

**BANTRY PARISH NEWSLETTER
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2015

VOL. 11. NO. 51

Fr. Martin Keohane P.P.

Tel. 027 50096

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. 21st December: 4th week of Advent: St. Peter Canisius, Priest & doctor of the Church:
Bantry: 10am Joe Hegarty - Ardnageeha

Tues. 22nd December: 4th week of Advent:
Bantry: 10am Hugh McCarthy – Barrack Street

Wed. 23rd December: 4th Week of Advent:
Bantry: 10am: Alastair Tait, Donald Tait
& Una Cussen

Hospital Chapel:
5.30pm: Sheila Cronin – Rock Villas – 1st anniv.

Thurs. 24th December: Christmas Eve:
Bantry: 10am Sean Manning – Lahern,
Ballylickey – Months Mind
Bantry: 6.15pm (Family Mass) & 10pm
Kealkil: 8pm
Coomhola: 12 Midnight Mass

Friday 25th December: The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Hospital: 8am Bantry: 9am
Coomhola: 10am Kealkil: 11am
Bantry: 12noon

Sat. 26th December: St. Stephen, First Martyr:
Hospital: 10am:
Hannie Harrington – Georges Row – 1st anniv.
Bantry: 6.15pm:
Tommy Murray – Ballylickey

Sun. 27th December: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph:
Bantry: 9am:
Patrick & Christina McCarthy – Tower Hill
Coomhola: 10am:
People of the Parish
Kealkil: 11am:
Ted Murnane – Maughnaclea, 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.**

**There will also be Confessions in Bantry
Church on Thursday 24th December
at 12noon**

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

In wishing you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and thanking you for your support our wish and prayer for you is best summed up in the following prayer.

An Irish Christmas Blessing

*God send us a Happy Christmas! His blessing
be on our home;
His love be around our loved ones, wherever
they may roam.
God send us a Holy Christmas! His name be on
every mind;
and close to the crib of Bethlehem true
happiness may we find.
God send us a Peaceful Christmas! May the
sweetness of memories throng;
Where we sit by the festive braaiside, to sing a
soothing song.
God send us a Merry Christmas - to us and all
we love!
On our home may the Babe of Bethlehem smile
down from his home above.*

Fr. Martin

Fr. Sean

Collection for Priests: The collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is for the priests of the parish. Christmas and Easter are the only occasions when the collection goes to the priests' income.

Míle buíochas for your generosity.

Died Recently:

We extend our prayers & sympathy to the family, relatives & friends of;
Mary O'Driscoll (nee Tobin)
– Gearhies, Bantry
May she rest in peace.

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!"

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 2015. We are confident that we can look forward to the same level of support in 2016. We would like to wish our friends & supporters a Happy Christmas & a prosperous New Year.

West Cork Carers Group this year are celebrating the New Year with two parties!

All Carers are warmly invited to join us on: Thursday 21st January for dinner in Glengarriff, from 7.00 pm and/ or Wednesday 27th January for lunch in Skibbereen from 12.30pm. To book-Contact: 027 53848.

Bantry Rowing Club Christmas Day Swim will take place at 1pm (1300hr) sharp at the Abbey slip. Refreshments available. All welcome. Proceeds to Cancer Connect.

Presentation to Cancer Research:

On Tuesday, November 24th, in the Mariner, an illustrated presentation on the great work of the Cork Cancer Research Centre was given by Dr. Patrick Forde and Eoghan O'Sullivan. This was followed by a comprehensive question and answer session. A cheque for €19,000 was then presented to the two representatives from the Cancer Research Centre on behalf of the fundraising volunteers, for this very worthy cause. Thanks was expressed to the Deasy family for the use of their shop, to the community for their unbelievable generosity, to those who helped in any way towards the success of the annual fundraising shop, to the owners of the Mariner for the use of the hall and to Malachy for the very welcome cupán tae. Details on www.breakthroughcancerresearch.ie

Mass on World Day of Peace

January 1st 2016 is the Feast of Mary, The Holy Mother of God and World Day of Peace. At the 7.30pm Mass in St. Finbarr's Church on that day we will pray especially for the gift of peace at home and around the world.

Offertory Collection: Weekend 12th/13th Dec:
Bantry Church: €1502; Kealkil Church:€290;
Coomhola Church: €265

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.

2016 Parish Calendars are available at the Church Porches. Please take one for your home and for your family & friends.

Recent Parish Baptisms:

Michalina Wiktorja Skwarczowska
(Slip, Bantry)

Eamonn Richard Galvin

(Glouneykearney, Dunmanway)

We welcome them into our Christian Community

The Deep End – Take a Breathe

Grant Peace,

For a space let there be no roar

Of wheels and voices, no din

Of steel and stone and fire.

Let us cleanse ourselves from the sweat and dirt,

Let us be hushed...

From 'Retreat' by Richard Aldington

Let us be hushed. In all the madness of the festive season, we need some peace and quiet and time to reflect. Mary was caught up in the excitement of being pregnant & wonderment at what the angel told her. She went as quickly as she could to visit Elizabeth. Perhaps she needed a bit of 'head space' to reflect on everything that was happening. And then we have this precious moment when Elizabeth greets her, & describes how the child in her womb leapt for joy. Like Elizabeth, we await the arrival of Jesus with joy. Like Mary, we are filled with wonder. As we count down to Christmas, we may need a little time out. Make a little space to pray & reflect today. Wrap up warm and head out for a walk, visit your local church in the quiet of the afternoon, or take a few moments to yourself at home to get away from the noise. Triona Doherty (trionad@gmail.com)

A gift works like a talisman for one who holds it: it brings prosperity at every turn." Proverbs 17:8. Trocaire gifts have helped thousands of people in the developing world improve their lives and prosper despite being denied opportunity and suffering injustice at every turn. Gifts are available at www.trocaire.org/gifts.