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LENTEN PETITIONS: Every year during Lent we recall that Jesus was beaten, whipped, mocked, crowned with thorns, and nailed to a cross. Our faith teaches us that He endured this agony and suffering, and died for us. By His suffering, Jesus gave meaning to all of our suffering. Jesus did not come to explain away suffering or remove it; He came to fill it with His presence. This Lent we will unite our own personal suffering with His. Each one of us has some amount of suffering or hurt in our life, sometimes dating from our past. Petitions symbolise the hurt that is contained in our lives and community. During Lent we invite anyone with any unresolved grief or pain, or any kind of hurt, to place their petitions in the basket at the side of the Sanctuary. Your petitions represent the pain, grief or hurt in your life. It may be associated with;

- ❖ Grief at death or separation
- ❖ The pain of broken relationships
- ❖ The pain of sickness
- ❖ The pain of being misunderstood
- ❖ The struggle of sexual identity
- ❖ The pain of failure
- ❖ Pain of living with an alcoholic partner, parent or child
- ❖ The hurt of the past

What is unique about this spiritual exercise is that you will be able to recognise your own grief and suffering and understand that so many others share similar worries. Please feel free during the coming weeks to place petitions in the basket.

Offertory Collection: Weekend of 24th/26th February: Bantry: €1890; Coomhola:€260; Kealkil:€263. *There will be a Special collection for Irish Bishops Commissions next week, March 11th & 12th*

Calendar: Mass Times and Intentions :-

Mon. 6th March: 1st week of Lent:

Bantry: 10am: Mary Sugrue - Market Street

Tues. 7th March: 1st Week of Lent:

St. Perpetua & St. Felicity - Martyrs

Bantry:10am:

Fr. Sean McCarthy–Enniskeane & Blackrock Terrace

Bantry: 7.30pm: Patrick & Ellen McGrath (Newtown East) & their daughter Mary McGrath

Wed. 8th March: 1st week of Lent:

Bantry:10am: Declan Cronin – High Street

Hospital: 5.30pm: Michael McCarthy – Caher, Bantry

Thurs. 9th March: 1st week of Lent:

Bantry: 10am:

Joseph & Mary O'Mahony (Ardnatrush)

& their sons Joseph & Paul O'Mahony

Bantry: 7.30pm:

Patrick & Katie Cronin & family -Loughadeveen

Friday 10th March: 1st week of Lent:

Bantry: 10am: Liam Minehane – Bridge Street

Kealkil: 7.30pm:

Sarah Dullea & Marie Whelton – Pearsons Bridge

Sat. 11th March: 1st week of Lent:

Hospital: 10am:

James O'Driscoll – Donemark – 20th anniversary

Bantry: 6.15pm: Declan Cronin (High Street) & Martin Daly (Slip Park) – 30th anniversary

Sun. 12th March: Second Sunday of Lent:

Bantry: 9am: Eileen Minehane – Dromleigh South

Coomhola: 10am: Bridie O'Brien – Coomhola Bridge

Kealkil: 11am:

Sean, Betty & John McCarthy – Cappabue North

John O'Sullivan – Maulavanig – Months Mind

Bantry: 12 noon: People of the Parish

**Weekend of Praise,
Worship and Healing**

Guest speaker: Maria Vadia,
Sat 11th & Sun 12th March,
Rochestown Park Hotel,
Cork, Starts at 10am both
days.

A Day of God's Mercy

1st Sunday of Lent – March
5th – St Augustine's from
2pm. The day is led by Fr Igor
Simonvic from Rome,
founder of the Brothers of the
Merciful Jesus and Fr Michael
Fitzgerald.

March: Month of St Joseph

Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife (Matt 1: 20).

March is the month of devotion to St. Joseph, whose feast falls on March 19th. We know little about St Joseph only from scripture that he was; husband, foster father and a just man. The Church encourages us to be devoted to Joseph because he was a model in the heroic practice of all the virtues. The example of virtuous living that he gave in the exact fulfilment of the duties of his state of life is worthy of our reflection. The date of the solemnity of St. Joseph dates to the end of the 15th century; within the next few centuries, the entire month as a time for devotion to St. Joseph became part of tradition. In a society where families experience new challenges St Joseph is a model. He protected Mary's virginity, as a model for chastity and support in the home. He formed and protected the person of Christ, as a model for Fathers to imitate their role on his. He completely did God's will, to encourage us to seek out God's will and better follow His will. "Of all the people I have known with a true devotion and particular veneration for St. Joseph, not one has failed to advance in virtue; he helps those who turn to him to make real progress. When my request is not quite what it ought to be, he puts it right for my greater benefit."— *St. Teresa of Avila*

Extra Masses during Lent:
There will be Mass at 7.30pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays in Bantry Church for Lent.

