

Canon Martin O'Driscoll P.P.

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Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8th December - Holy Day of Obligation

Bantry Church: Vigil Mass at 6.15pm on Thursday 7th December

(Please note there will be no 7.30pm Mass in Kealkil Church on Friday 8th)

Friday 8th December

Coomhola Church: 10.00am

Kealkil Church: 11.00 am

Bantry Church: 12noon

Bantry Church: 7.30pm

Rosary in Kealkil Church

The Rosary is starting before Mass in Kealkil Church each Sunday at 10.35am for the protection of the 8th Amendment.

Offertory Collection:Weekend of 25th / 26th

November: Bantry - € 1,590; Coomhola - €205; Kealkil - €275.

Our sincere 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 & generosity.

Fr. Martin & Fr. Sean

Derrycreha National School will have their Christmas Mass on Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 10.00am. All are welcome

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE EX CORK

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus This trip of a lifetime (fully guided) will take place from April 20th-28th 2018. Highlights include: A boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, visits to Nazareth, Cana, Jericho, The Dead Sea, Jerusalem, The Mount of Olives, Bethlehem, etc. The trip includes: Return flights ex Cork, a comprehensive daily programme, entrance fees, 4* Hotels, dinner bed and breakfast throughout. Spiritual Director Fr Liam Crowley. For further Information and details please contact MAP Travel 01-8783111 or Fr Liam Crowley 087 2302811 /Tour Manager Jim Keogh 021 4885371 Mobile 087 2678793. Please note that places are strictly limited and will be allocated first come first served.

The Bantry hospice project AGM will take place on Tuesday December 5th 7.30pm in the Maritime hotel. All welcome

Calendar: Mass Times and Intentions :-

Mon. 4th December: 1st Week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am: Eileen Harrington (Drimoleague) & Nora Riordan (New York)

Tues. 5th December: 1st Week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am:

Mary & Catherine O'Sullivan - Newtown

Wed. 6th December: 1st Week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am: Nessa McCarthy - Newtown

Hospital: 5.30pm: Special Intention

Thurs. 7th December: 1st Week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am:

Patrick O'Mahony - Colchester England

Bantry: 6.15pm: Vigil Mass; Special Intention

Fri. 8th December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Coomhola: 10am: People of the Parish

Kealkil: 11am: Deceased members of the O'Reilly & Hurley Families - Kealkil

Bantry: 12noon; People of the Parish

Bantry: 7.30pm: Michael Moloney - Ards

Sat. 9th December: 1st Week of Advent:

Hospital: 10am:

Annie Keane - Kealkil & Slip Grove

Bantry: 6.15pm: Pat Cronin - Gurteenroe

Sun. 10th December: Second Sunday of Advent:

Bantry: 9am : Jerry & Mary Holland - Feenagh

Coomhola: 10am: Peg Murphy - Droumduve

Kealkil: 11am:

Joe & Nora Keane - Pearsons Bridge

Bantry: 12 noon: People of the Parish

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

**Joan Manning (née O'Sullivan)
- Bantry & formerly Kealkil**

**Maura O'Shea (née Lucey)
- Kealkil & late of Clondrohid**

May they Rest in Peace

St. Vincent de Paul Appeal

St. Vincent de Paul Bantry will hold its annual Christmas Appeal collection at all churches next weekend 9th & 10th December. Your generosity is much appreciated as it helps greatly in our endeavours to help those in need.

**Diocese of Cork and Ross Lourdes Pilgrimage 2018
Young Adult Helpers (18-25 year olds)
11th to 16th June 2018**

**Our pilgrimage is a time for reflection, prayer, for
service and making new friends.
For more information contact Fr. Chrliie Kiely.
Tel. 021-4537603**

**Santa @ McGee's,
Saturday 9th of Dec. 7-8:30pm. Free finger
food, raffle, face painting & mulled wine.
Proceeds go to Cancer Connect
& Bantry hospice.**

Christmas Concert

Sally-Ann Fitzgerald, Claire Hayden and the West cork school of voice charity Christmas concert takes place on Thursday Dec 7th in St Brendans church Bantry. This is a night not to be missed all in aid of two great causes Bantry inshore search and rescue and Castletownbere R.N.L.I tickets €10 available at the door on the night.

Bantry Mother and Toddler Group meets every Monday in the Gaelscoil hall from 09:45 to 11:45. Indoor and outdoor activities, ballpool, arts & crafts, sand and water activities, music and singing. Refreshments provided. €4 per family.

Bantry Historical Society: Tim Crowley of the Michael Collins Centre, will give an Illustrated talk entitled "From Fron-goch Internment Camp in 1916, to events in Bantry in 1917" On Wednesday Dec 6th at 8.00pm in Christian Fellowship. Men from West Cork interned in Fron-goch, including Michael Collins, Gearóid O'Suilleabháin, Sean Hales and Bantry man Joe Reilly, played major roles in subsequent Irish History. In his talk Tim will cover local events including the running of a famous Aerídheacht in Bantry in October the smuggling of petrol from Bantry to Clare, to help Eamon DeValera win the J bi-election, and the start of the construction of the Ford Plant at the Marina in Cork City. All welcome.

**Bantry Blues GAA Club AGM this Monday,
December 4th in Club House at 8pm.
All Welcome.**

Gaelscoil Bheantraí will be holding their annual Christmas Craft Fair on 5th December between 6:00 and 8:00. Admission is FREE. Children can visit Daidí na Nollag for €6.00 and this includes entry to Santa's Grotto and present, activities and a picture taken with the man himself. Enjoy lots of crafts, home baking and fun activities for the children on the night. You can also experience some produce from outside traders who will have stalls set up. We have some fabulous prizes donated to us for the popular Wheel of Fortune which is a big attraction on the night.

SAMUEL PROGRAMME – Are you aged 18-35 and wondering what God is calling you to do with your life? Join the Samuel Programme for 6 months – gatherings once a month in the Franciscan Friary Killarney on Sunday evenings. For details email eavopost@gamil.com / call Anne-Marie 0872209994

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

Westlodge Bingo: A Christmas Monster €1000 Bingo with Jules Hall will take place at the Westlodge Hotel on Sunday, December 10th at 3pm. This is a must for all bingo fans with super raffle prizes on offer. The event is in support of **CoAction** West Cork.

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Tuesday 5th of December from 19:30 to 21:00 in the Maritime Hotel, Bantry, West Cork This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether the death was recent or not.

**December: Month of
The Immaculate Conception & Advent:**

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From all eternity God chose in His infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare a worthy dwelling place for His Son, God created Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all perfections of a sinless body. This is similar to the mystery we are called to enter into during Advent, we know we know the birthday of Christ is coming; therefore we want to prepare our hearts to be ready for this celebration.

This feast invites us to meditate especially on the virtue of purity. Mary alone never saw her soul's purity darkened, nor did she see in any part of her triumphal course toward heaven any sin or trace of worldliness. By a unique and singular privilege from God she was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception; the Lord did not permit her ever be stained even with those unavoidable failings of human weakness.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception encourages us in purity and our preparation for the birth of Christ. There can be no doubt that the feast of the pure and sinless Conception of the Virgin Mary, which is a fundamental preparation for the Lord's coming into the world, harmonizes perfectly with many of the themes of Advent. This feast also makes reference to the long messianic waiting for the Saviour's birth and recalls events and prophecies from the Old Testament, which are also used in the Liturgy of Advent. O Mary conceived without sin; pray for us who have recourse to thee.