

**BANTRY PARISH NEWSLETTER
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2017

VOL. 12. NO. 1

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

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Parish website: www.bantryparish.ie

Calendar: Mass Times and Intentions :-

Mon. 2nd January: Before Epiphany:

Bantry:10am: John Hanley - Kielnascarta

Tues. 3rd January: Before Epiphany:

Bantry:10am: Michael O’Sullivan – Marian Terrace

Wed. 4th January: Before Epiphany:

Bantry:10am: Maura O’Connor – High Street

Hospital: 5.30pm: Denis Gilley - Caher

Thurs. 5th January: Before Epiphany:

Bantry: 10am: Mary T. O’Sullivan – 10th anniversary

Bantry: 6.15pm: Joan & Timmy McCarthy

- St. Cannaras Place

Friday 6th January: The Epiphany of the Lord:

Coomhola: 10am

Kealkil: 11am

Bantry: 12 noon

Bantry: 7.30pm:

John & Maisie O’Connor – Hospital Cross, Bantry

Sat. 7th January: After Epiphany:

**Hospital: 10am: Bridie & Humphrey Lynch –
Blackrock Road & late of Shandrum**

Bantry: 6.15pm Fr. Denis Murphy – Glengarriff Rd

Sun. 8th January: The Baptism of the Lord:

Bantry: 9am: Victims of the Betelgeuse Disaster

Coomhola: 10am: Tim Murphy - Dromdubh

Kealkil: 11am: Jack O’Mahony - Gortloughera

Bantry: 12 noon: People of the Parish

Padre Pio Prayer Group

Please note there will be no meeting of the Padre
Pio Prayer Group in January.
Meetings resume as normal in February.

Recent Parish Baptisms:

**Catherine Mary Downey
Hanwell, London**

We welcome her into our Christian Community

**Feast of the Epiphany –
Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, 6th January 2017**

**Bantry: Thursday 5th January at 6.15pm
– Vigil Mass**

Friday, 6th January

Coomhola: 10.00 am

Kealkil: 11.00 am

Bantry: 12.00 noon & 7.30 pm

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

Christy O’Donoghue

- Coorycommade, Coomhola, Bantry

May he Rest in Peace.

***Clear Reflections: Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart. Luke 2:19***

New Year’s Day is a perfect time for reflection. All year long, we store up our experiences. Today, if you can, set aside a little time to reflect on them in prayer. Look back on the year that just ended. What are you proud of? What are you sorry for? How did you encounter the Lord anew? How did you allow yourself to be changed – for better and for worse?

Now look ahead to the new year. What do you need? What do you hope for? What do you want to work on? Don’t just focus on your physique, but consider your psyche. Scour your spirit! Reflect on these things in your heart, like Mary did, and ask the Lord to guide you in the year ahead.

***Lord Jesus, draw me closer to you this year
and always!*** Karla Manternach

Thank you

As we look forward to the New Year ahead we remember and thank all of you who have contributed to and participated in the life of Bantry Parish over the past year. We thank you for your prayers, your participation in ministry, and the many different tasks and roles, however small, you take up in the parish.

Sincere thanks also for your financial support in the Christmas collection this year. We very much appreciate your help and support. We wish you and yours every blessing during 2017.

Fr. Martin & Fr. Seán

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2017

The Bantry Parish & Friends Pilgrimage will take place from the 22nd to 27th Sept. 2017 (Ex. Cork) with Full Board accommodation in the 'Agena Hotel'.

Spiritual Director: Fr. Martin Keohane

Booking forms available at Parish Office

Womens Little Christmas Luncheon

All proceeds to Bru Columbanus which provides accommodation for relatives of patients in Corks Hospitals and the Hospice, especially parents of sick children. Reception followed by sumptuous lunch at Cork International Hotel – Friday 6th January 2017 at 12.30pm. Entertainment by the wonderful Linda Kenny accompanied by Alan Carney. Tickets €45. Tel. 021-4345754 or 087-2787074

Calling All Card Players to Mealah Valley Hall for The First 45 Progressive Game of 2017 at 9.00 P.M. on Saturday January 7th.. A Raffle with Cash & Other Prizes on The Night. Complimentary Refreshments will be Served. Your Support would be Greatly Appreciated.

Experience the CHRISTMAS STORY

in the land where it actually happened

Take the TRIP of a LIFETIME to the Holy Land, June 12-22nd 2017.

Group Leader, Mícheál de Barra and Spiritual Director, Fr. John Newman (Bible Scholar)

Contact Mícheál at 0868337681 or email culturaltoursireland@gmail.com

2017 Parish Calendars are available at the Church Porches. Please take one for your home & for your family & friends

2017 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 substitute if you cannot attend on your scheduled day.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

Pope Francis has chosen Ireland to host the next World Meeting of Families in August 2018. This is a graced moment for all families and for the Church in Ireland enhanced by the proposed visit by Pope Francis to coincide with this event. The Diocese will be offering a programme of preparation for all ages over the coming months leading up to this event. To begin your parish will be distributing prayer cards over the Christmas period to encourage families to pray together the special prayer which will also feature in your parish crib on the Manger prayer card.

Training for Parish Catechists: The second two year training, the Maryvale Certificate in Catechesis, will begin in Cork in January 2017. Information packs & registration forms are available from the Pastoral Development Office tel: 021 4537601 & must be returned by 10th January. This course is open to all wishing to enhance their understanding of the Catholic faith.

CoAction Bingo

On this Sunday night (New Year's Night), there will be a fantastic €1000 Bingo session taking place at 8pm in the Boys Club. All are welcome and, as usual, proceeds go to CoAction West Cork.

The Deep End – Treasure and Ponder

If you're anything like me, you sometimes have to make a deliberate effort to slow down. Life can be so busy that sometimes there is little time left to think. Even or downtime can be full of activities and noise, whether we're into sports; video games; sitting down with a good book, movie or box set; or networking on social media. It can sometimes be difficult to remember the last time we sat down by ourselves in a quiet room.

In today's Gospel, Mary stands in contrast to the Shepherds who hurried and talked and spread the word and praised God. Of course, there is a time for these things, and the excitement of the shepherds is palpable – they had found their Saviour. No doubt Mary and Joseph shared in their joyful enthusiasm. But when things quietened down again, we are told that Mary 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'.

Mary sets a good example for us, taking time to meditate on all that is happening. As we start a new year afresh, we could do a lot worse than take Mary as our model. In our hectic world, we need to take time to sit quietly, to treasure and ponder, and to allow ourselves to delve deep into the mysteries of life.

Triona Doherty