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

Jane Cronin (née Cronin) – Rock Villas, Bantry

Margaret Harrington (née Murphy) – Farranfadda, Coomhola & formerly of Coorleigh, Bonane

Margaret Peters (née Walsh) - Cappanaloha, Bantry & formerly of Bredagh Cross
May they rest in peace.

Fundraiser for Cancer Connect:

A Concert will take place in Bantry House on 18 March at 8pm to raise much needed funds for Cancer Connect. Artists taking part will include pianist Seho Lee, actor Simon O'Gorman, local singer Denis Collins, all returning by popular demand; soprano Ecaterina Tulgara from Russia, and Glengarriff Church choir.

Tickets priced at €20 can be obtained from O'Sullivan's Chemist, Bantry Bookshop, The Gift Shop, Local Link all in Bantry, and members of Glengarriff Church Choir. Further information can be obtained from Joan on 086 6008029. Please support and you will be assured of a most enjoyable evening.

Please take a Trocaire Box this Lent.
Trocaire Boxes / Envelopes can be collected at the Church Porches.

Spring Station Masses 2017:

It is hoped to have Station Masses for Spring 2017 continuing through March until 30th April. If you are thinking of hosting the Spring Stations this year, we would ask you to please contact the parish office (tel. 56398) to arrange a date.

Spring Station Masses 2017

Saturday March 18th @ 11am
Monica Wiseman – Dromleigh

Seskin Montessori & Pre-School is holding an Open Day on Thursday 16th of March at 12.30 – 2.00pm. Place available September 2017 and January and April 2017, for 2.5 – 5 years, including FREE ECCE Scheme. All Welcome.

Notification of Works in Chapel Street, Bantry

We have been informed that Irish Water & Cork Co.Council will carry out major works from Bantry Church up to the Schools Cross over 3-4 weeks beginning on 6th March. Please note there will be a traffic management system in place outside Bantry Church for the week beginning Monday March 6th.

Cork ARC Cancer Support House in West Cork have formed a **Fundraising Committee** to help raise vital funds & awareness for the cancer support services available free of charge to the community. To support the committee & get involved, please phone Catriona 027 53891 / 083 1988580 westcork@cancersupport.ie
Our West Cork cancer support service is open two days per week, and is offering cancer patients and their families in West Cork and South Kerry a drop in support service, counselling, therapeutic massage and reflexology as well as a weekly drop in 'Hour of Calm' session. We also host regular Information Workshops covering areas from *Bereavement Information, Diet in Cancer and Hormonal Therapies*. All our services are available free of charge, and supported by fundraising activity.

For more information, please contact our West Cork centre directly, on 027 53891 / 083 1988580, or email westcork@cancersupport.ie

Recent Parish Baptisms:

Justine Sufelaka
Lahana East, Drimoleague

Addyson Grace Elizabeth Goggin
Glenlough West, Bantry

We welcome them into our Christian Community

Anam Cara, the national organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a **Bereavement Information Evening** on Tuesday 7th of March from 19:30 to 21:30 in the Maritime Hotel, Bantry, West Cork. This is a free event open to all bereaved parents. As Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for event, please RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Monday 6th March or call the Information Line on 085 2888 888.

'St. Colums G.A.A. Registration Day
This Sunday March 5th from 11am to 1pm
in St. Colums Hall. Looking forward to seeing you there!'

Irish Blood Transfusion Service: Blood Donor Clinic will take place in the Maritime Hotel, Bantry on Thurs 9th March (3-5pm & 7-9pm).

OPERATION SLOB TRANSFORMATION: Thanks to everyone who attended the public meeting on 21st February to begin the process of transforming the slob into an attractive town centre for Bantry. Your enthusiasm and ideas are greatly appreciated and we hope you will stick with the process over the coming weeks. A second Public Meeting will be held in the Maritime Hotel, on Monday (tomorrow) night March 6th at 8.00 o'clock. This is your last chance to put your ideas into the mix and the meeting will also begin the task of honing the ideas into a final agreed vision to transform the slob. Everyone and every idea is very welcome.