st 2016 is World Day of Peace. Pope Francis asks us to put aside our differences and pray for peace in our lives and in the world.

We will pray especially for peace at home and around the world at the 7.30pm in St. Finbarr's Church on January 1st.

Offertory Collection: Weekend 5th/6th Dec:
Bantry Church: €1690; Kealkil Church:€350;
Coomhola Church: €285

The Deep End – REJOICE!

In his poem Japanese Maple, Clive James offers a heartrending description of some of the beauty he observes during what he believes are his final days.

*You feel the drain
Of energy, but thought and sight remain:
Enhanced, in fact. When did you ever see
So much sweet beauty as when fine rain falls
On that small tree
And saturates your brick back garden walls*

Faced with his mortality, the poet was able to celebrate and take pleasure in the simplest of things. The poem radiates with acceptance and a certain contentment as he reflects on the world and its 'sweet beauty'. (A year later he wrote of his embarrassment at still being alive after the attention the poem gathered!).

Today is Gaudete Sunday; the day takes its name from the Latin Gaudete meaning 'Rejoice'. The first line of our Second Reading uses the word 'happy' twice and 'happiness' once. This happiness Paul speaks of is not a passing mood, but a deeper happiness and contentment, a peace of heart. Do we take the time to cultivate deeper sense of happiness? It is something we can think about as we prepare for Christmas. It is not the gifts & festivities that will bring us true and lasting happiness. Triona Doherty

Youth 2000 Christmas Retreat - Newbridge College, Co Kildare 18th – 20th December 2015. Youth 2000 invites all **young adults** between ages of 16-35 to a Catholic weekend retreat taking place from 18th-20thDecember 2015 at Newbridge College, Co. Kildare This will be an exciting weekend attracting over 600 young people from all over the country.**What to expect?** Good fun, excellent speakers, inspiring talks and workshops, prayer, fantastic live music, group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, a Healing Service, games, lots of time to chill out and meet new people. The weekend is being organised by young people for young people. Parental consent is essential for all those under 18. All meals are provided for and accommodation is on site!
Don't let money be an obstacle; just bring a donation and a sleeping bag. **Newcomers very welcome!** There will be **free buses** picking up from various areas throughout the country. **Booking is essential.** For more information on the event or to book your place, see www.youth2000.ie, **Youth 2000 Ireland Facebook page** or Tel: **00353 (0) 1 6753690**