

BANTRY PARISH NEWSLETTER
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2018

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

Parish website: www.bantryparish.ie

Calendar: Mass Times and Intentions :-

Mon. 10th December: 2nd week of Advent:

Bantry:10am: Jim O'Sullivan

Tues. 11th December: 2nd week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am: Sean Cronin

Wed. 12th December: 2nd week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am: Diarmuid O'Mahony - Castlehaven

Hospital: 5.30pm:

Maureen & Jimmy O'Sullivan – Rock Villas

Thurs.13th December: 2nd week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am:

James & Mary Ellen Wiseman - Dromleigh

Friday 14th December: 2nd week of Advent:

Bantry: 10am: People of the Parish

Kealkil: 7.30pm: Esther Dineen - Lisheens

Sat. 15th December: 2nd week of Advent:

Hospital:10am:

Patrick & Christina McCarthy – Tower Hill

Bantry: 6.15pm: Jerry & Mary Holland – Feenagh

Stephen Coughlan – Seskin

John Downey – Droumduve, Ballylickey

Deceased members of Bantry Golf Club

Sun. 16th December: Third Sunday of Advent:

Bantry:9am: Jeremiah & Nora Cremin (Seskin), their daughter Mary Keohane (Innicarra), their sons John & Justin Cremin (Bantry). Susan & Brenda Cremin - Tramore

Coomhola:10am: Peg Murphy, Dan & Annie Murphy, Tim Murphy – Droumduve, Coomhola

Kealkil: 11am: Ted Murnane - Maughnaclea

Bantry: 12noon: People of the Parish

Bantry Parish Funeral Team

We have a Funeral Team here in the parish for the past three years. The Funeral Team lead the Rosary prayers at all funerals and assist with the Removal and Reception to the Church where possible.

In the past at the time of a funeral the local community gathered around the family to help and support them. A family member, neighbour or friend would lead the prayers for the deceased. The Funeral Team are now reclaiming that custom. If you would like to become a member of the Funeral Team please contact Fr. Martin or Fr. John for further information.

'Do This in Memory' Mass

For all First Holy Communion children & their parents will take place next Sunday 16th December

Bantry: 9am Mass

Coomhola: 10am Mass

Kealkil: 11am Mass

Bambinelli Sunday: Every year on the third Sunday of Advent, families bring the figure of the Baby Jesus to St. Peter's Square in Rome for Pope Francis to bless. It is called "Bambinelli Sunday." Many homes in our parish still give a central place to the crib and so on Sunday next, 16th December, we invite you to bring the Baby Jesus from your crib to any mass in the Parish and they will be blessed by the celebrant.

Recent Parish Baptisms:

Abbie Marie O'Riordan

– Cousane, Kealkil

Sean Timothy Peter Cronin

– Lisheens, Kealkil

Luke Anthony O'Callaghan

- Ahilmore, Kealkil

We welcome them into our Christian Community

Derrycreha National School will have its Christmas Mass on Tuesday 11th December 2018 at 10 o'clock. All are welcome

Parking in Bantry Church Grounds

The Parish Assembly asks all parishioners attending Bantry Church to carefully park their cars only in the designated areas. Parking spaces near the doors should be left for disabled and elderly people. It is vital that a clear entrance and exit around the Church be kept at all times in the event of an emergency.

Advent 1955

By John Betjemen

The Advent wind begins to stir
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch Fir,
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,
And in between we only see
Clouds hurrying across the sky
And rain wet roads the wind blows dry
And braches bending to the gale
Against great skies all silver pale
The world seems travelling into space,
And travelling at a faster pace
Than in the leisured summer weather
When we and it sit out together,
For now we feel the world spin round
On some momentous journey bound-
Journey to what? To Whom/ To where?
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,
Your world is journeying to the birth
Of God made Man for us on earth'.

And how, in fact, do we prepare
The great day that waits us there –
For the twenty-fifth day of December,
The birth of Christ? For some it means
An interchange of hunting scenes
On coloured cards, And I remember
Last year I sent out twenty yards
Laid end to end, of Christmas cards
To people that I scarcely know –
They'd sent a card to me, and so
I had to send one back. Oh dear!
Is this a form of Christian cheer?
Or is it, which is less surprising
My pride gone in for advertising?
The only cards that really count
Are that extremely small amount
From real friends who keep in touch
And are not rich but love us much
Some ways indeed are very odd
By which we hail the birth of God.

We raise the price of things in shops,
We give plain boxes fancy tops
And lines which traders cannot sell
This parcell'd go extremely well
We dole out bribes we call a present
To those to whom we must be pleasant
For business reasons. Our defence is
These bribes are charged against expenses
And bring relief in Income Tax
Enough of those unworthy cracks!
'The time draws near the birth of Christ'.
A present that cannot be priced
Given two thousand years ago
Yet if God had not given so
He still would be a distant stranger
And not the Baby in the manger.

The annual **Community Carol Service** of lessons and carols will take place this year on Sunday 16 December in St Brendan's church at 8pm. Many parishioners feel that this service, united as it is with our fellow Christians, is the real start to Christmas celebrations. There will be plenty of our favourite congregational carols, and you are cordially invited to join with St Brendan's parishioners in this memorable service.

Volunteer Drivers needed for Cancer Connect: Cancer Connect is a free and flexible transport service, bringing passengers from West Cork to Cork for cancer treatments daily. Volunteers are asked to give about 1 day per month; this involves taking his/her own car, bringing a passenger to Cork and then home again. Cancer Connect will contribute towards the cost of fuel. If you or anyone you know might be available to join the team let me know. If you would like further information, or wish to travel with us, contact Julie on 027 52727 or 087 1224404 or email julie@locallinkcork.ie

Kealkill Senior Citizens Christmas Party: The Community Alert Group would like to invite all our senior citizens to the annual Christmas Party **In Collins Bar Kealkill after 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday December 16th.** A great afternoon of music, fun, and laughter is guaranteed and Santa might even call by! Looking forward to a lovely few hours with neighbours and friends in the true spirit of Christmas.

Anam Cara West Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening on Tuesday 18th of December at 7:20pm in the Maritime Hotel, Bantry, West Cork. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not.

Westlodge Bingo: A Christmas Monster €1000 Bingo will take place at the Westlodge Hotel on this Sunday afternoon, December 9th at 2pm. Books are €10 each with super raffle prizes on offer. This event is in support of CoAction West Cork and is a "must" for all bingo fans.

Christmas Story Time: Bantry Library will be holding a Christmas Story Time for children on Saturday next, December 15th at 3.30pm. Come along and kick off your Christmas, there will be plenty of festive fun! Admission is free. All welcome. Enquiries - 027-50460.

Bantry Singers Club Monthly gathering will take place in the Ouvane Falls Inn on Friday December 14th at 9pm. All singers welcome

Bantry Blues G.A.A. Club A.G.M. this Wednesday 12th December at Wolfe Tone Park. Time – 8p.m. All Welcome

'Do not let the downtrodden retreat in confusion, give the poor and needy cause to praise your name.' Psalms 74:21. Millions of people have had to flee conflict in South Sudan and Yemen. Trocaire's Christmas Appeal will help these people and many others rebuild their lives. Visit www.trocaire.org <<http://www.trocaire.org>> to find out more

Mobile Phones: We have had many complaints about mobile phones going off in the Church. We would appreciate if you could turn off or put your phone on silent before Mass begins. Many thanks for your co-operation.