

**Canon Martin O'Driscoll P.P.**

Tel: 027-50096

**Fr. Sean Crowley C.C.**

Tel. 027 50193

**To contact Priest on duty: 087-7999886**

Parish office: Tel: 56398 email: [office@bantryparish.com](mailto:office@bantryparish.com)

Parish Office times: Weekdays: Monday & Wednesday 9am – 11am. Thursday & Fridays 9am – 12noon

Parish website: [www.bantryparish.ie](http://www.bantryparish.ie)

**BANTRY PARISH CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Bantry: 6.15pm – Children's/Family Mass  
10pm – Vigil Mass**

**Kealkil: 8pm – Vigil Mass**

**Coomhola: 12 Midnight Mass**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Hospital: 8.00am**

**Bantry: 9am**

**Coomhola: 10am**

**Kealkil: 11am**

**Bantry: 12 noon**

**Confessions for Christmas in Bantry Parish**

**Penitential Service in Bantry Church  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm**

*A number of priests will be  
available for Confessions.*

**Confessions also available on:-**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – at 12 noon in  
Bantry & after the Vigil Mass**

**Christmas Eve Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December -  
after each of the Sunday morning Masses.**

**The last Christmas Confessions will be after  
the 12 noon Mass in Bantry.**

**Communion Calls**

**Fr. Martin will make his Christmas  
Communion Calls during the coming week.**

**Calendar: Mass Times and Intentions :-**

**Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent:**

**Bantry: 10am: Joe Hegarty – Ardnagaoithe**

**Bantry: 7.30pm: Penitential Service**

**Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent:**

**Bantry: 10am: Mary Coppinger – Blackrock Road**

**Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent:**

**Bantry: 10am:**

**Mary Agnes Sullivan – Seskin & Allihies**

**Hospital: 5.30pm: Sheila Cronin - Rock Villas**

**Thurs. 21<sup>st</sup> December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent:**

**Bantry: 10am: Edwin & Oonagh Cussen**

**Edward, Donald & Alastair Tait**

**Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent: n Mary**

**Bantry: 10am:**

**John & Maisie O'Connor – Hospital Cross**

**Kealkil: 7.30pm: Tim & Hannah Murphy & the  
Murphy Family - Kealkil**

**Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> December: 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent:**

**Hospital: 10am: James & Bridie Boland**

**Joe & Celia Boland**

**Bantry: 6.15pm: Hugh McCarthy – Barrack Street**

**Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> December: Fourth Sunday of Advent:**

**Bantry: 9am : Christy O'Sullivan - Glencreagh**

**Coomhola: 10am:**

**Ita O'Sullivan – Snave & London – 1st anniversary**

**Kealkil: 11am: Ted Murnane - Maughnaclea**

**Bantry: 12 noon: People of the Parish**

**Christmas Vigil Mass:**

**Bantry: 6.15pm: Kealkil: 8pm:**

**Bantry: 10pm Coomhola: 12 Midnight**

**Died Recently: We extend our prayers &  
sympathy to the family, relatives & friends of:**

**James Gerard (Gerry) Mulcahy  
- Dromleigh, Bantry**

**May he Rest in Peace**

**Collection for Priests:**

*The collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is for the priests of the parish. The Bishop only allows two days in the year when the offertory collection is given to the Priests – Christmas and Easter. All other collections are for the running of the Parish. These are all accounted for by the Parish Finance Committee and in turn sent to the Diocesan Accountant in Cork. We thank you for your great support and generosity.*

Fr. Martin O'Driscoll

Fr. Sean Crowley

Fr. James McSweeney

**BANTRY PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND. 8<sup>TH</sup> – 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2018. EX CORK AIRPORT. COST: €1635.00. BROCHURES AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH OFFICE.**

**2018 Parish Calendars are available at the Church Porches. Please take one for your home and for your family & friends.**

**THE DEEP END: Light and Darkness**

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again today, and in this account, from the fourth gospel, we hear John's voice and his testimony about Jesus. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth gospel and its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light-bearer, he is not the light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means 'rejoice'; we light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. It might be a good opportunity to ask today: 'who have been the light-bearers on your own faith journey'? Who testified to the Light of God and passed the torch on to you? We thank God for them.

Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church ... We become cynical and settle for mediocrity. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome. Michel de Verteuil

Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

**Offertory Collection:**

Holy Day 8<sup>th</sup> December: Bantry €1090 ; Coomhola €75 ; Kealkil €145  
Weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> December: Bantry - € 1,740; Coomhola - €180; Kealkil - €310.

**Dromclough National School Mass is on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon. All very welcome.**

**Christmas Anniversary List**

We are now taking names of deceased loved ones to be prayed for at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We ask that you please specify the Mass at which you would like the person to be prayed for.

**Bantry Community Carol Service** is being held once again in St Brendan's Church on the square on Sunday 17 December at 8pm. Many parishioners enjoy this service and mark it as the start of their Christmas spiritual festivities. Do come and you will be made most welcome

**St. Stephen's Day Walk in aid of Bantry Hospice, Cancer Connect and Cork Arc Cancer Support.**

**Walk A: Boulteenagh to Fahan (approx.8km). Walk B: Boulteenagh to Rooska (approx 4km). Walk C: Family friendly walk to Bantry House.**

**Buses leave Bantry Tourist office for A and B walks at noon. Walkers for Walk C leave at noon. Tea and Biscuits at the Bantry Bay after the walk!**

**Care for the Aged Charity Shop**

The lady volunteers of the above charity shop wish to acknowledge the wonderful support we have received from the people of Bantry & surrounding areas during 2017. We are confident that we can look forward to the same level of support in 2018. We would like to wish our friends and supporters a happy Christmas & a prosperous New Year.

**2018 Rotas (Jan-June) for Ministers of the Word & the Eucharist are now available. Please call to the Sacristy or the Parish Office to collect your rota. Thank you. We ask that all Ministers arrange a sub if you cannot attend on your scheduled day**

*Gaudete: Rejoice always.*

*Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*